

# Annual report

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

Together towards a low-carbon Quebec





# Table of contents

## About us

Board of Directors .....	2
VTE Team .....	3
A word from the director .....	4
Key dates .....	5

## VTE development

Development plan .....	7
Declaration of commitment .....	8
Annual General meeting .....	9
Establishment of the team .....	10
Business model .....	12
VALO-VTE and Fonds-VTE .....	13
Financial results .....	14
Performance indicator .....	16

## Studies completed

Innovation center and district studies .....	20
Preliminary estimates for potential innovation centers and district .....	24
Workforce study .....	25

## Partners

Industrial partners .....	28
Academic partners .....	31
Community partners .....	34
Inter-zone networking .....	37

## Local and international outreach

International missions and delegations received .....	39
Events .....	40
Communication .....	41

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest covering a hillside. The trees are a rich, vibrant green, and the perspective is from a high angle, looking down across the terrain. The lighting is soft, creating subtle variations in the green tones across the forest canopy.

01

**About us**

# About us

## Energy Transition Valley (VTE)

### Mission

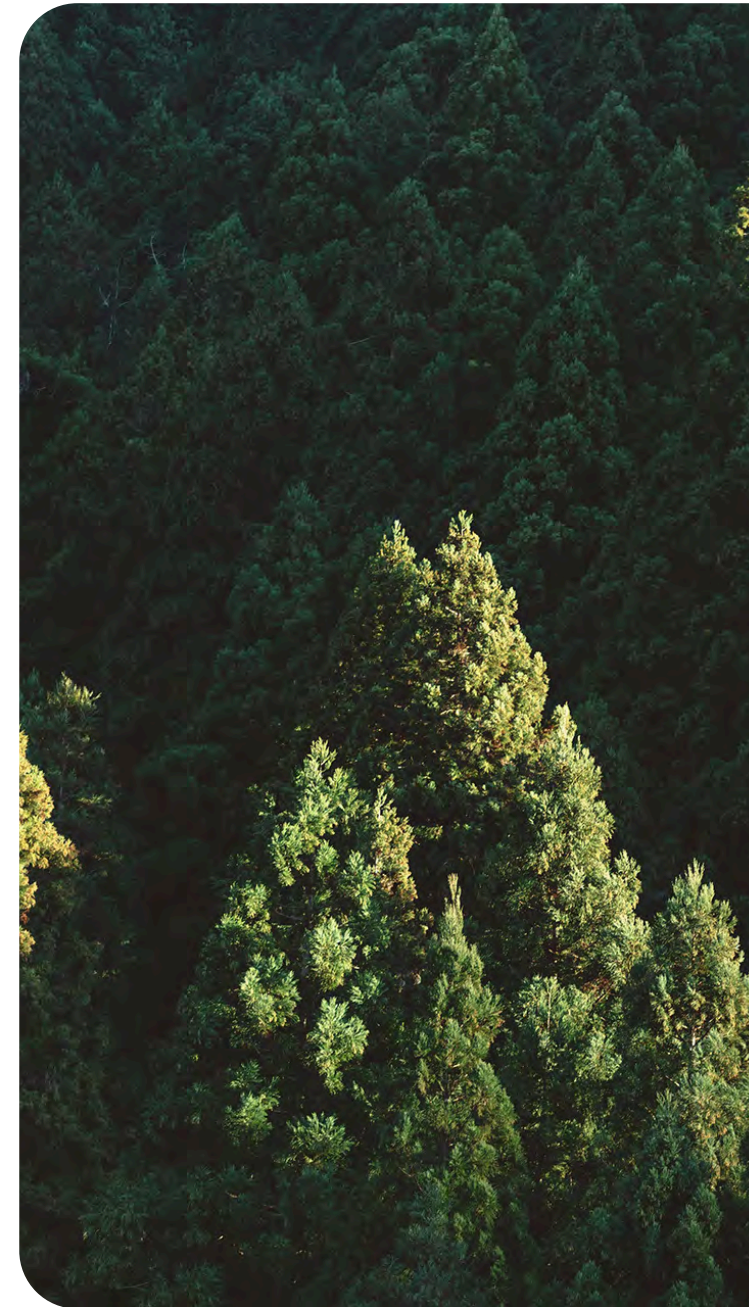
Bringing together players in the energy transition around three attractive, sustainable clusters, to offer a complete ecosystem for innovation in our strategic sectors : battery, transport electrification, hydrogen and decarbonization of industrial activities and heavy transport.

### Vision

To be Quebec's benchmark ecosystem contributing to the energy transition, by accelerating and promoting innovation, training and attracting talent and companies from here and abroad.

### Values

Mobilize - Unite - Innovate - Undertake



# Board of directors

Here is the constitution of the Board of Directors as of March 31, 2024 :



**Pierre Ducharme**

*Olin*

Chairman of the Board  
Chairman of the  
Governance Committee



**Cha Chigy**

*Ultium Cam*



**Serge Bellemare**

*Groupe Bellemare*



**Grégory Gihoul**

*City of Bécancour*

Vice-Chairman of the Board  
Chairman of Living  
Environment Committee  
(LEC-VTE)



**Denys Bernard**

*Grand conseil de la  
Nation Waban-Aki*



**Simon Riverin**

*Kongsberg*

Chairman of Human  
Resources Committee



**Luc Arvisais**

*Shawinigan Economic  
Development*

Treasurer of the Board  
Chairman of the Financial  
Resources Committee



**François Allard**

*Joint Research Unit  
INRS-UQTR*

Elected representative of  
the Scientific Committee  
(SC-VTE)



**Michèle Houpert**

*Quebec Ministry of the Economy,  
Innovation and Energy*



**Sébastien Charles**

*Université du Québec  
à Trois-Rivières (UQTR)*  
Board Secretary



**Guillaume Angers**

*Marmen*



**Véronique Perrault**

*Investissement Québec*



**Denis Isabel**

*Nemaska Lithium*

Chairman of Sustainable  
Development Committee  
(SCTDC-VTE)



**Heather Chalmers**

*General Electric Canada*



**Bruno Pollet**

*UQTR*

Leader SC-VTE hydrogen and  
decarbonation axis



**André Buisson**

*Contrôle Laurentide*



**Mario De Tilly**

Trois-Rivières Innovation  
and Economic Development



**Karim Zaghib**

*Université Concordia*

Leader SC-VTE battery axis

Observer members

# Our team



**Alain Lemieux**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Alexia Selin**  
Executive Assistant



**Guillaume Parenteau**  
Vice President, business  
development



**Michèle Landry**  
Vice President, public  
affairs and community  
outreach



**Clément Villemont**  
Vice-president,  
knowledge environment  
and innovation  
ecosystem



**Cédrick Lalaizon**  
Strategic advisor special  
projects, France-Quebec  
exchange corridor



**Florence Harvey**  
Communications and  
events coordinator

# Message from the CEO



**Alain Lemieux**  
Chief executive officer

***“ It is with great pleasure that we present our annual report, wich reflect a rich year for the development of the energy transition ecosystem. ”***

Our organization continued to play a leading role in building Quebec's innovation and training ecosystem for the energy transition.

Thanks to the commitment and passion of our team, we were able to launch several important initiatives to create sustainable prosperity, with a focus on leveraging our resources, innovations, talents and Quebec INC entrepreneurs.

We have also expanded our partnership network, working hand-in-hand with industry leaders, academic institutions, organizations and governments to multiply our impact.

We are continuing our efforts to make available, within our ecosystem, the infrastructures, expertises and services offered to industrialists, researchers, professors, workers and students in an environment conducive to the emergence of ideas, partnerships, strategic alliances, support for the realization of dreams and the realization of wealth-creating ambitions.

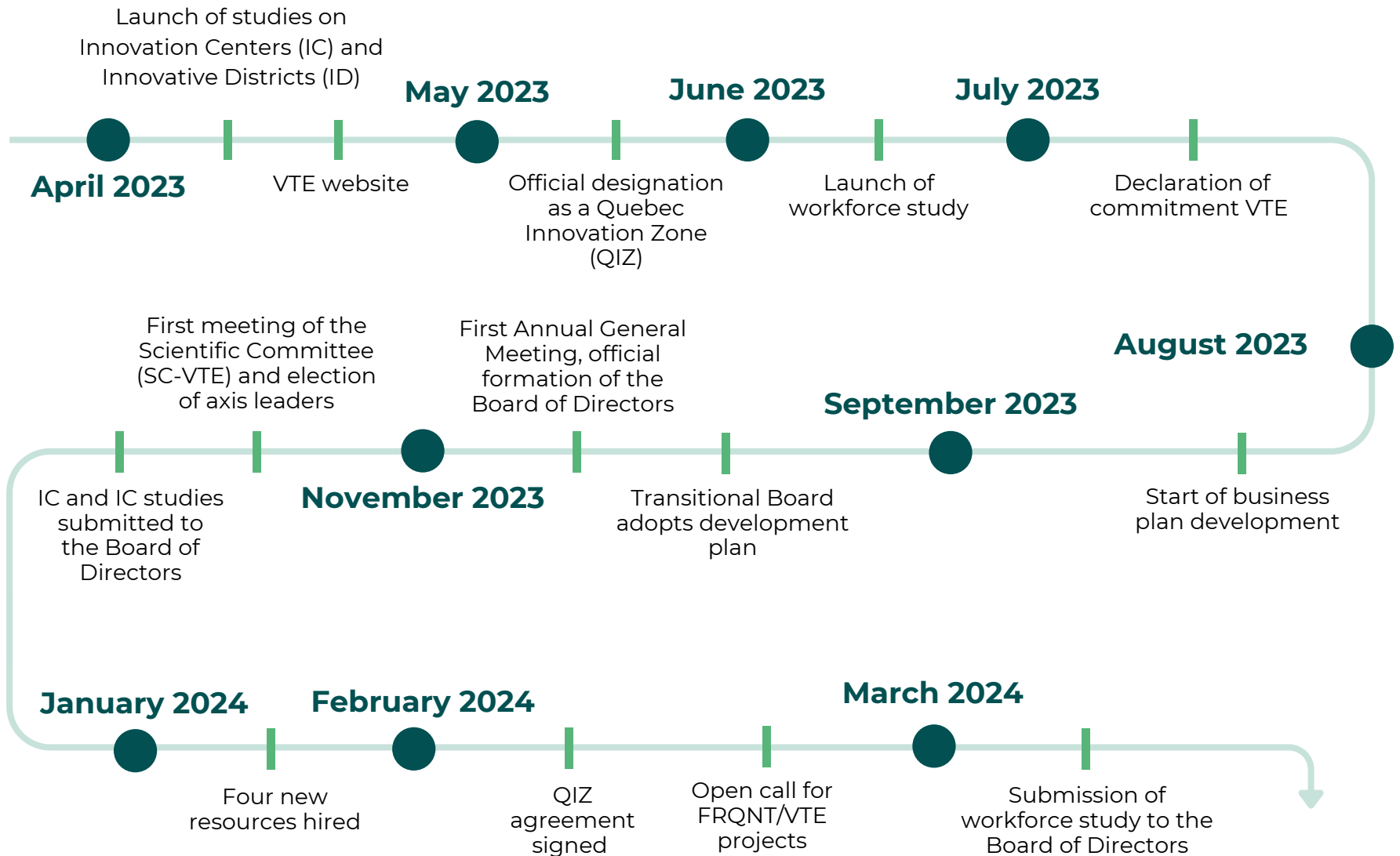
As we look to the future, we are determined to continue on this path, developing innovative solutions and strengthening our ability to positively influence society in terms of energy transition.

Our mission is more relevant than ever, and we are confident that we can achieve our ambitious goals while remaining an agile, innovative and inspiring organization.

I would like to sincerely thank every member of our team and all our partners for their trust and unwavering commitment.

**Together, we're building a greener, more sustainable future.**

# Key dates





02

**VTE  
development**

# Development plan

The creation of our development plan was crucial in defining our field of action and highlighting the strengths of our ecosystem. This plan was officially adopted by the transitional Board of Directors on September 15, 2023, and tabled at the first Annual General Meeting.

The plan identifies the following elements in particular :

- Our foundations and pillars
- Our development sectors
- Our innovation vision
- Our ecosystem
- Infrastructures and projects planning elements
- Our brand image

The development plan has allowed us to establish our foundation and serves as an initial guide for the objectives to be achieved and for the creation of a business plan.

**In addition to the development plan, a governance structure has been established to :**

- Facilitate collaboration to achieve the IZ's major objectives
- Promote the mobilization of stakeholders and citizens
- Promote balanced representation of manufacturers/organizations in the cities of Bécancour, Shawinigan and Trois-Rivières
- Capitalize on expertise contributing to success factors and accountability





# VTE declaration of commitment

The VTE team has drawn up a declaration of moral commitment for all partners and collaborators within its ecosystem.

This declaration of commitment, inspired by [the Montreal Declaration for the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence](#), aims to establish a set of ethical guidelines and standards of conduct to guide our development and our contribution to the energy transition in Quebec and Canada.

It aims to promote responsible, transparent and respectful behavior, while striving to minimize risks and maximize benefits for society as a whole.

By committing stakeholders to these principles, the declaration seeks to build trust and a sense of belonging to a collective project that goes beyond the personal interests of each individual.

**Three priority objectives and seven principles organized around our values guide this commitment to the responsible development of the energy transition :**

1. Establish an ethical framework for the development and deployment of the energy transition.
2. Guide the energy transition so that everyone can benefit from this environmental revolution.
3. Open up a space for national and international dialogue to collectively achieve inclusive, equitable, ecologically and economically sustainable development.

**Seven principles : Respect, Openness, Common Good, Inclusion, Responsibility, Achievement, Environmental Sustainability.**

# Annual General Meeting

**On September 26, 2023, the VTE's founding general meeting was held in Bécancour.**

This important milestone, with all corporate and active members present, is demonstrating their interest in the energy transition and their desire to work together to create a low-carbon future.

At this meeting, the seven board directors representing the private sector were elected, adding to the six board directors already present on the reserved seats.

Subsequently, on October 30, 2023, Ms. Heather Chalmers, representing the private sector, joined the Board by unanimous resolution and on December 19, 2023. Mr. François Allard, elected representative of the SC-VTE, joins the Board by unanimous resolution.

We are delighted to note the quality and diversity of our Board members. Their skills and experience will help propel the VTE forward and energize Quebec's innovation ecosystem, while creating intellectual wealth for our society.

The development plan document and our next steps were also shared at the meeting.



# Establishment of the team

**Bécancour, February 15, 2024 - At a press conference, Alain Lemieux publicly introduced his new management team.**

VTE has reached a new step with the establishment of its team. This strategic decision reflects our commitment to strengthening our leadership and ensuring sustained growth in our business. The addition of these vice-presidents brings valuable and diverse expertise, but above all essential to navigating through the complex challenges of the energy transition.

Their experiences and skills will enable us to innovate further and achieve our ambitious goals. They play a crucial role in shaping our strategies and actions, and bring fresh perspectives to their respective fields. Their dynamic leadership is essential to inspire our partners and maintain cohesion.



**For the coming year, each vice-president will be responsible for implementing a number of actions, in consultation and coordination with the players in the three innovation clusters.**

## Vice-presidence

- *Business development*
- *Public affairs and community outreach*
- *Knowledge environment and innovation ecosystem*

# Establishment of the team

## Business development

In terms of business development, one of the VTE's key priorities is to stimulate the zone's growth and development by attracting innovative energy transition companies. Close collaboration with companies will be a priority in order to support their expansion, foster innovation and strengthen the local entrepreneurial ecosystem around the themes targeted by the zone.

## Knowledge environment and innovation ecosystem

In terms of innovation and the knowledge environment, the VTE ensures that all knowledge players are involved. It also works to implement structuring projects of excellence, both inter-organizational and interdisciplinary, in the area's thematic areas.

## Public affairs and community outreach

For the living environment, the VTE works to develop a dynamic, attractive, inclusive and sustainable environment. Together with regional stakeholders, we are working to create a living environment that prioritizes the important issues of labor, housing, mobility, health and sustainable development.

As regards public and government affairs, the VTE is active with government and municipal bodies to ensure that its interests are taken into account in political decisions and international collaborations.

Finally, the VTE team also deploys special projects in support of innovation centers, and leads a [France-Quebec corridor](#).



# Business model

**In August 2023, VTE commissioned Ernst and Young (E&Y) to develop a business model for its three clusters. The \$108,000 cost of developing the business model was shared between the VTE (\$54,000) and our partner Bioindustrial Innovation Canada (\$54,000).**

This business model enhances the development plan already produced, and builds on the three strategic development and implementation study reports for Bécancour, Shawinigan and Trois-Rivières.

The business model includes the following elements :

- A summary of material and human requirements for each of the three hubs.
- Definition of expected results, targeted spin-offs and key performance indicators.
- Expected positioning and competitive advantages.
- Strategic planning to provide a comprehensive understanding of future challenges and needs.
- Governance structure and organizational design of the VTE legal entities, including financing and valorization of innovations (VALO-VTE project).
- Preliminary financial modeling.

The business model is currently being refined and will be submitted to the Board of Directors once the strategic plan and action plan have been finalized.

# VALO-VTE and Fonds-VTE

**Developed and piloted by the VTE, the VALO-VTE project is an ambitious initiative designed to help increase Quebec's prosperity at the heart of the energy transition. VALO-VTE is inspired by the “B Corps” model, combining economic, social and environmental performance.**



VALO-VTE's mission will be to enhance Quebec innovation by ensuring that the final value and intellectual property of innovative products are generated in Quebec. Its organizational structure, in partnership with research institutions and investors, will facilitate the transformation of scientific discoveries into commercial solutions. Its diversified business model will not only meet the strategic objectives of the Quebec government, but also attract significant investment for the development of the infrastructure required for the energy transition.

Varied revenue streams, including entrepreneurial support, innovation infrastructure management and open innovation campaigns, will ensure the financial stability essential to the project's long-term viability.

Support from the Fonds-VTE and the ability to act as a financial partner will enable VALO-VTE to overcome the challenges inherent in financing the energy transition, ensuring the long-term success of start-ups and companies in transition.

**The work on the VALO-VTE's development plan with E&Y is still in progress, and the first actions to set up and create the VALO-VTE entity are envisaged for autumn 2024.**

# Financial results

The financial audit for the 2023-2024 financial year was carried out by the accounting firm MNP. The results presented below are taken from the project financial statement.

	2024	2023
<b>Product</b>		<i>(unaudited)</i>
Contributions - Grants and assignment of grants	<b>734 804 \$</b>	292 000 \$
Contribution for projects/studies	<b>391 023 \$</b>	-
Services to cities	<b>75 000 \$</b>	-
	<b>1 200 827 \$</b>	292 000 \$
<b>Expenses</b>		
Wages and social charges	<b>527 013 \$</b>	200 403 \$
Subcontracting	<b>543 933 \$</b>	67 855 \$
Representation expenses	<b>61 669 \$</b>	4 997 \$
Travel expenses	<b>34 277 \$</b>	1 806 \$
Advertising	<b>11 963 \$</b>	6 392 \$
Professional services	<b>9 115 \$</b>	973 \$
Telecommunications	<b>5 523 \$</b>	2 006 \$
Office expenses	<b>3 562 \$</b>	217 \$
Insurance	<b>2 428 \$</b>	1 635 \$
Depreciation of fixed assets	<b>1 429 \$</b>	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	<b>875 \$</b>	130 \$
Non-recoverable consumption taxes	-	1 446 \$
Other expenses	<b>225 \$</b>	-
Amortization of intangible assets	<b>166 \$</b>	-
Interest, penalties and bank charges	<b>(1 351 \$)</b>	4 140 \$
	<b>1 200 827 \$</b>	292 000 \$

# Financial results

	2024	2023
		<i>(non audité)</i>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Short term</b>		
Cash in hand	<b>358 003 \$</b>	140 772 \$
Security deposits	<b>272 \$</b>	1 000 \$
Accounts receivable	<b>311 201 \$</b>	-
Consumption taxes	<b>63 536 \$</b>	1 447 \$
Current portion of contributions receivable	<b>1 000 000 \$</b>	234 802 \$
	<b>1 733 012 \$</b>	378 021 \$
<b>Contributions receivable</b>	<b>1 000 000 \$</b>	-
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>3 614 \$</b>	1 346 \$
<b>Intangible assets</b>	<b>1 496 \$</b>	-
	<b>2 738 122 \$</b>	379 367 \$
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Short term</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<b>130 124 \$</b>	36 565 \$
Deferred contributions	<b>2 607 998 \$</b>	342 802 \$
	<b>2 738 122 \$</b>	379 367 \$

# Key performance indicators

**Key performance indicators (KPI) are essential for VTE, as they enable us to measure the impact of our actions, thus ensuring that resources are used efficiently. They also facilitate strategic decision-making by providing concrete data to adjust activities and improve long-term results.**

The MEIE has provided a common list for IZ with 30 indicators, based on ten key success factors. Of these 30 indicators, 16 will be the responsibility of the innovation zones. Their purpose is to help guide medium and long-term priorities, monitor the progress of each IZ and create a common evaluation framework.

Data collection for the indicators will begin in the second year of operation, since the first year was mainly devoted to the formal establishment of the NPO, limiting access to concrete data for performance evaluation.

The KPI proposal shown on the following page will be officially confirmed by MEIE in the fall of 2024. A meeting is planned to share more details about the technical formulation to obtain them and the expected timelines.



# Key performance indicators

## 1. Development areas and scientific research

**1.1** Number of research projects carried out within the IZ in connection with its development priorities (TRL 1 to 3).

**1.2** Proportion of funding from private companies for research projects (TRL 1 to 3) carried out within the IZ and directly linked to one of its development axis.

## 2. Collaborative innovations

**2.1** Value of expenditure on collaborative innovation projects (TRL 4 to 9) financed by private companies and carried out within the IZ perimeter.

**2.2** Value of spending on collaborative innovation projects (TRL 7 to 9) financed by private companies and carried out within the IZ perimeter.

## 3. Private investment

**3.1** Value of R&D spending by private companies.

**3.2** Value of R&D spending by foreign companies.

**3.3** Proportion of cumulative value of public and private investment in infrastructure and real estate projects within the IZ.

## 4. Entrepreneurship and financing

**4.1** Value of private investment capital raised by start-ups and scale-ups in the IZ.

**4.2** Sales of companies supported by a IZ organization and established in Quebec.

# Key performance indicators

## 5. Skilled workforce and attraction of talent

**5.1** Number of researchers in the IZ working in its development areas.

## 7. Animation and mobilization

**7.1** Ratio of visitors to IZ employees.

**7.2** Cumulative value of initiatives aimed at improving quality of life and citizen participation within the industrial park.

**7.3** Financial involvement of companies in cultural activities (excluding R&D) in the industrial park.

## 6. Entrepreneurial diversity

**6.1** Number of knowledge-based SMEs with more than 20 employees.

**6.2** Number of large industrial or manufacturing companies involved in the IZ.

**6.3** Proportion of entrepreneurs in the number of high-skilled jobs in the industrial zone.



03

**Studies  
completed**

# Innovation centers and district studies

Three studies were carried out by the external firm E&Y over an eight-month period. Three PADS applications were submitted to the MEIE for partial funding of each of these studies.

Based on interviews with academic and industrial players, it has been possible to identify their priorities in terms of research and development. The coherence of the proposed lines of research is based primarily on the potential for partnerships between industry and academia, as well as on the needs identified by players in the VTE's ecosystem.

**Each study is carried out in three phases:**

**Phase 1 : Needs analysis**

**Phase 2 : Feasibility study**

- Preliminary design of the innovation center or district.
- Preliminary financial assessment of the project.
- Outline of preliminary business model.

**Phase 3 : Detailed design of the innovation center or district**  
(Phase 3 is to be completed following phases 1 and 2).



# Innovation and training center in energy transition study

## Bécancour Hub : CIFTE

Drawing on the opportunities for pooling identified and in line with the key components of the energy transition, CIFTE's activities will focus on three main areas of research.

**179 000 \$**

*Study costs*

**88 050 \$**

*MEIE funding*

**33 450 \$**

*VTE funding*

**57 500 \$**

*Private funding*

### Area 1

Optimization of transformation processes for strategic minerals and materials for the energy transition.

### Area 2

Valorization of industrial emissions, effluents, outputs and by-products.

### Area 3

Experimentation and validation of methods for producing, storing, transporting and using renewable, low-carbon hydrogen.



# Shawinigan innovation center study

## Shawinigan hub : CIBET-VTE

Based on the opportunities for pooling identified, and in line with the key components of the energy transition, five areas of research, divided into two sections, are to be given priority to guide CIBET-VTE's activities.

**Cost of study: covered directly by the City of Shawinigan.**

### Focus A : Batteries

#### Area 1

Purification and processing of SCMs, advanced materials, battery qualification and assembly.

#### Area 2

Safety, performance and battery quality control

### Focus B: Electrification of transport (\*)

#### Area 1

Advanced recharging infrastructures and intelligent energy management.

#### Area 2

Data analysis and modeling.

#### Area 3

On-board technologies and integration as well as autonomous electric vehicles.



*\*\* The needs of the industry will be examined in greater depth in order to clarify these areas. The firm Malette will be commissioned to produce a detailed report on this subject.*

# Trois-Rivières innovative district study

## Trois-Rivières hub : DI3R-VTE

Based on the mutualization opportunities identified, and in line with the key components of the energy transition, four orientations are to be prioritized to guide DI3R-VTE's activities.

**94 000 \$**

*Study costs*

**47 387 \$**

*MEIE funding*

**21 613 \$**

*VTE funding*

**25 000 \$**

*Private funding*

### Orientation 1

Development, optimization and implementation of decarbonization solutions in an industrial context.

### Orientation 2

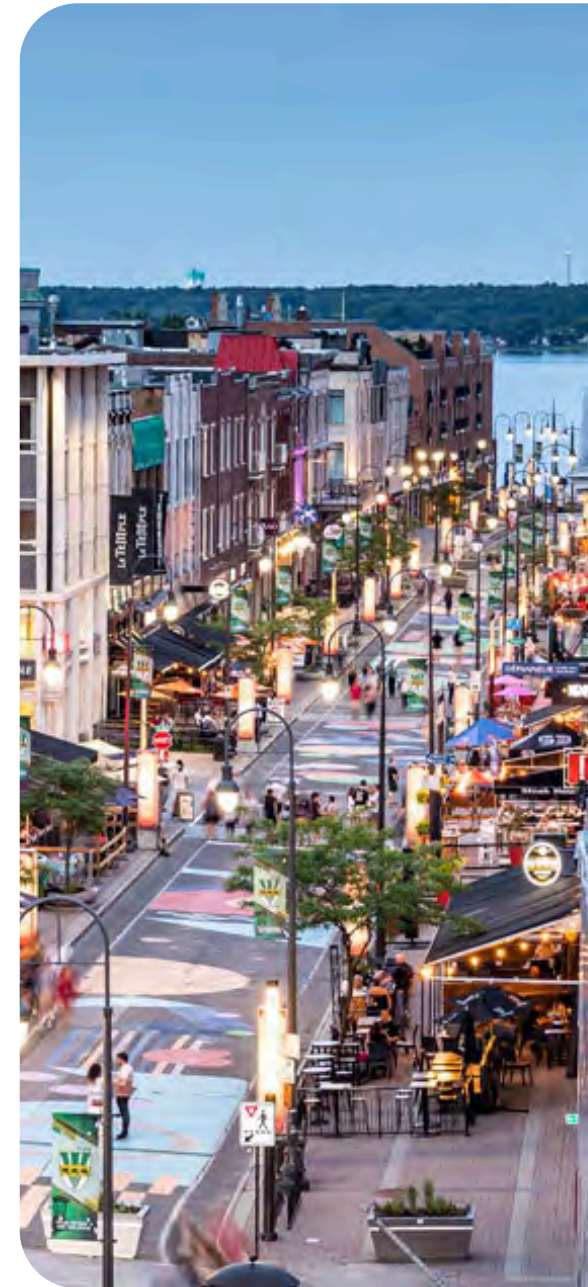
Accelerating the deployment of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen solutions.

### Orientation 3

Development, adaptation and research into the application of logistical and technological decarbonation solutions in a port context.

### Orientation 4

Commercial, regulatory and territorial strategies to accelerate decarbonization.



# Preliminary estimates for potential innovation centers and districts

## CIFTE-VTE

### CAPEX

Total infrastructure with contingency (12%) : 81 761 162\$

Total equipments with contingency (25%) : 51 721 086\$

Total investments : 135 482 249\$

### OPEX

Expenses : 355 000\$

Equipment maintenance and repair : 5 200 000\$

Salaries : 1 750 000\$

Administrative expenses: 160 000\$

Total opex : 7 110 000\$

## CIBET-VTE

### CAPEX

Total infrastructure with contingency (12%) : 41 477 856\$

Total equipments with contingency (25%) : 48 818 594\$

Total investments: 90 296 450\$

### OPEX

Expenses : 196 000\$

Equipment maintenance and repair : 1 500 000\$

Salaries : 1 000 000\$

Administrative expenses : 80 000\$

Total opex : 2 776 000\$

## DI3R-VTE

### CAPEX

Infrastructure Complexe Ameau : 23 900 000\$

Infrastructure Hangar n.1 : 51 747 000\$

Infrastructure Bureau de poste : 24 800 000\$

Total infrastructures : 100 447 000\$

Total equipments for 3 infrastructures with contingency (25%) : 30 661 750\$

Total investments: 153 308 750\$

### OPEX

Expenses for 3 infrastructures : 651 350\$

Equipment maintenance and repair for 3 infrastructures: 1 095 000\$

Salaries : 1 488 000\$

Administrative expenses : 460 000\$

Total opex : 3 694 350\$



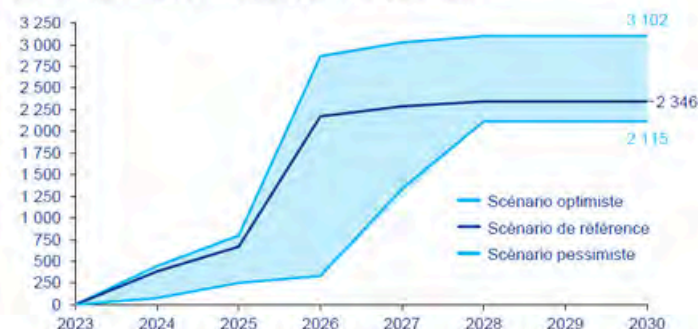
# Workforce study

A workforce study was carried out by the external firm KPMG over an eight-month period.

The creation of the VTE, which will stretch along both sides of the St. Lawrence River near Trois-Rivières, is considerably changing the economic fabric of the region. Within this perspective, KPMG has carried out a workforce analysis for the battery industry within the VTE, and proposed solutions to the issues identified. The study is specifically aimed at the battery industry, but as the issues of workforce adequacy cannot be analyzed in isolation, the needs of other relevant economic sectors in the region have been taken into account in the analyses. The workforce diagnosis is therefore that of the entire economy of the VTE region, and focuses on 34 occupations required by the battery industry.

In order to carry out this study, consultations were held with key partners, companies, organizations and institutions in the region to gather current data, needs and future challenges. The study identified avenues for action to address and improve the content and capacity of training programs, the attractiveness of students in training programs, and the attractiveness of skilled workers in the VTE region.

**Projection des besoins cumulés de main-d'œuvre de la filière batterie dans la Vallée de la transition énergétique, selon le scénario**  
Bécancoeur, Shawinigan, Trois-Rivières, 2023-2030, en nombre



**Répartition des besoins cumulés, selon le niveau de formation requis (scénario de référence)**

Bécancoeur, Shawinigan, Trois-Rivières, 2023-2030, en nombre



# Workforce study

## Consultation day and reflections on the design of workforce matching measures.

On November 1st, 2023, we also organized a day of consultation bringing together nearly a hundred players concerned by the workforce. During this event, various groups discussed the following topics :

- Training content and capacity
- Attractiveness of training programs
- Attractiveness of the region
- Promotion of career prospects

At the end of the day, a summary document, produced by KPMG, grouping the proposed courses of action according to levels of prioritization was distributed to all the players present.



**177 822 \$**

*Study costs*

**88 275 \$**

*MEIE funding*

**49 500 \$**

*Private funding*

**35 310 \$**

*Service Québec  
funding*



04

**Partners and  
stakeholders**

# Industrial partners

Over the course of the year, several companies became involved in our development axis.

### Transportation electrification

### Battery

### Hydrogen

### Decarbonization and renewable energies

# Highlights and announcements

over

**800 millions \$**

invested by **the Quebec government** in projects on the VTE.

over

**1 500 jobs**

**potentially created** by projects located on the VTE.

over

**300 millions \$**

invested by **the Government of Canada** in VTE projects.

## News



Développement de la filière québécoise de la batterie - Québec soutient une première usine de plus de 600 M\$ pour des composants de batterie pour véhicules électriques.



Au tour de Ford de choisir Bécancour



TES présente le Projet Mauricie

Avis de projet : Projet Mauricie (p.3)



Le ministère de l'Environnement du Québec autorise le Réseau Allégé Québec à construire une installation de fabrication et de recherche de stockage d'énergie à Shawinigan

Réseau Allégé Québec choisit plusieurs firmes professionnelles pour soutenir son projet de fabrication de batteries LFP à Shawinigan, au Québec

Une usine d'un milliard de dollars à Shawinigan



Air Liquide implante une plateforme de production de gaz bas carbone



Groupe Bellemare acquiert la première chargeuse 100 % électrique au Canada

# Highlights and announcements

## News (more)



Filière batterie : Vale prépare sa venue à Bécancour



L'entreprise de Shawinigan se voit octroyer 750 000 \$, soit un prêt de 500 000 \$ des fonds propres d'Investissement Québec



Une autre étape importante dans le développement de Nemaska Lithium

Québec investit 80 millions pour relancer Nemaska Lithium



NMG annonce la clôture de la Première tranche d'investissement de 50 M\$ US par GM et Panasonic

NMG annonce une entente « offtake » avec GM visant l'acquisition de graphite canadien et un investissement en fonds propres de 150 M\$ US



Lancement officiel de la construction du pavillon de l'UQTR au centre-ville



Filière batterie : nouveau partenariat international pour le CNETE de Shawinigan



Une nouvelle formation sur les technologies vertes à Trois-Rivières



L'Université Concordia annonce l'inauguration d'un campus thématique consacré à la transition énergétique à Shawinigan

over

**1,1 billion \$**

in **private investment** for projects located on the VTE.

over

**5 billion \$**

in **potential private investment** for VTE projects.

over

**150 millions \$**

invested by the Québec and Canadian governments in **research and training.**

# Academic partners

Innovation is the key to developing a high value-added, knowledge-based economy. We continue to act as a convener, bringing together the expertise and tools needed to move from idea to market. VTE experts ensure that promising initiatives are at the heart of our scientific roadmap.

We work with 9 provincial universities and several regional CCTTs :



Read the news

[Le Consortium formation Énergie voit le jour](#)

*“We can be proud of the leadership and commitment of the training institutions, whose exchanges have resulted in the creation of the Consortium Formation-Énergie MCQ, a one-stop shop for companies. Their collaboration has also enabled groundwork to be laid for the establishment of a cross-order training center in Bécancour, inspired by European models and located close to factories, where students from all levels of education - vocational, college and university - would rub shoulders. This École de la Transition Énergétique would be a concrete solution to our workforce needs.”*

*- Lucie Allard, Mayor of the City of Bécancour*

# VTE Scientific Committee

## Mandate and achievements

The CS-VTE was created as a cross-order strike force to rally the talents needed to drive innovation projects forward, around the VTE mission.

### Mandate

- Develop scientific programming.
- Evaluate and comment on the feasibility of proposed projects and activities using research funds dedicated to VTE.
- Promote collaborative research with industrial partners and an inter-institutional and inter-order perspective.
- Contribute to the outreach of VTE projects through conferences and other scientific, technology transfer and outreach activities.

## Achievements

### Call for projects FRQ - VTE

The VTE announced on February 29, 2024 the launch of a new \$5M program by **the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et technologies (FRQNT)**, in partnership with **MEIE**. This program is in line with the research orientations and needs of our innovation zone. A VTE executive committee has made project recommendations to the FRQNT.

Supported projects will be announced in the fall of 2024.

**5 millions \$**

invested by FRQNT in partnership  
with MEIE

# Scientific committee members

Joining the CS-VTE are the teaching and research institutions that hold the expertise on which the scientific orientations are based. Key players committed to exploring energy transition solutions together.

## Constitution of the Scientific Committee on March 31, 2024



**Karim Zaghib**  
Professor and researcher  
*Université Concordia*



**Nicholas Berrouard**  
Operations manager  
*Centre National Électrochimie et Technologies Environnementales*



**François Allard**  
Professor  
*Centre Énergie Matériaux Télécommunications - UMR MTTÉ*



**Louis-Cesar Pasquier**  
Researcher  
*Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique*



**Mickael Dollé**  
Professor  
*Université de Montréal*



**Simon Barnabé**  
Professor et co-director  
*I2E3 - CIRODD*



**Louis Fradette**  
Professor  
*Polytechnique Montréal*



**Elena Rosemarie Ulate Kolitsky**  
Project Manager  
*Centre Métallurgie du Québec*



**Julien Bley**  
Researcher and et engineer  
*Innofibre*



**Jérôme Clavier**  
Professor  
*Université de Sherbrooke*



**Sylvain Coulombe**  
Professor  
*Université McGill*



**Adrian Ilinca**  
Professor  
*École de Technologie Supérieure*



**Jean-François Audy**  
Professor  
*Centre national intégré du manufacturier intelligent*



**Bruno Pollet**  
Codirector and professor  
*Institut de Recherche sur l'Hydrogène*



**Christian Bélanger**  
Senior Director Research & Innovation  
*Institut de Recherche Hydro-Québec CEETSE*



**Loïc Boulon**  
Research member  
*Réseau québécois sur l'énergie intelligente*

Observer members



**Mounir Jaidann**  
*Ministry of the Economy, Innovation and Energy*



**Janice Bailey**  
Scientific director  
*FRQ-NT*



**Pascale Champagne**  
General Manager, Center for Research in Energy, Mining and the Environment  
*Conseil national de recherches du Canada*



**Clément Villemont**  
VP knowledge environment and innovation ecosystem  
*VTE*



**Alain Lemieux**  
CEO  
*VTE*



**Alexia Selin**  
Executive assistante  
*VTE*

# Community partners

The development of an innovation zone must respect and be in synergy with the living environment, which, for its part, can be broken down into various areas, such as labor, housing, land use, mobility, education, public health and sustainable development. The development model must be applied to the entire territory to foster the emergence of dynamic, attractive and connected regional ecosystems.



To ensure that our three hubs are well aligned, both in terms of communications and the actions taken by each, we organize a monthly founding members' dinner attended by the mayors of the three cities, the general managers of the economic development departments, and the rector and vice-rector of UQTR.

At these meetings, we share the latest developments in the VTE and make sure to mobilize all these key players to collaborate in achieving our mission.

# Living Environment committee (LEC-VTE)

The VTE plays a unifying role and acts as a link with local, regional and provincial organizations at the heart of our three poles, with the aim of guiding municipalities and partner companies towards best practices.

Numerous government and municipal players, as well as stakeholders in the fields of knowledge, economic and social development, are involved in :

- Mobilize expertise
- Develop on the solutions to be implemented
- Make concrete recommendations for practices, technologies and financing that promote the living environment.

The LEC-VTE will address a variety of issues, including :

- The workforce
- Housing
- Land-use planning
- Mobility
- Education

As well as a number of cross-cutting issues relating to **public health, population services and social innovation.**

# Sustainable, circular and territorial development committee (SCTDC-VTE)

**The Sustainable, Circular and Territorial Development Committee (SCTDC-VTE) strives to channel issues and challenges and will encourage federating initiatives with a clear mandate.**

In conjunction with local and national organizations, the SCTDC-VTE will encourage companies in the VTE to adopt innovative practices and environmental, social and community solutions aimed at achieving circularity and protecting the environment in all its facets.

The SCTDC-VTE will act as a link with local and national organizations to :

- Guide VTE partner companies towards practices, technologies and financing programs that promote sustainable development, the circular economy, sustainable mobility and responsible regional planning.
- Mobilize the expertise required for the energy transition.

**The SCTDC-VTE will focus on three areas of development, namely:**

1. The **circularity** of technologies, products, processes, approaches, etc. developed and marketed by VTE partners for the energy transition.
2. **Sustainable mobility** specific to industrial companies and their energy transition to reduce fossil fuel consumption and GHG emissions.
3. **Land-use planning** specific to industrial parks and their energy transition.

*The activities of each committee will be steered by the VTE vice-president in collaboration with a chairperson who will be elected by the VTE board of directors.*

# Inter-zone networking

The VTE is sharing its business model, best practices, know-how, ideas and concepts with the other two officially designated innovation zones (Technum Québec and District-Q), as well as looking at the potential integration of cross-functional technological elements and strategies that fuel wealth creation for Quebec.

Discussions are also underway with the green aluminum, mining, aerospace and blue economy innovation zone projects in the pipeline. We share our momentum and milestones to inspire each other in our respective developments.



**November 3, 2023 and March 13, 2023 :** Visit to the VTE and discussions with the green aluminum innovation zone project (ZIAL).

**April 11, 2023 :** Visit to the VTE and discussions with the aerospace innovation zone project (Espace Aéro) and the blue economy innovation zone project (Novarium-zone bleue).



Our CEO also took part in activities on innovation zone themes, including those organized by ISEQ on how innovation zones can generate business opportunities and how the business community can benefit from them.



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**Local and  
international  
outreach**

# International missions and delegations received



**Week of May 15, 2023:** World Hydrogen North America, Houston, Guillaume Parenteau

**Week of June 19, 2023:** Mission in Hauts de France, France, Alain Lemieux

**July 20, 2023:** Meeting with South Korean delegation from KEIT institute in Montreal

**September 8, 2023:** Visit to the SPIPB park by the La Roche sur Yon delegation (organized by SDED)

**September 13, 2023:** Angers/Bruges delegation at the Port of Trois-Rivières

**Week of October 9, 2023:** Salon Pollutec and Entretiens Jacques Cartier in Lyon, France, Alain Lemieux and Guillaume Parenteau

**November 23, 2023:** French INERIS delegation at SPIPB

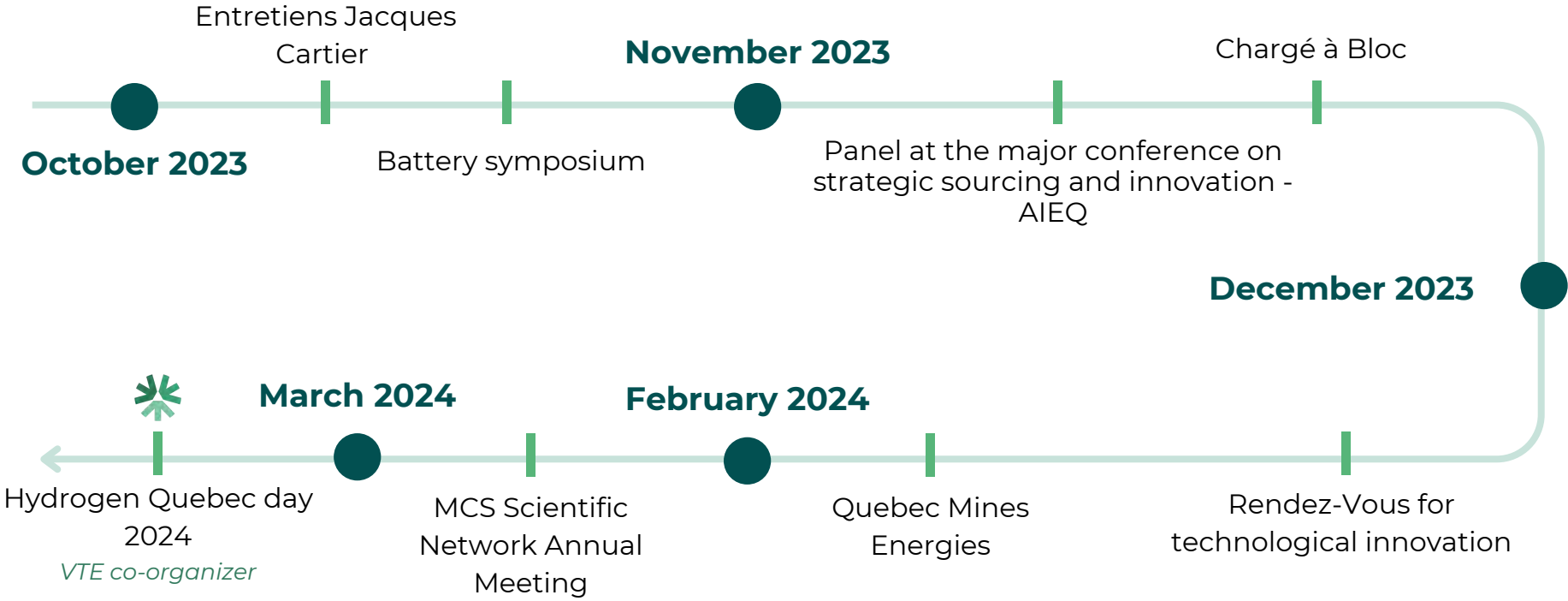
**Week of January 29, 2024:** Hyvolution, Paris, France, Guillaume Parenteau

**March 6 and 7, 2024:** Hyvolution, Paris, France, Guillaume Parenteau, Cédric Lalaizon

**March 18 and 28, 2024:** Mission with Bioindustrial Innovation Canada, France, Belgium and Sweden, Guillaume Parenteau

# Events

The VTE team took part in several events during the year :



# Communication

## Open letter

On March 27, the VTE published an open letter clearly expressing its ambitions for Quebec's energy transition and decarbonization. The letter was co-written by the VTE and its founding members, the cities of Bécancour, Shawinigan and Trois-Rivières, and the UQTR. It is aimed at the general public, and is intended both to popularize our mission and to inspire by our vision. It's a first step towards clear communication, demonstrating the cohesion and collaboration of the entire VTE territory.

Read our open letter :

**[The ambition to decarbonize Quebec](#)**

**You can also find all our press releases published during the year directly on [our website](#).**



***“We must collectively dare and take responsibility for acting differently to bring about real change [...]. This is VTE's ambition, and this is the social project we wish to carry forward with the entire community and partners.”***

*- Energy Transition Valley and its founding members.*

# Digital communication tools

This year, we reached a milestone by creating our website with the firm Cinetic at the end of April 2024. We also strengthened our presence on social networks (LinkedIn and Facebook). These initiatives are essential to increase our visibility and reach, both locally and internationally.

The website enables us to centralize all important information and provides an initial showcase for our mission, our actions and our reach. It will develop over time, and more and more information relevant to our partners will be added.

As for our presence on social networks, it plays a key role in our communications strategy. Social networks enable us to interact directly with our partners, and in particular to share the events in which we participate.

Thanks to these platforms, we can spread our messages more effectively and reach thousands of people interested in getting involved in Quebec's energy transition. We are convinced that this approach will help us pursue our mission even more dynamically and effectively.



[Website](#)



[Facebook](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

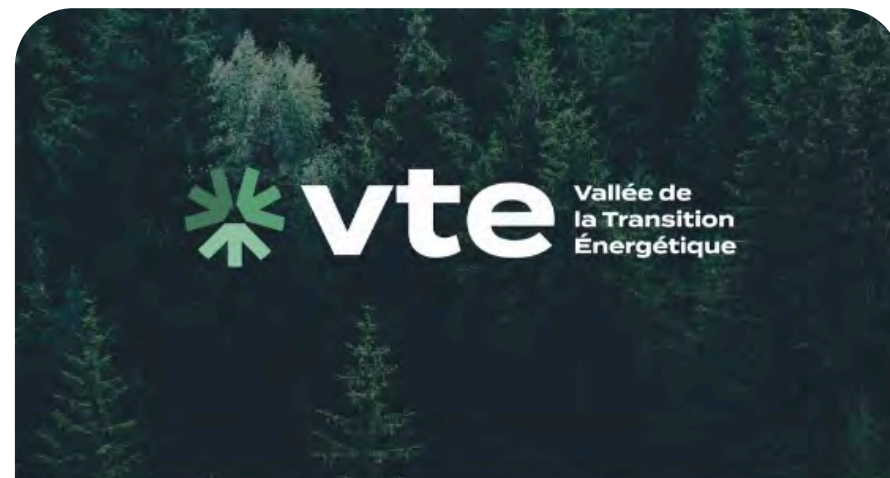
# Digital communication tools

## Newsletter - news watch

Since January 1, 2022, the VTE has been sending all its partners a monthly news watch on topics related to its areas of development.

More specifically, it includes articles on new developments at the VTE, as well as broader topics such as innovation, technology, financing and regional development.

Over 400 partners are currently registered to receive this communication.



## VEILLE D'ACTUALITÉ

Jun 2024

Batteries, électrification, hydrogène et décarbonation

*Subscribe to our news watch*



**NEWS WATCH**

# Press review

30-05-2023	Radio-Canada	<a href="#"><u>Bécancour, Trois-Rivières, Shawinigan désignées Vallée de la transition énergétique</u></a>
30-05-2023	Toujours le matin	<a href="#"><u>La Vallée de la transition énergétique déjà en bonne posture</u></a>
03-06-2023	Le Nouvelliste	<a href="#"><u>Zone d'innovation : et puis après?</u></a>
04-11-2023	Le Devoir	<a href="#"><u>Justin Trudeau se dit emballé par la filière batterie qui se développe au Québec</u></a>
15-12-2023	Les Affaires	<a href="#"><u>La prometteuse Vallée de la transition énergétique</u></a>
04-01-2024	Le Nouvelliste	<a href="#"><u>Une marche avec le directeur général de la Vallée de la transition énergétique, Alain Lemieux</u></a>
01-2024	L'alternative électrique (p. 10)	<a href="#"><u>Petite vallée deviendra grande</u></a>
15-02-2024	Le Nouvelliste	<a href="#"><u>Vallée de la transition énergétique : une année pour passer à l'action</u></a>
15-02-2024	MAtv	<a href="#"><u>La Vallée de la transition énergétique</u></a>

