



Roadmap

for Québec Society's Transition to a Circular Economy

2025 –2050

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How can we accelerate the transition to a more circular economy in Québec by 2050?

Executive summary

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The essentially linear global economy is exerting increasing pressure on resources, causing major environmental and social impacts.

Québec is not exempt from this reality, and three predominant challenges arise:

- Our production depends on virgin resources and generates waste, integrating circular economy principles only to a limited extent into business models.
- Our consumption is unsustainable, exacerbated by cultural resistance to change and commercial practices that promote obsolescence.
- The governance of our resources is fragmented, and the regulatory framework is ill-suited to the needs of the circular transition.

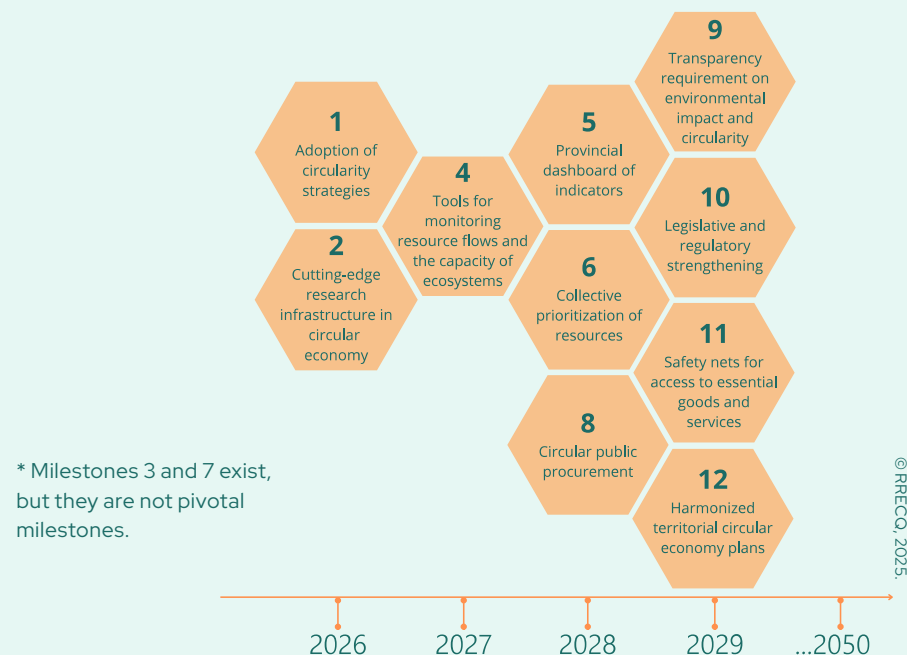
As a result, Québec's circularity rate stands at 3.5%, well below the global average (1), and our coverage of basic needs exceeds ecologically viable thresholds (2).

The circular economy is emerging as the key alternative to reconcile ecosystem preservation with the satisfaction of society's needs. This unavoidable transition requires profound, systemic and inclusive transformations, mobilizing all spheres of society. To organize and implement the transition, circular economy roadmaps appear to be effective tools, engaging stakeholders and proposing solutions adapted to different contexts. **The one proposed by the [Québec Circular Economy Research Network \(RRECQ\)](#) offers a long-term vision for Québec, looking ahead to 2050, by which time we will have successfully transitioned to a circular economy.** It provides the starting point for mapping out the trajectory of transformations to be carried out step by step across the entire socio-economic system.

A prospective diagnosis and four narratives of possible future scenarios have fueled the reflection on a desirable circular future. **The development process, supported by the foresight methodology of Chemins de transition, involved more than 330 individuals from various sectors and regions of Québec.** It was structured in four stages, the fourth of which, « Knowledge Sharing, » is cross-cutting (and on-going).



A total of 67 milestones have been identified to form the 2025–2050 Transition Trajectory, in order to connect the current situation to the desired future. Ten milestones play a strategic role in initiating this transition; these are the pivotal milestones:



There is no single possible path, as uncertainty grows with time. However, guided by a shared vision of a desirable future, this roadmap serves as a key tool for steering deep transformations that can adapt to evolving contexts. Although it is hard to predict the exact trajectory that Québec will follow to accelerate its circular transition, the collective reflections that informed this roadmap have highlighted the urgency to act.

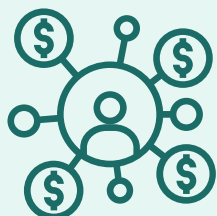
The success of the transition depends on an organized and coordinated effort from six stakeholder groups, each with specific capacities, expertise, and means of action:



Governments and public bodies:
establishment of a legislative and fiscal framework to structure the circular transition; reorientation of public policies toward a circular and low-consumption economy; participatory governance and equitable management of natural resources.



Education and research sector:
dissemination of knowledge and support for decision-making; production and application of knowledge tailored to industrial sectors and territories; integration of the circular economy into education and training.



Finance and insurance sector:
redirection of investments toward projects that promote the circular economy and support for their scaling up.



Community and civil society sector:
awareness-raising on mindful consumption, the circular economy, and ecosystem protection; democratic participation; adoption of circular practices in everyday life.



Business and labor sector:
integration of circularity strategies into economic models; development of skills and workforce attractiveness; transformation of marketing to promote mindful consumption.

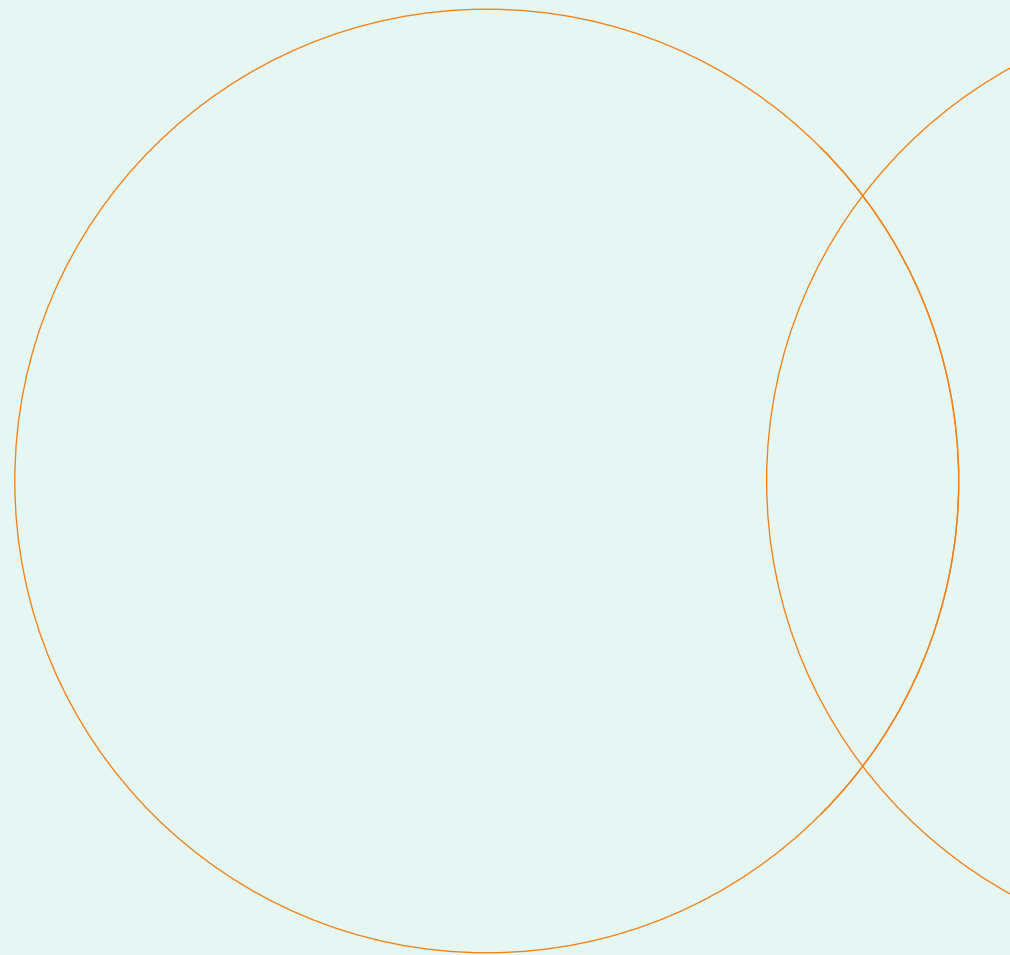


Territorial development organizations:
strengthening of regional infrastructure and capacities; territorial coordination; protection and regeneration of ecosystems.

Québec has many strengths to accelerate the transition, such as the growing commitment of experts, the emergence of appointed leads dedicated to the circular economy, and the implementation of concrete projects across various sectors all point to the fact that the transformation is already underway. Québec's culture of collaboration and the increasing exchange of resources among organizations, industries, and residents further strengthen the collective momentum driving this change.

The challenge is great, but matches our collective ambition:

Together, **we have the ability to build a society based on circular, regenerative, sustainable, and resilient production; on mindful and circular consumption, rooted in a deep respect for nature; and on inclusive, transparent, and equitable resource governance that ensures the protection of ecosystems.**



References

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- 1 CIRCLE ECONOMY. [Rapport sur l'indice de circularité de l'économie. L'économie circulaire, un outil pour respecter les limites planétaires. Rapport complémentaire.](#) → 2024.
- 2 PRATTE, Colin, BEAUCAIRE, Krystof et ELIAS-PINSONNAULT, Sophie. [L'empreinte matérielle de la couverture des besoins de base au Québec. Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques.](#) → 18 mai 2023.