Energy Transition Acceleration Program

International Edition 2025

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Cycle Momentum

INTRODUCTION

Two key players in Canada's climate technology ecosystem, Cycle Momentum and the Vallée de la transition énergétique (VTE), are partnering to offer an international acceleration programme for energy transition. The programme is part of the energy transition continuum launched on 18 June 2025 with 2 Degrees.

WHAT IS THE VALLÉE DE LA TRANSITION ÉNERGÉTIQUE (ZI-VTE) INNOVATION ZONE?

Québec Innovation Zones (ZIQ) aim to create and maximise synergies between players, thereby facilitating the development of innovations and accelerating their time to market. ZIQs bring together resources and expertise to support research and industrialisation in strategic sectors in a targeted area.

Announced on 29 May 2023, the ZI-VTE is part of Quebec's vision for energy transition. Deployed between Bécancour, Trois-Rivières and Shawinigan, it benefits from government investment to develop the battery industry, transport electrification, industrial decarbonisation and green hydrogen, with the ambition of becoming a global hub for innovation in energy transition.

The ZI-VTE meets three major needs:

1. **Moving from idea to market:** Enabling the creation and growth of innovative companies and the conquest of new markets by promoting the development of innovative technologies and products.
2. **Private, local, and foreign investment:** Attracting investment for business growth and increased productivity.
3. **Clean and sustainable growth:** Transitioning to an economy with a low environmental footprint.

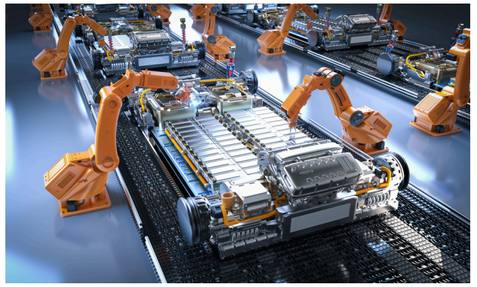
Alain Lemieux

Executive Director, Vallée de la Transition Énergétique

"Inspired by the challenges and priorities of our members as outlined in our 2024-2028 strategic plan, the VTE aims to accelerate the energy transition by mobilizing an entrepreneurial and collaborative ecosystem between businesses, organizations, and the world of knowledge. We provide entrepreneurs with a unique ecosystem in Quebec to accelerate their projects in the fields of batteries, electrification, hydrogen, and decarbonization of industries and heavy transport."

THE ZI-VTE: A UNIQUE ECOSYSTEM FOR INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURS TO ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION

One of the objectives of the latest government sustainable development strategy (SGDD) for 2023-2028 is to make Quebec a hub of innovation and excellence in green and responsible economics. In 2023, the government will launch an energy transition innovation zone, led by VTE stakeholders. This is a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs.



Located between Bécancour, Trois-Rivières and Shawinigan, the ZI-VTE brings together more than thirty companies active in the energy transition, ranging from major projects in the battery sector to SMEs specialising in electrification, hydrogen and decarbonisation.

This grouping positions the ZI-VTE as an emerging technology hub in Quebec, benefiting from a growing ecosystem that is enriched each year by new players. At the same time, the zone relies on a robust academic structure, composed of nine universities and twenty CCTTs, which supports applied research and technology transfer.

This industry-research network gives the ZI-VTE a central role in the development and validation of energy solutions, facilitating their transition from the laboratory to industrial implementation in a rigorous, collaborative, and high-impact environment.

The ZI-VTE provides a strategic environment for entrepreneurs seeking collaboration and experimentation. Thanks to its acceleration programme, innovative start-ups benefit from targeted support, direct access to industrial clusters and a testing ground to validate their solutions. By combining entrepreneurial agility, institutional support and technological synergies, this dynamic ecosystem promotes the transition from innovation to proven and scalable technology.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND SECTORS

The Energy Transition Acceleration Programme 2025, led by Cycle Momentum and the VTE, supports climate technology start-ups committed to decarbonising the economy and climate transition.

This specialized program is aimed at companies developing concrete solutions to support the development of the three sectors identified by the VTE and its stakeholders:

Battery sector

Electrification

Hydrogen, industrial & heavy transport decarbonization

The programme will select 6 to 8 start-ups for personalised support, mentoring with recognised experts and privileged access to Cycle Momentum's network of investors and industrial partners.

The VTE is strengthening the programme by mobilising ZI-TVE stakeholders and initiatives around three key innovation hubs to accelerate technological and commercial development:

- Pole Bécancour: Industrial centre with a large port complex and major investments in batteries and green hydrogen.
- Pole Shawinigan: Key centre for electrochemistry and electrification. Supported by research centres and an entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Pole Trois-Rivières: A pioneer in heavy industry, it is focusing on industrial and port decarbonisation, driven by an innovative entrepreneurial ecosystem in renewable energy and clean technologies.

Patrick Gagné

CEO, Cycle Momentum

“We are proud to launch this program, which combines specialized, high-quality support, backed by Cycle Momentum's 10 years of experience in acceleration programs, and a network of industry and research players from the VTE's Poles of innovation in Bécancour, Shawinigan, and Trois-Rivières. This is an exceptional opportunity to accelerate startups in the energy transition.”

PROGRAM CONTENT

The Energy Transition Acceleration Program, International Edition 2025, offered by Cycle Momentum and the VTE, lasts 5 to 8 hours per week over 5 months and addresses the challenges faced by entrepreneurs through group workshops and individual work sessions. It also includes meetings with a mentor and three diagnostic sessions with an entrepreneur in residence and a committee of experts.

Our experts are seasoned professionals from various business functions, mentors, experienced CEOs, and members of executive committees at start-ups.

In addition to this offering, VTE workshops focus on topics relevant to subsidiaries, presentations by industrial partners located in the three innovation hubs, and other opportunities tailored to the needs of the selected startups.

Most of the topics covered in the program are approached in the same way: a short group session is given by an expert to bring all participants up to the same level. This is followed by individual in-depth sessions with the expert. To participate in the program, one member of the management team (CEO or co-founder) must be available between October 2025 and March 2026.

The program is structured around four main thematic modules:

- **Value proposition**
- **Marketing**
- **Finance**
- **Leadership and gouvernance**

PROGRAM BENEFITS

In addition to support, this international programme offers exclusive access to:

- Access to Cycle Momentum experts in market entry strategies, pricing strategy, supply chain management, financing strategy, and storytelling.
- A 360° assessment of the company at key moments (beginning, middle, end) during the program, conducted by Entrepreneurs in Residence and experts, to highlight the start-up's strengths and weaknesses and adjust the program accordingly.
- An established network of customers and partners.
- Dedicated funding programs, depending on eligibility.
- Funding opportunities through the Partner Fund Circle.
- Participation in a presentation event in front of Cycle Momentum's partner investors.
- High visibility and access to a network of key players in the energy transition sector.
- Opportunity to develop a strategic collaboration and/or pilot project with the network of industry players to demonstrate your solution. Examples of collaborations sought: pilot projects, co-development projects, supplier-customer agreements, strategic partnerships, investments, and licenses.
- Direct access to ZI-VTE experts who have access to a network of players in the Quebec and Canadian energy transition ecosystem.
- Access to collaborative HUBs and laboratories in the VTE's innovation pôles.
- Synergy with a strong academic ecosystem and a testing ground in real-world conditions.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Entrepreneur**: Committed to their project on a full-time basis.
- **Company**: Based in Quebec, Canada, or internationally, with at least two years in existence.
- **Technology**: The solution is a technological innovation, product, process, or software in energy transition.
- Stage of development: Prototype already developed: TRL 5 and above. For solutions requiring significant start-up investment, a less advanced TRL may be accepted.
- **Impact**: The solution has a direct, significant, and measurable impact on the energy transition of at least one of the program's sectors.

APPLY NOW

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Entrepreneur**: Ready to be 100% involved in the program.
- **Impact**: When scaled up commercially, your solution has the potential to have a significant impact on GHG reduction in Quebec.
- **Adaptation to the use case:** Optimal response to the need by VTE stakeholders.
- **Business model**: Your business model is economically viable and has high potential for return on investment.
- The target market is accessible and of significant size, and you must demonstrate preliminary commercial traction.
- **Technology**: Your solution addresses a real problem. It is innovative, its value proposition is clear, and you have unique and defensible intellectual property rights.
- **Funding stage**: Pre-Seed and Seed.

SELECTION PROCESS

NEXT STEPS

1. **Pre-selection based on applications**
   An initial selection will be made as soon as applications are received. These will be analyzed according to the evaluation criteria, and you will receive confirmation of your pre-selection by September 26.

2. **Interviews with pre-selected candidates**
   During the week of September 29, we will organize an interview to learn more about you, your team, and your company, as well as the product or service you offer, the market, the competitive landscape, and your interest in the program.

3. **Presentation to a jury**
   Shortlisted candidates will be invited to give a presentation and participate in a question-and-answer session during the week of October 6. The jury will be composed of representatives from VTE, Cycle Momentum, and industry.

4. **Final selection**
   We will confirm the selection of the 6 to 8 shortlisted companies during the week of October 10.

APPLY NOW

IMPORTANT DATES

SELECTION: AUGUST 6 TO OCTOBER 15, 2025

AUGUST 6 TO SEPTEMBER 15

Call for applications

SEPTEMBER 16 TO OCTOBER 10

Selection process

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29

Interview

WEEK OF OCTOBER 6

Final presentation in front of a jury

OCTOBER 10

Final decision

PROGRAM: WEEK OF OCTOBER 13, 2025 TO THE END OF MARCH 2026

WEEK OF OCTOBER 13

Program kickoff

WEEK OF OCTOBER 20

Initial Diagnosis

OCTOBER 2025 TO MARCH 2026

Workshops and Mentoring

END OF MARCH 2026

Feu Vert Pitch Day event

APPENDIX A: STRATEGIC THEMES OF TARGETED TECHNOLOGIES.

Battery sector

- Eco-design and optimization of future next-generation batteries.
- Battery reconditioning, reuse, and recycling.
- Recovery of critical and strategic minerals and optimization of electrochemical processes.

Electrification

- Development/integration of components, innovative systems (software, AI), charging (V2G, ERS, etc.) and electrification.
- Energy storage – batteries and other technologies.
- Transport electrification and sustainable mobility (integrators and manufacturers of electric kits).
- Renewable energy production (solar, wind, etc.).
- Energy efficiency.

Hydrogen, industrial & heavy transport decarbonization

- Industrial and port decarbonization technologies.
- Logistics and decarbonized systems for heavy industry, port operations, and heavy transport.
- Production, storage, distribution technologies, and use of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen in the industrial and port chain.
- CO2 capture and utilization technologies.
- Synthetic fuels (SAF, green methanol, e-diesel, e-gasoline, biomass, etc.).
- Industrial circularity.
- Thermal waste recovery.