

**A STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE
ON ELECTRICITY IN CENTRAL
AND EASTERN CANADA**



The IET's mission

The academic training of a new generation of engineers, scientists and innovators with a **systemic understanding** of energy issues;

The research for sustainable solutions for our energy future, while supporting knowledge generation and innovation in the energy sector to help face the coming decades challenges;

The dissemination of knowledge on energy related topics, contributing to **societal dialogue** on energy issues.



Collaborations and initiatives



The Transition Accelerator



L'Accélérateur de transition



Energy Modelling Initiative
Bringing the Tools to Support Canada's Energy Transition

Initiative de modélisation énergétique
Outils pour le Canada pour réussir la transition



CARREFOUR DE MODÉLISATION ÉNERGÉTIQUE
ENERGY MODELLING HUB

I V E Y foundation

Énergie et Ressources naturelles

Québec 



Natural Resources Canada

Ressources naturelles Canada

Publications



Plan pour la carboneutralité au Québec
Trajectoires 2050 et propositions
d'actions à court terme

Juin 2022

IET INSTITUT
DE L'ÉNERGIE
TROTIER

**Enjeux, leviers et freins de la
décarbonation des bâtiments
commerciaux et institutionnels
au Québec**

ANALYSES ET RECOMMANDATIONS POUR LES PROCHAINES ETAPES

**Canadian
Energy
Outlook
- 2021 -**

IET INSTITUT
DE L'ÉNERGIE
TROTIER

e3cHub
HEC MONTRÉAL

Environment, energy
and circular economy

Modelling

ESMIA
Energy Sector
Association of
Manufacturers

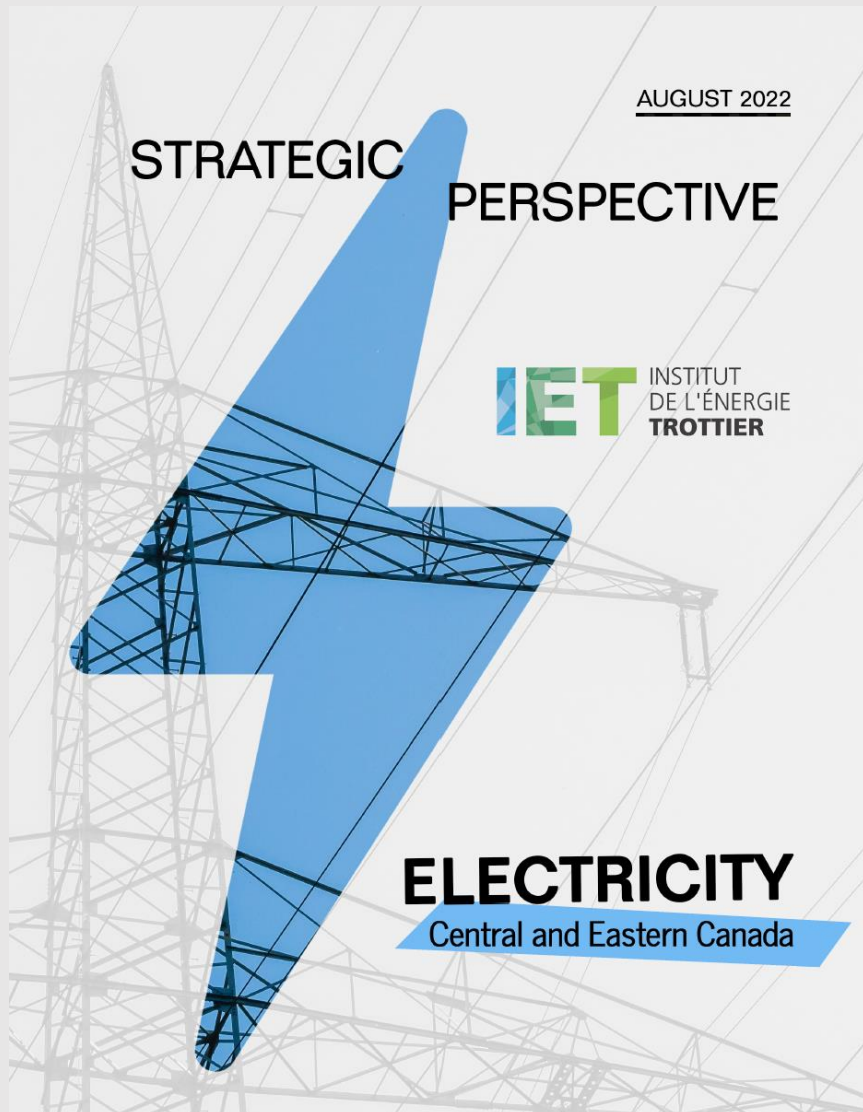
Financial support
TROTIER
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

The Transition
Accelerator

**On the way to net-zero
The 2030 milestone**

October 2021

IET INSTITUT
DE L'ÉNERGIE
TROTIER



Objectives

- ⚡ Provide an overview of the electricity sector in Central and Eastern Canada
- ⚡ Analyze the challenges inherent to massive electrification in these regions
- ⚡ Identify and propose work to be undertaken to support and accelerate transformation

Approach

- ▶ First version of the white paper used as a working document for the workshops
- ▶ Series of three workshops (Atlantic, Ontario, Quebec)
 - Validate / refine the analysis
 - Identify priority actions / challenges to be addressed
 - Develop a plan to move forward
- ▶ Updated white paper with outcomes from workshops and other meetings
- ▶ Feedback to stakeholders (next step)

Authors



**Éloïse Edom,
M. Sc. A.**

Research associate,
Institut de l'énergie Trottier



**Simon Langlois-Bertrand,
PhD**

Research associate,
Institut de l'énergie Trottier

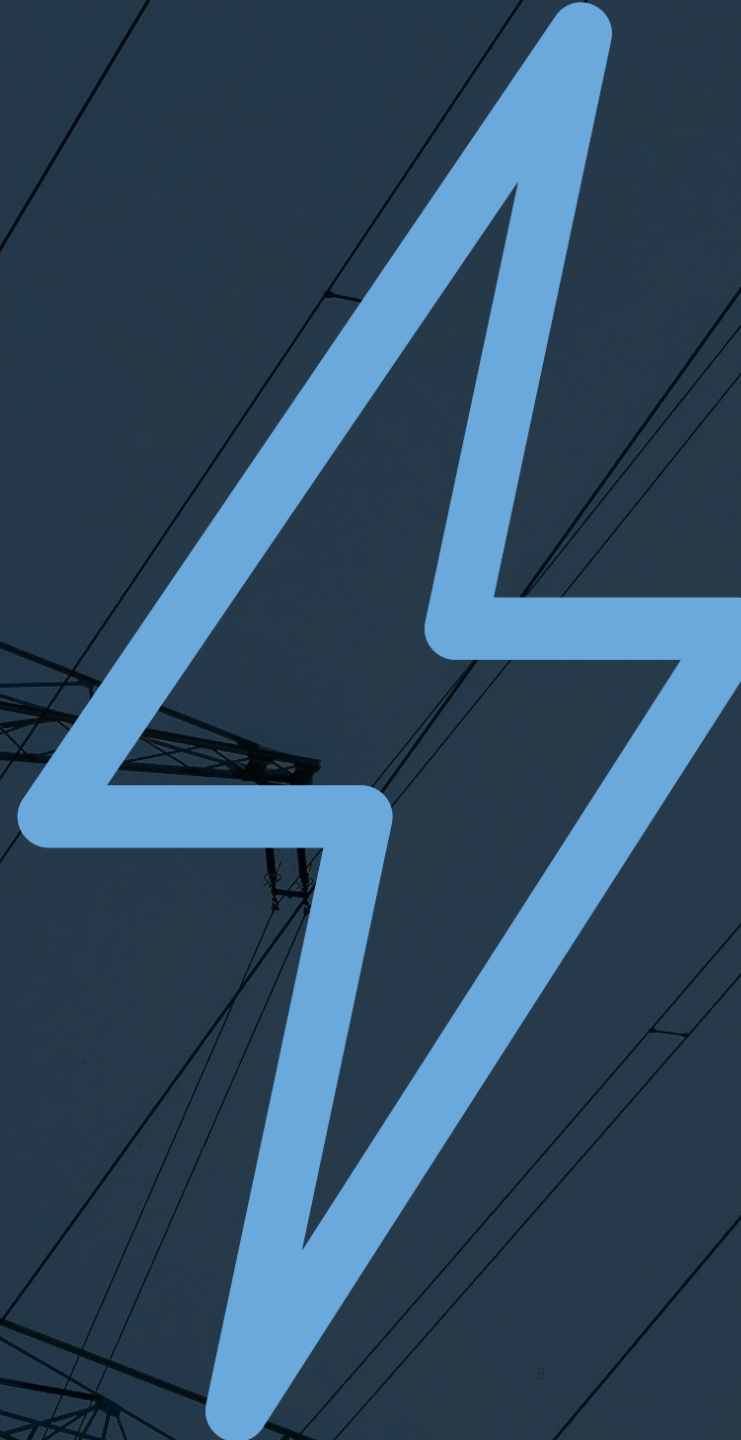


**Normand Mousseau,
PhD**

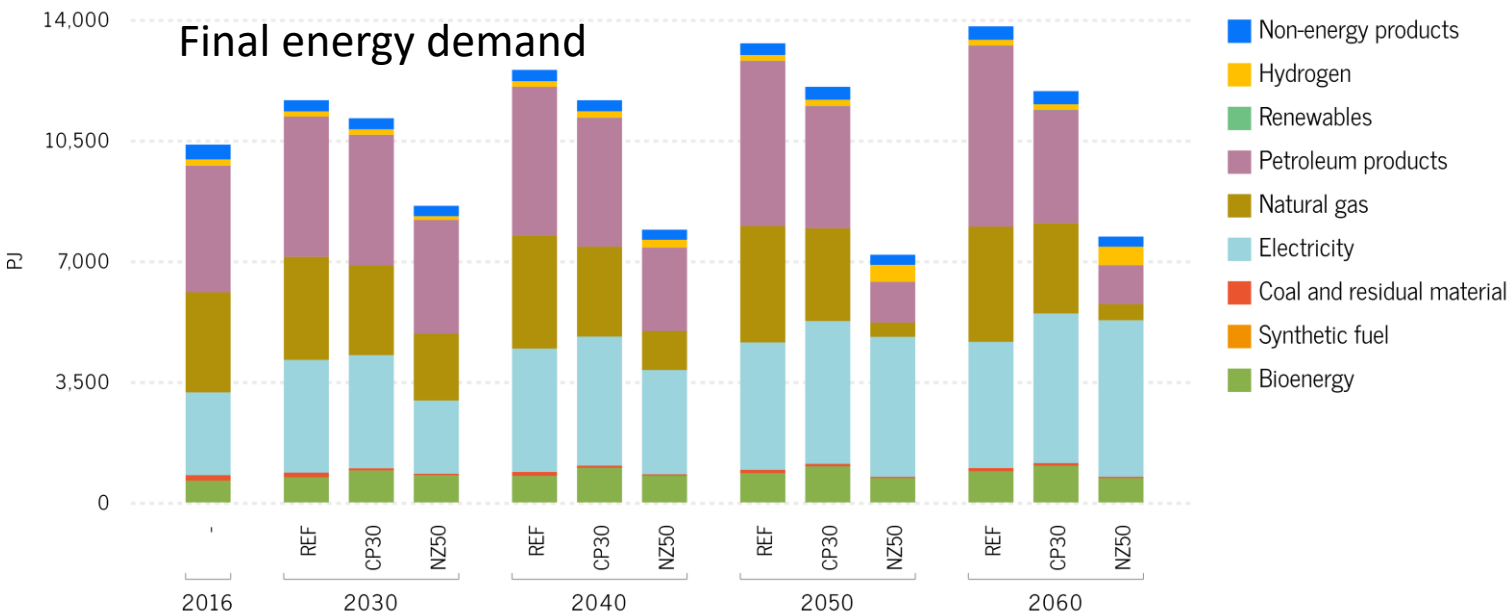
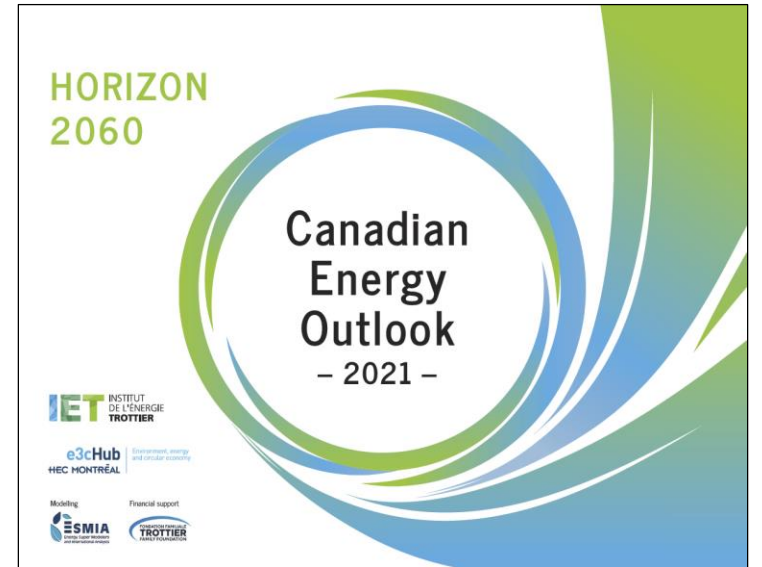
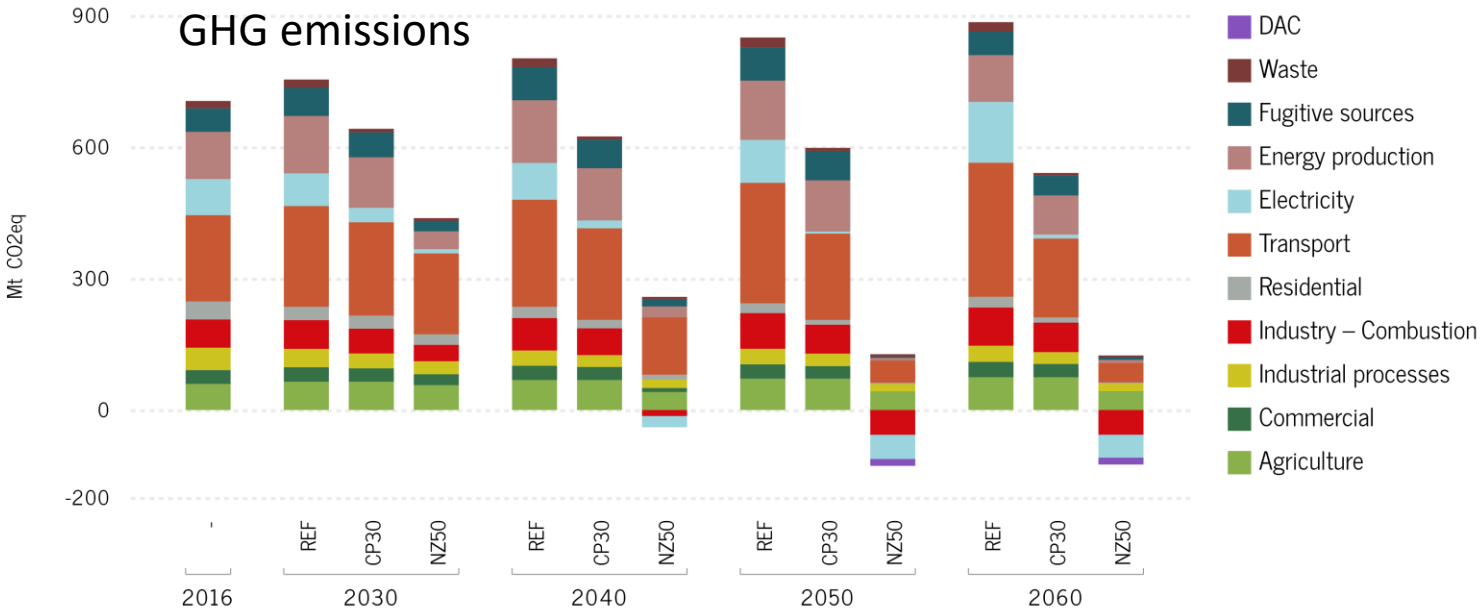
Professor of physics,
Université de Montréal
Scientific Director,
Institut de l'énergie Trottier



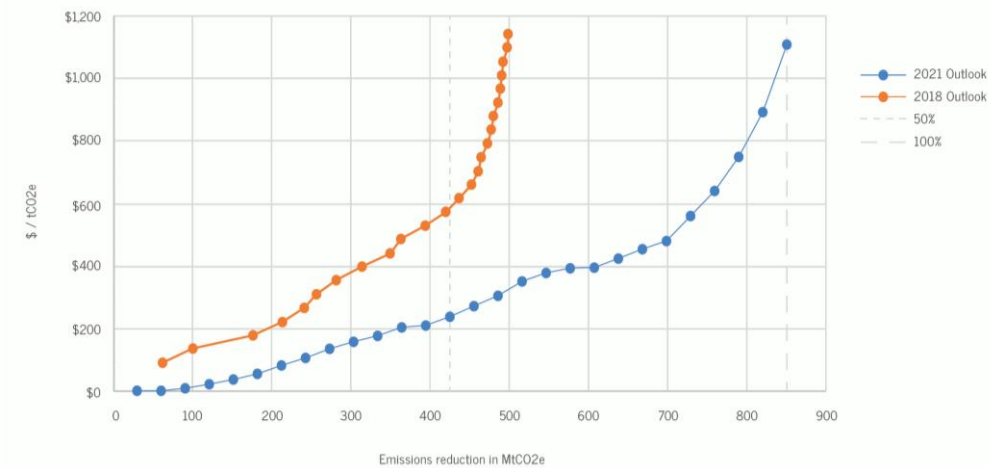
Context



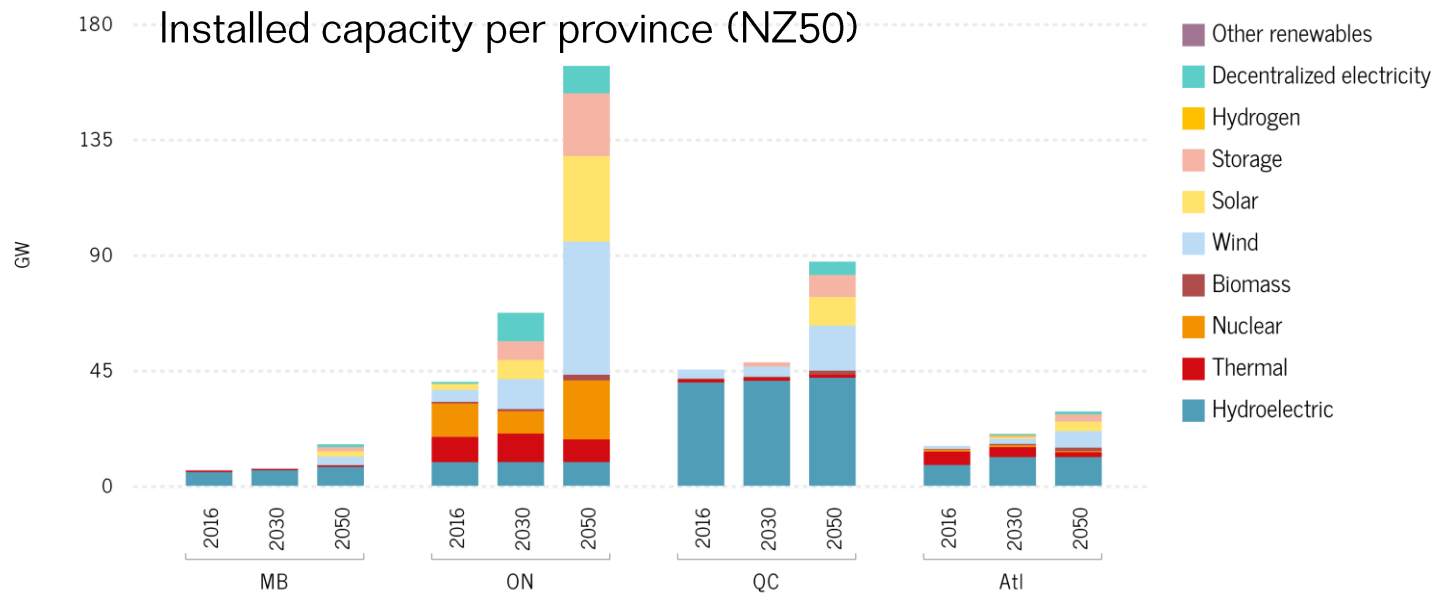
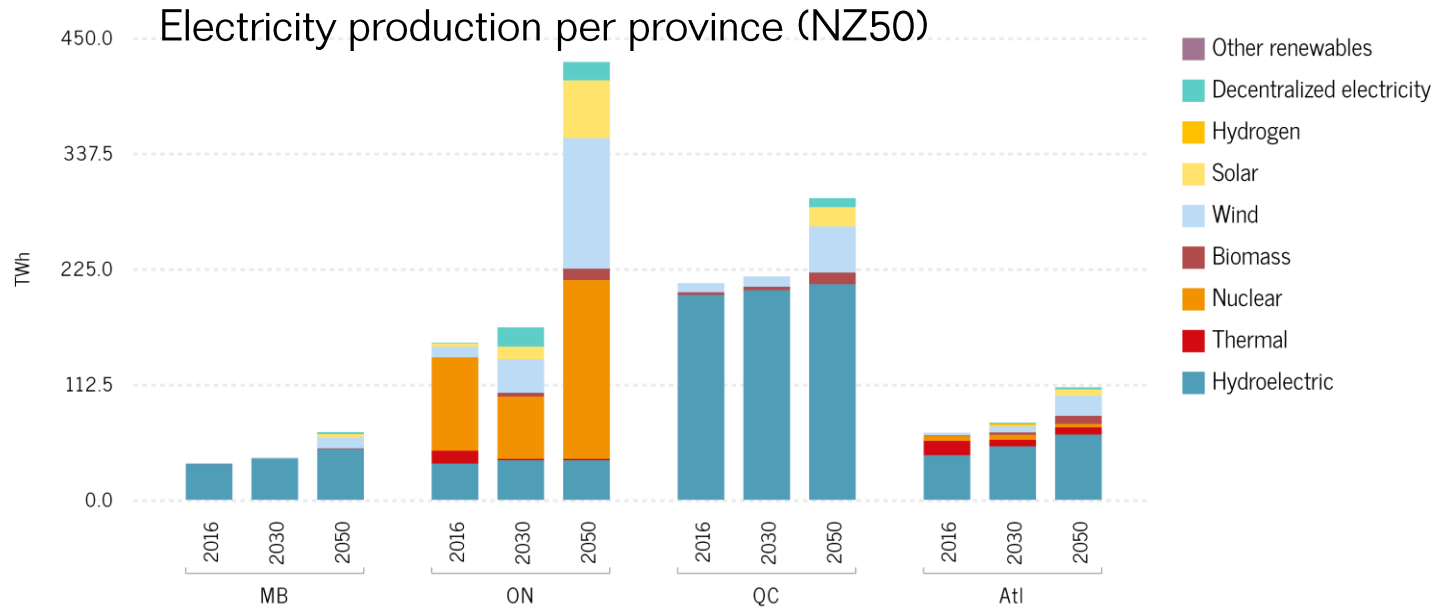
The Net-Zero ambition



Marginal cost of reduction, NZ50 vs REF



Impact on the electricity sector



Growth and share of electricity in final energy consumption (CN50)

| | 2016 | 2030 | 2050 |
|-------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| Electricity Production | 1 | 1,04 | 2,10 |
| Buildings | 43 % | 53 % | 90 % |
| Industry | 31 % | 33 % | 47 % |
| Transport | 1 % | 2,6 % | 39 % |

Great expectation from electricity

Projections of GHG emissions on the 2030 horizon (in MtCO₂e)

| Sector ¹ | CEO2021 | | | | ECCC2020 ³ | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|-------------|
| | 2016 | 2030 | | | 2018 | 2030 | | |
| | | REF | CP30 | CP30 - REF | | REF* | HEHE | HEHE - REF* |
| Buildings | 72 | 64 | 60 | -4 | 92 | 82 | 65 | -17 |
| Oil and gas | 161 | 196 | 173 | -23 | 193 | 194 | 138 | -56 |
| Electricity | 82 | 75 | 33 | -42 | 64 | 21 | 11 | -10 |
| Industry | 116 | 108 | 91 | -17 | 78 | 82 | 61 | -21 |
| Transport | 197 | 230 | 213 | -17 | 186 | 178 | 151 | -27 |
| Waste | 17 | 18 | 8 | -10 | 42 | 41 | 31 | -10 |
| Agriculture | 60 | 65 | 65 | 0 | 73 | 77 | 74 | -3 |
| TOTAL ² | 705 | 754 | 642 | -112 | 728 | 674 | 531 | -144 |
| LULUCF | | | | | | -17 | -27 | |

Targets : -30% = 511 ; -45% = 401

1: Sectors definitions and reference years differ in the two models: CEO2021 is aligned with international definitions and Canada's National GHG Inventory; ECCC adopts the economic sectorial classification. This explains why there are some discrepancies in how the emissions are distributed among sectors, even though the total emissions match.

2: Due to round-up of numbers, totals might not match the sum of separate items

3: Canada's Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollutant Emissions Projections 2020 by Environment and Climate Change Canada



Some of the work on electricity and decarbonization in Canada

The costs associated with the lack of grid integration across neighboring provinces and U.S. states

- Pineau, P.-O., & Langlois-Bertrand, S. (2020). *Northeast Decarbonization – Opportunities and Challenges of Regional Electricity Sector Integration for High Renewable Penetration*.

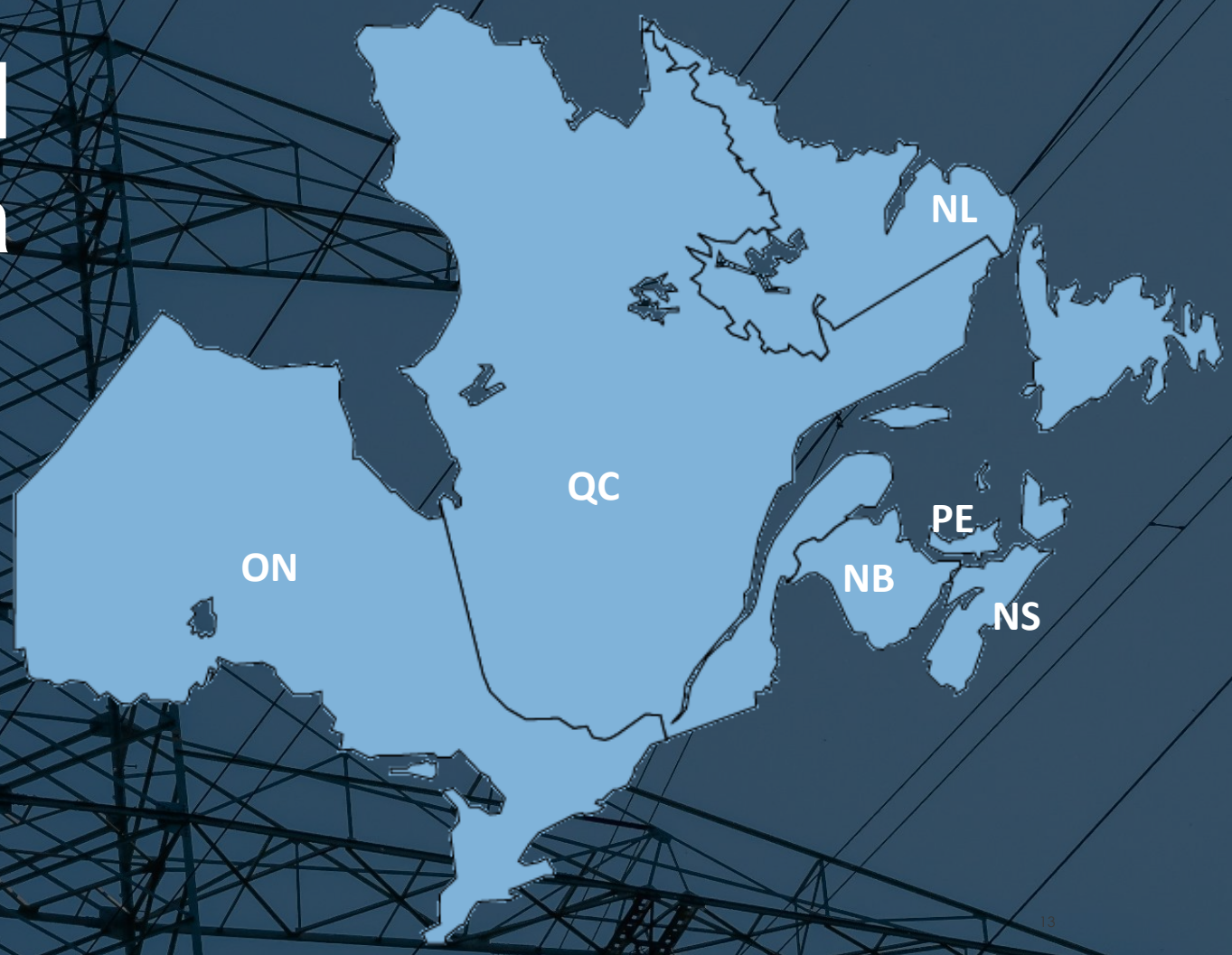
The opportunities and difficulties of implementing such integration

- Rodríguez-Sarasty, J. A., Debia, S., & Pineau, P.-O. (2021). *Deep decarbonization in Northeastern North America: The value of electricity market integration and hydropower*.
- Pineau, P.-O., & Ba, A. (2021). *Getting on an Efficient Decarbonization Track*. Accélérateur de Transition.

Potential roles for the Government of Canada in linking provincial grids

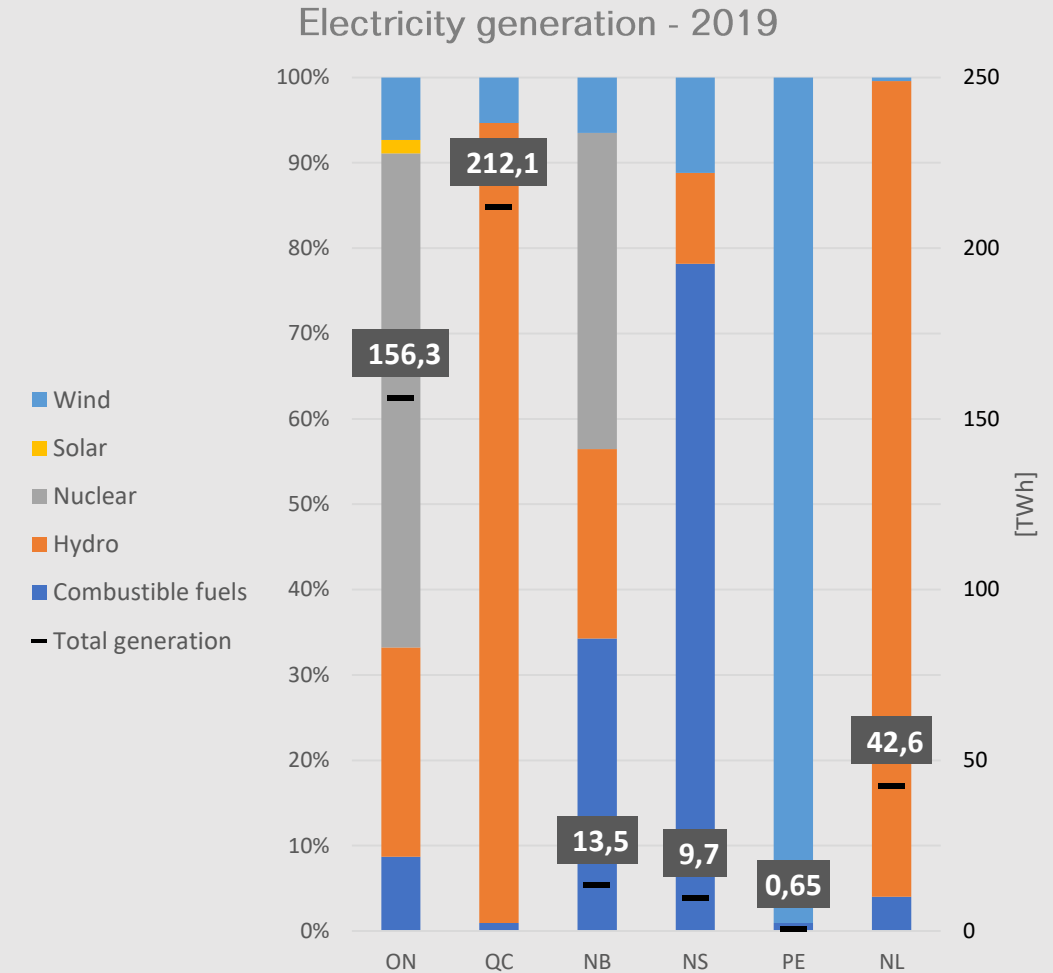
- Lee, C., Dion, J. et Guertin, C. (2022). *Bigger, Cleaner, Smarter: Pathways for aligning Canadian electricity systems with net zero*. Canadian Climate Institute.
- Kanduth, A., & Dion, J. (2022). *Electric Federalism: Policy for aligning Canadian electricity systems with net zero*. Canadian Climate Institute.

A Strategic Perspective on Electricity in Central and Eastern Canada



Electricity systems in Eastern Canada: a general overview

- Unequal availability of resources across provinces
- Carbon intensity stable for a decade
- More NG, higher carbon intensity to come in ON and NS
- Installed capacity of variable RE does not translate in the same proportion in the generation mix
- Proportion of installed capacity for combustible fuels much higher than in generation mix to meet peak
- Decarbonization + Electrification



GHG reduction targets and current planning

| | Provincial GHG reduction targets | | Planning | Main demand drivers |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | 2030 | 2050 | | |
| ON ¹ | -30% | - | Reinforcement of electricity transmission infrastructures | Agriculture, transport |
| | | | Refurbishment and closing of nuclear powerplants | |
| | | | New generation capacity needs at strategic locations | |
| QC ² | -37,5% | Net-zero* | Optimization of available supplies | Agriculture, transport, data centers |
| | | | Important efforts to improve demand management | |
| | | | New supply sources | |
| | | | Development of export markets | |

1: With respect to 2005 levels

2: With respect to 1990 levels

* Target announced by the Quebec government but not legally adopted.

GHG reduction targets and current planning

| | Provincial GHG reduction targets | | Planning | Main demand drivers |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| | 2030 | 2050 | | |
| NB ^{1,3} | -35% | -80% | Extend life of Bayside NG generating station | Residential sector and the industry |
| | | | Upgrade transmission infrastructure; and strategically locate any new generation | |
| | | | Focus on DSM (Energy Smart NB) | |
| NS ² | -53% | Net-zero | 80% RE by 2030 | Transportation and building sectors |
| | | | More imports (Maritime Link), need to strengthen transmission structures | |
| | | | Addition of two NG power plants: 150 MW in 2026, and 100 MW in 2030 | |
| PE ² | -40% | Net-zero ⁴ | Energy independence | Transportation and building sectors |
| NL ^{2,3} | -30% | -80% | Retirement of 3/4 steam generating units at Holyrood power plant | Transportation and building sectors; data centers |

1: With respect to 1990 levels;
2: With respect to 2005 levels;

3: With respect to 2001 levels;
4: Objective for 2040.

Electricity demand growth projections

| | Electricity demand growth projections compared to 2016 | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------|----------------------|------|------|-----------------------|------|------|
| | Forecasted by utilities | | CEO2021 REF scenario | | | CEO2021 NZ50 scenario | | |
| | 2030 | 2040 | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 |
| QC | 12,3% | - | 8% | 18% | 27% | 2% | 25% | 54% |
| ON | 16,8% | 46% | 43% | 72% | 98% | 23% | 97% | 202% |
| NB | 18,90% | 26% | -3% | 5% | 5% | 7% | 44% | 62% |
| NS | 0,6% | - | 24% | 33% | 38% | 39% | 102% | 155% |
| PE | 38,70% | - | 15% | 28% | 41% | 30% | 76% | 118% |
| NL | 16,50% | - | 13% | 13% | 3% | 67% | 126% | 82% |

Electricity demand growth is projected to be sizeable even without further efforts to reduce GHG

Provinces appear to be underestimating the growth in electricity demand implied by the **carbon neutrality targets**

Lack of long-term forecasting

-CEO2021 does not include industry growth in its demand growth forecast

- All economically viable energy efficiency measures are applied

Challenges



Overarching challenges (1/2)

INTERNAL

- Integration of large amounts of variable generation
- Replacement and upgrade of aging transmission and distribution infrastructure
- Adaptation of the regulating agencies to the privatization of production
- Adaptation of tariff structures to the evolution of costs structures
- Clarification of the role of emerging technologies
- Decision on the potential future role for hydrogen
- Planning for the overall increase in society's reliance on electricity

Overarching challenges (2/2)

EXTERNAL

with partial influence

- Meeting demand projections implied by GHG reduction efforts
- Adaptation to new demand drivers
- Adaptation to new patterns of consumption

EXTERNAL

- Meeting increased cybersecurity threats arising from the use of some technologies
- Adaptation of electricity systems to the impacts of climate change

Province-specific challenges (1/2)

ONTARIO

- ⚡ Capacity shortages due to nuclear refurbishments
- ⚡ Incompatibility of new natural gas generation and GHG targets
- ⚡ Transmission infrastructure upgrade needs

QUÉBEC

- ⚡ Cost of new supply + long-term procurement contracts expiration
- ⚡ Profitability of exports and transmission line projects (given natural gas prices)
- ⚡ Potential role of HQ's large dams with regard to variable generation in the northeast grid
- ⚡ Electrifying transport and industry

Province-specific challenges (2/2)

Nova Scotia

- ⚡ □ How to replace coal-fired baseload without resorting to NG
- ⚡ □ Capacity deficit

Prince Edward Island

- ⚡ □ How to meet expanding demand

New Brunswick

- ⚡ □ How to replace coal-fired baseload without resorting to NG
- ⚡ □ Upgrade transmission infrastructure

Newfoundland and Labrador

- ⚡ □ Muskrat Falls costs
- ⚡ □ Electrification infrastructure
- ⚡ □ Transmission upgrades
- ⚡ □ Development of exports

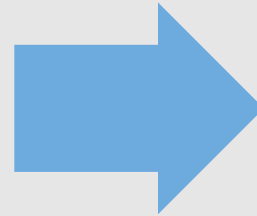
Conclusion



Conclusion

FINDINGS

- Gulf between current planning and efforts to deploy.
- The current planning is based on failure to achieve climate targets put forward by governments.



RISKS

- Several provinces are already facing dead ends to meet the expected demand in clean electricity.
- The electricity sector risks becoming a major factor slowing the deep decarbonization process of our societies.

Upcoming work : proposed initiatives



6 avenues

Regulation

Pricing



Demand management

Resilience



Data

Support for implementation



Upcoming work : description of working groups

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Regulation</p>  | <p>How can the mandate of the public utility commissions and power utilities be updated so that these authorities account for decarbonization issues more systematically?</p> |
| <p>Pricing</p>  | <p>Would it be relevant to adopt an overall pricing approach for the energy service instead of setting a price for customers per unit of energy consumed?</p> |

Upcoming work : description of working groups

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Demand management</p>  | <p>How can demand management strategies best be integrated to be able to meet the challenges of managing peak demand and the current and future infrastructure development needs?</p> |
| <p>Resilience</p>  | <p>How can this growing need for resilience be more systematically taken into account in the planning and transformation of electrical infrastructure?</p> |

Upcoming work : description of working groups

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Data</p>  | <p>How can access to the data be facilitated sustainably? And how can the data be standardized</p> |
| <p>Support for implementation</p>  | <p>How can the dissemination of knowledge and needs be improved among the different parties involved in the transformation of the electricity sector (governments, power utility companies, universities, etc.) so the implementation of this transformation is accelerated?</p> |

Questions?

Contacts

eloise.edom@polymtl.ca

simon.langlois-bertrand@polymtl.ca

normand.mousseau@umontreal.ca