

INTERCLUSTER ACTION PLAN IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Phase 1

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

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PRESENTATION OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS

	Sector	Web page
	Aerospace	https://www.aeromontreal.ca/home.html
	Aluminium	https://aluquebec.com/en/
	Film and television	https://www.bctq.ca/
	Logistics and transportation	https://www.cargo-montreal.ca/en/intro/
	Clean technologies	https://www.ecotechquebec.com/en/
	Financial services	https://www.finance-montreal.com/en/home
	Fashion	https://mmode.ca/
	Life sciences and health technologies	https://www.montreal-invivo.com/en/



Information
technologies and
communication

<https://numana.tech/en/>



Electric and smart
transportation

<https://propulsionquebec.com/en/>

INTRODUCTION

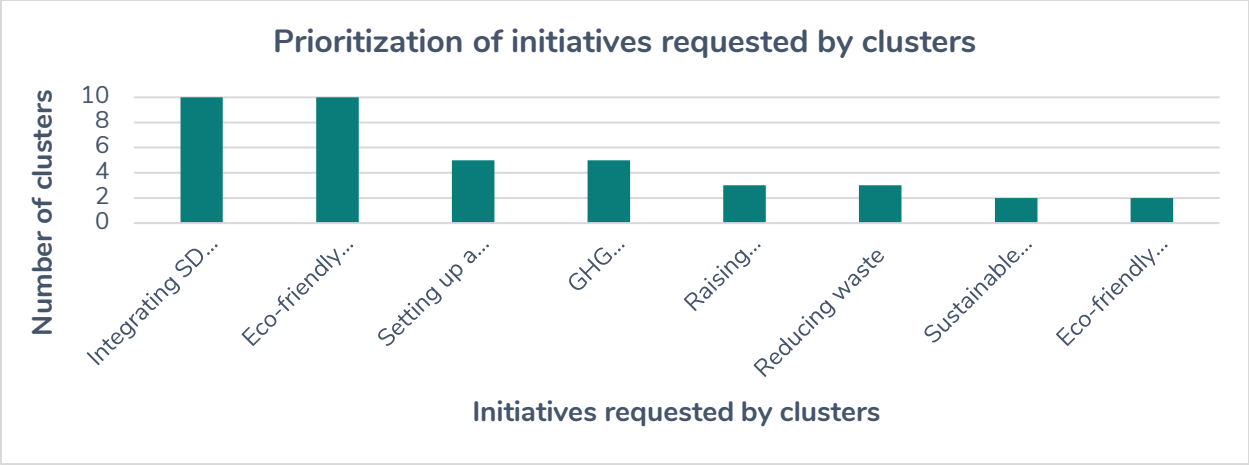
Today, to contribute to a sustainable economy, it is necessary to address the challenges we face in terms of climate change. To contribute to the global effort, the government of Quebec has made several commitments through its government sustainable development strategy (2023-2028). The government emphasizes:

- Making Quebec a hub of innovation and excellence in green and responsible economy
- Promoting the participation of all in Quebec's sustainable development
- Developing communities sustainably
- Creating an exemplary state that acts in favor of innovation

Sectoral clusters, through their mobilization and responsiveness to on-the-ground needs, are key players in Quebec society. They represent various and emblematic sectors of Quebec: aerospace, aluminum, cinema and television, logistics and transport, electric and intelligent transportation, clean technologies, information technologies and communication, fashion, financial services, life sciences and health technologies. The structuring projects they develop, supporting their respective ecosystems, significantly contribute to Quebec's economic growth. Thus, they have a role to play in Quebec's sustainable development and in the realization of its strategy.

Therefore, sectoral clusters wish to engage with an intercluster action plan for sustainable development. In the first phase, clusters will prioritize fighting climate change in their actions, while not limiting themselves to it. During this experimental and voluntary first year, emphasis has been placed on internal cluster initiatives to demonstrate the authenticity of the approach. However, some initiatives for the respective members of the clusters have also been included because it is necessary to initiate and strengthen the engagement of different ecosystems.

A survey was initially filled out by the representatives of the sectoral clusters to identify which sustainable development initiatives needed improvement or implementation internally, and to include in this action plan, based on their resources and priorities. The results are presented in the following graph.



Based on the survey results and discussions within the intercluster working committee, the next pages present the intercluster action plan in sustainable development. The working committee will ensure the implementation of the actions throughout the year. In November 2024, the evaluation of this first year will take place, along with the presentation of the second phase of the action plan, which will delve deeper into actions for the members.

This first intercluster action plan for sustainable development is an opportunity to align the clusters on this subject. As some clusters are more advanced than others, sharing experiences will be important in the working committee to successfully implement initiatives and stimulate reflection for future actions. Collaboration between clusters, and thus sectors, will be strengthened by this action plan and will foster the emergence of common initiatives.

INTERCLUSTER ACTION PLAN IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Objective 1

Demonstrate authenticity of sectoral clusters' approach to sustainable development (SD)

Action A: Integration of SD objectives into the strategic plan of each cluster

Action B: Production of eco-friendly events

Action C: Measurement and compensation of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

Action D: Other considered initiatives

Objective 2

Pooling efforts of clusters in SD and inspiring each other

Action A : Resource Pooling

Action B: Consultation within an intercluster working committee

Objective 3

Raise awareness and engage our sectors of interest

Action A: SD resource Web Page

Action B: Establishment of committees addressing SD within each cluster with its respective members

OBJECTIF 1: DEMONSTRATE AUTHENTICITY OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS' APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SD)

ACTION A: INTEGRATION OF SD OBJECTIVES INTO THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF EACH CLUSTER

The 10 sectoral clusters want to strengthen the presence of sustainable development in their strategic plans. Currently, 9 out of 10 clusters already mention it. In the next definition of their strategic plan, the clusters commit to reinforcing the presence of sustainable development in their strategic plans by attaching clear objectives and actions to it.

<u>Success Indicators</u>	Planning of sustainable development objectives in the strategies of the 10 sectoral clusters.
<u>Monitoring</u>	-Monitoring of the strategic planning dates of each cluster -Commitments made in terms of sustainable development in the strategic plans of the clusters involved in the project.
<u>Partners Involved</u>	Specific to each cluster if they want support for strategic planning on this subject.
<u>Timeline</u>	The implementation of this action will vary over time since each cluster defines its strategic plan in different years.

ACTION B: PRODUCTION OF ECO-FRIENDLY EVENTS

The 10 sectoral clusters want their events to be organized based on eco-friendly principles. These principles include, but are not limited to:

- Waste minimization, recycling, and composting;
- Vegetarian food;
- Promotion of participants' mobility through sustainable transportation or public transport;
- Local sourcing.

<u>Success Indicators</u>	-List of actions deployed to make events offered by the clusters eco-friendly -Proportion of cluster events organized according to eco-friendly principles
<u>Monitoring</u>	-Sharing of actions implemented in the working committee -Counting events and actions taken per event to make them eco-friendly
<u>Partners Involved</u>	We can rely on the expertise of the Quebec Council for Eco-friendly Events.
<u>Timeline</u>	1 year

ACTION C: MEASUREMENT AND COMPENSATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG)

Half of the clusters wish to engage in the measurement and compensation of GHG emissions from their internal activities.

The first step will be to initiate the discussion on the context of measuring and compensating GHG emissions to avoid participating in greenwashing. It will be essential to ensure that the clusters are in a relevant context for compensating GHG emissions.

Next, resources for measuring the GHG emissions of their internal activities will need to be identified, as well as the most relevant compensation resources for the clusters.

Finally, clusters wishing to do so can collect data on GHG emissions related to their internal activities, starting with scopes 1 (direct emissions) and 2 (indirect emissions related to energy consumption).

To conclude, clusters for whom the context is conducive and who wish to do so can compensate their GHG emissions in the most appropriate way.

<u>Success Indicators</u>	-Holding one (1) working committee meeting on greenwashing, the context of measuring and compensating GHG emissions -Identifying relevant resources for clusters -One (1) or more clusters measure GHG emissions related to their activities
<u>Monitoring</u>	-Working committee meeting on the subject -Identification of a working subgroup
<u>Partners Involved</u>	/
<u>Timeline</u>	1 year

ACTION D: OTHER CONSIDERED INITIATIVES

Other initiatives have been proposed and are desired by some clusters. The realization of these initiatives will be left to the initiative of interested clusters. The progress of the initiatives will be monitored in the working group.

These initiatives include:

- Sensitization and training of employees internally
- Waste reduction (sorting bins, composting, limiting printing, etc.)
- Eco-friendly website and/or responsible digital practices
- Incentives for active mobility, reimbursement of public transportation subscriptions, car-sharing subscriptions.

OBJECTIVE 2: POOLING EFFORTS OF CLUSTERS IN SD AND INSPIRING EACH OTHER

ACTION A: RESOURCE POOLING

Despite representing different sectors, clusters demonstrate certain identical needs that are beneficial to be pooled. This pooling is intended to foster intercluster collaboration, limit the use of resources, and reduce operating costs. Applying for grants from programs relevant to identified needs could eventually be done in collaboration with multiple clusters.

Three needs have been identified as having strong potential for pooling:

- Research
- Office Spaces
- IT support and IT equipment supply

Further analyses will be conducted to refine the needs. A joint intercluster working meeting will then be organized to define the modalities and processes of pooling.

<u>Success Indicators</u>	Pooling for one or more needs for one or more clusters
<u>Monitoring</u>	Connecting clusters based on identified pooling needs
<u>Partners Involved</u>	Montreal Metropolitan Community
<u>Timeline</u>	1 year

ACTION B: CONSULTATION WITHIN AND INTERCLUSTER WORKING COMMITTEE

The realization of this action plan requires sharing and monitoring by an intercluster working committee. Composed of one representative from each cluster, this committee will meet every 2 months to

- Monitor implemented initiatives
- Share advice and resources
- Reflect and identify next actions

<u>Success Indicators</u>	Attendance of clusters at meetings
<u>Monitoring</u>	Coordinated by Montreal InVivo
<u>Partners involved</u>	Montreal Metropolitan Community
<u>Timeline</u>	1 year
<u>Budget</u>	/

OBJECTIVE 3: RAISE AWARENESS AND ENGAGE OUR SECTORS OF INTEREST

ACTION A: SD RESOURCE WEB PAGE

One of the major difficulties for organizations within clusters is knowing where to start to implement an eco-friendly approach and who to turn to.

A first joint action for our members will be to establish an SD resource webpage on the respective cluster websites. A first non-exhaustive list of intersectoral resources will be shared as a base, and each cluster will be responsible for adding relevant resources to its sector of activity.

<u>Success Indicators</u>	Establishment of a resource webpage on each cluster site
<u>Monitoring</u>	-Base of intersectoral resources provided by Montreal InVivo -Monitoring within the committee
<u>Partners Involved</u>	/
<u>Timeline</u>	-Establishment of the intersectoral resource page on 11/17 -Update of the page with sectoral resources: April 2024

ACTION B: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES ADDRESSING SD WITHIN EACH CLUSTER WITH ITS RESPECTIVE MEMBERS

In connection with the mention of sustainable development objectives in the strategic plans of clusters, it is necessary to operationalize them by gathering information from the field. Clusters do this in part through committees (or task forces) where the variety of their members is represented. These committees identify sector-specific (and sub-sector if necessary) and organizational type-specific issues. They identify the sector's needs and potential solutions. These solutions are then reworked and implemented by the relevant cluster if it proves to be the best organization to do so.

The subjects of these committees will be entirely at the discretion of the clusters based on their strategic plan and priority issues. Some clusters already have one or more committees dealing with sustainable development.

<u>Indicators of success</u>	Establishment of a committee addressing sustainable development in each sectoral cluster
<u>Monitoring</u>	Sharing of themes or issues identified by sectoral committees during the intercluster working committee
<u>Partners Involved</u>	Members of each cluster
<u>Timeline</u>	1 year

GOVERNANCE

This action plan is initiated by Écotech Québec and Montreal InVivo.

The coordination of actions is carried out by Montreal InVivo:

- Planning and facilitating committee meetings
- Drafting minutes of meetings or other documents relevant to the successful implementation of the action plan
- Connecting clusters based on their expressed pooling needs

The working committee consists of at least one representative from each sectoral cluster. This person is responsible for bringing relevant information to the cluster they represent. They ensure they are available for scheduled meetings or designate someone to replace them.

Funding requests that may be associated with the action plan are the responsibility of each concerned cluster.

Each cluster can withdraw from the action plan at any time. However, it must communicate this to the group along with its motivations during a working committee meeting.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of this intercluster action plan is an opportunity for clusters to commit or strengthen their commitment to combating climate change and promoting sustainable development.

This experimental first phase of one year allows clusters to demonstrate the authenticity of their approach through internal and pooling initiatives, as well as initial common external initiatives for their respective members. Other actions may emerge during the year in the reflections of the intercluster working committee and be integrated into this first phase, depending on their feasibility. After an evaluation in November 2024, a second phase will be proposed with actions focused on cluster members.

Other aspects of sustainable development will also be considered. As sectoral economic development organizations, clusters are involved in a renewed effort for sustainable economic development throughout the innovation chain and in sectors important to Quebec. In conclusion, through this action plan, clusters aim to contribute to Quebec's efforts and mobilize all sectors to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

CONTACT

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