

Circular Innovation Challenge

Wood Residues in the Construction, Renovation, and Demolition Sector

International Edition 2026

Powered by



Operated by



In partnership with



® / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. Used under license.

Mission Allies



CHALLENGE OBJECTIVES

The challenge aims to select and support technological solutions capable of improving the overall performance of the wood value chain generated by construction, renovation and demolition (CRD) activities, by acting across all stages of the value chain — from building design and construction with future deconstruction in mind, to the sorting, conditioning, and recovery of materials.

This call for projects therefore aims to:



Identify and select technological solutions worldwide that can improve wood circularity within the CRD value chain, improving on-site wood sorting, sorting and conditioning in sorting centers, with the objective of producing different wood grades, directing them toward appropriate recovery pathways, and strengthening inventory management and traceability.



Test these solutions under real-world conditions with Québec industrial partners.



Validate the feasibility, performance, and adoption potential of the selected technologies in order to facilitate the deployment of pilot projects with Québec industrial partners.



Emmanuelle Géhin

President and Chief Executive Officer, RECYC-QUÉBEC

"In our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, we committed to providing increased support to the construction, renovation, and demolition (CRD) sector, particularly to help reduce the nearly 700,000 tonnes of wood that are still disposed of each year. We are therefore very pleased to join forces and expertise with Cycle Momentum to launch this challenge, which specifically aims to identify innovative, practical, and sustainable solutions to improve wood circularity within the CRD value chain."

WHY THIS CHALLENGE?

The transition toward a circular economy in the construction, renovation, and demolition (CRD) sector is a strategic priority for Québec.

Through the Circular Innovation Challenge – Wood Residues in the CRD Sector, RECYC-QUÉBEC and Cycle Momentum aim to accelerate the adoption of technological solutions capable of transforming industrial practices related to CRD wood management.

The chosen approach is based on real-world testing of mature technologies in order to reduce adoption risks and foster concrete collaborations between technology companies, sorting centers, and industrial partners.

By acting as a catalyst, RECYC-QUÉBEC seeks to generate operational learnings beneficial to the entire value chain and to support the shift toward more efficient and circular models.

Patrick Gagné – CEO, Cycle Momentum



“At Cycle Momentum, we believe that innovation and collaboration are essential to accelerating wood circularity in the construction sector. This Circular Innovation Challenge aims to bring forward concrete solutions that optimize resource use, reduce the sector’s environmental footprint, and strengthen the competitiveness of the wood value chain. By mobilizing industrial players and innovators from Québec and beyond, Cycle Momentum is transforming industry challenges into drivers of performance and sustainability.”

Powered by



Operated by





PROJECT BACKGROUND

The construction, renovation, and demolition (CRD) sector generates significant volumes of residual materials each year in Québec. According to the 2023 report by RECYC-QUÉBEC, approximately 1.67 million tonnes of CRD residues were sent to sorting centers, while 1.63 million tonnes were directed straight to disposal without any prior sorting step, revealing a structural gap between the volumes captured by sorting infrastructure and those that still escape recovery pathways.

Among these materials, wood represents the largest resource stream. In 2023, 716,000 tonnes were disposed of, while about 400,000 tonnes (56%) could potentially be recycled. This gap highlights a major untapped recovery potential.

Data also show that most CRD wood flows are currently directed toward energy recovery. In a study published in 2025, CTTÉI found that 68% of wood volumes are used for energy recovery, compared with only 26% for recycling – mainly due to the variable quality and heterogeneity of wood streams, which limit access to higher value material recovery outlets.

In this context, deploying more advanced, automated, and intelligent sorting technologies appears to be a key lever to improve stream quality, reduce losses, and increase material recovery of CRD wood – at the core of a more operational and sustainable circular model.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Types of solutions sought

As part of this challenge, we aim to identify innovative technological solutions capable of improving the performance of sorting and conditioning operations for wood generated by CRD activities, while facilitating its direction toward higher value-added outlets.

The solutions sought must address concrete field challenges and demonstrate strong potential for integration within existing industrial practices.

- **Improving flow quality and stability:** Solutions for material characterization and recognition (optical vision such as NIR, AI-based sorting, advanced sensors) enabling more accurate detection, separation, and routing of material streams, particularly wood.
- **Reducing operational risks and improving industrial practices:** Solutions that support anticipation and selective deconstruction of buildings, automation or assisted sorting (robotics), optical pre-sorting on containers, as well as intelligent contaminant management systems to limit equipment damage, downstream rejection, and degradation of material quality.
- **Optimizing logistics and operational constraints:** Solutions enabling efficient management of volumes, rotations, storage space, and material flows, supported by digital tools for tracking, coordination, and decision-making across the different stages of the value chain.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Profile of companies sought

(LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL)

- SMEs, large companies, or startups with more than two (2) years of existence.
- Based in Québec, other Canadian provinces, or internationally.
- Solutions at a technological maturity level (TRL) of 6 or higher, scalable and ready to be implemented in an industrial context.
- Companies interested in participating in pilot projects with industrial players and manufacturers based in Québec, Canada.
- Organizations with at least three (3) employees.
- Working languages: French or English.

[**APPLY NOW**](#)



INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS' INVOLVEMENT

The Circular Innovation Challenge – Wood Residues in the Construction, Renovation, and Demolition sector aims to connect innovative technological solutions with industrial stakeholders across the CRD wood value chain.

Selected companies will have the opportunity to engage with a strong ecosystem of key stakeholders across the CRD wood value chain, including organizations involved in sorting, conditioning, processing, and recovery operations. Through their participation, industrial partners will help enrich discussions, clarify real field needs, and foster concrete collaborations aimed at improving sorting practices and operational efficiency.

- Clarify real industrial needs
- Identify opportunities for pilot projects, co-development initiatives, or partnerships
- Assess the fit and application potential of the proposed solutions within targeted operational contexts

Industrial partners participating in the process will therefore help strengthen the evaluation of solutions, guide their refinement, and foster the emergence of collaborations aimed at improving sorting practices and operational efficiency.



COMPANY SUPPORT

Personalized sponsorship and collaboration program with the selected solutions.

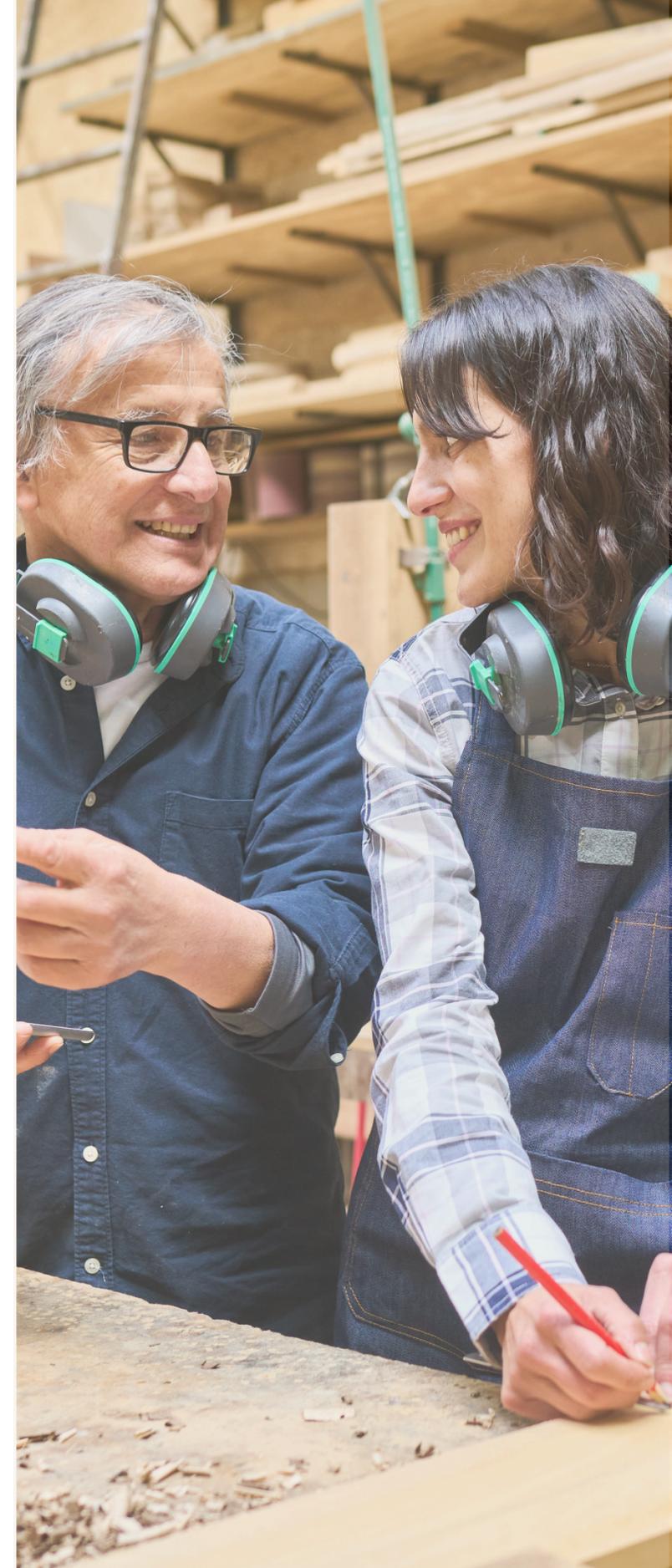
Cycle Momentum will provide personalized support to ensure selected companies are well prepared for meetings with participating industrial partners and other key project stakeholders.

The 3 to 5 selected solutions will take part in an 8-week tailored support program, running from May 2026 to July 2026, including:

- Readiness assessment and preparation: Evaluation of each company's ability to present its solution clearly, effectively, and in a structured way to industrial stakeholders, along with targeted preparation workshops tailored to identified needs (indicative period: late May to early July).
- Technical and regulatory feasibility analysis: Operational scoping of potential pilot projects to assess real-world implementation conditions and prospects for larger-scale deployment.

Following this phase, continued support will be provided, where relevant, to accompany pilot or deployment stages through the end of 2026. A funding envelope of \$25,000, to be distributed among selected projects, will be mobilized to support pilot scoping and launch. This support will help structure projects, prepare additional funding applications, and facilitate access to other public or private financing sources when relevant.

This program aims to create a structured, action-oriented framework that fosters concrete industrial collaborations and accelerates the adoption of selected solutions.



SELECTION PROCESS

Next steps

1. Pre-selection based on submitted applications.

An initial selection will be carried out upon receipt of applications. Submissions will be reviewed based on the stated evaluation criteria, and companies will receive confirmation of their pre-selection during the week of April 13.

2. Interviews with pre-selected candidates.

During the week of April 20, we will organize an interview to learn more about the company, the team, and the proposed solution, as well as the target market, the competitive landscape, and the company's interest in the program.

3. Pitch presentation before a selection jury.

Pre-selected candidates will be invited to deliver a presentation and participate in a Q&A session during the week of May 4. The jury will be composed of representatives from RECYC-QUÉBEC, Cycle Momentum

4. Final selection.

We will confirm the selection of the 3 to 5 chosen companies during the week of May 25.

[APPLY NOW](#)

KEY DATES

SELECTION PERIOD: FEBRUARY 26 TO MAY 25



**FEBRUARY 26 TO
APRIL 13**

Call for
applications.



**APRIL 13 TO
MAY 25**

Selection
process.



**WEEK OF
MAY 4**

Presentation before
a jury with industrial
partners.



**WEEK OF
MAY 25**

Final decision
by the jury.

PROGRAM PERIOD: MAY 25 TO JULY 20



**MAY 25 TO
JUNE 8**

Assessment of
the selected
companies'
readiness to
launch pilot
projects with
Québec industrial
partners.



**JUNE 8 TO
JUNE 29**

Organization of
preparation
workshops based
on identified
needs.



**JUNE 29 TO
JULY 20**

Series of structured
meetings between
the selected
companies and
industrial partners.



**FROM JULY 20
ONWARDS**

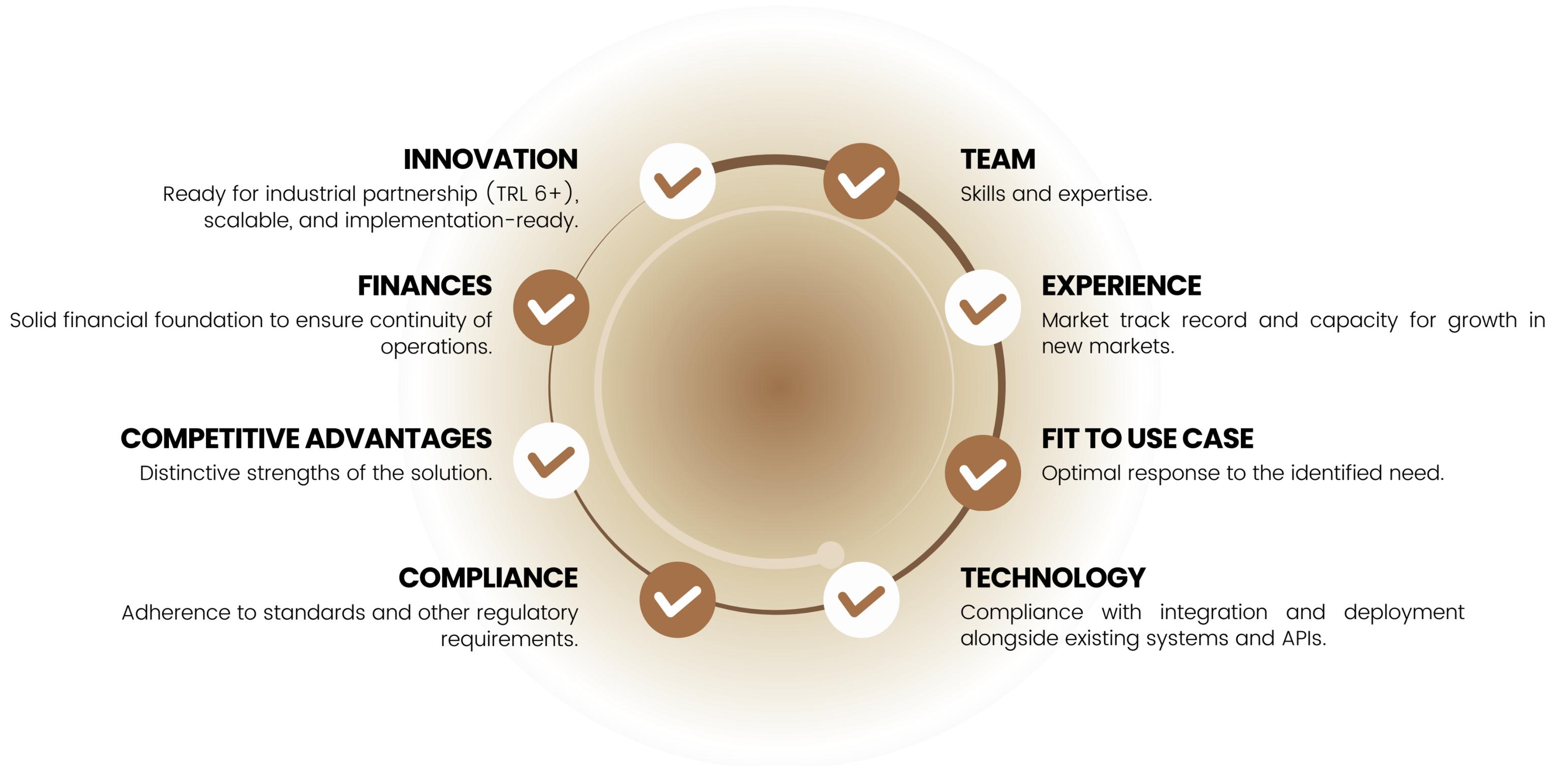
Development of
partnerships and
implementation of
pilot projects with
industrial
partners.

WHY APPLY TO THIS CHALLENGE?

- High visibility and access to a key network of CRD value chain stakeholders, including organizations active at different stages and committed to developing solutions that promote the circular economy.
- Opportunity to develop strategic collaborations and/or pilot projects with industrial players to demonstrate your solution's performance in real-world conditions. Examples of collaborations include pilot projects, co-development initiatives, supplier-client agreements, strategic partnerships, investments, or licensing.
- Direct access to experts from RECYC-QUÉBEC, Québec's provincial Crown corporation supporting innovation in waste management, with a broad network across the Québec and Canadian circular economy ecosystem.
- Support from Cycle Momentum experts in supply chains, financing strategies, go-to-market planning, solution positioning, and communication, to prepare effectively for meetings with CRD industrial stakeholders.
- Increased exposure for your company and technology through targeted communication campaigns, including social media and institutional channels of the challenge partners.
- Opportunity to present your company and solution before a jury composed of experts, institutional representatives, and recognized industrial players.
- Support for international companies seeking to establish or expand in Québec, leveraging Cycle Momentum's local partners and network.



SELECTION CRITERIA



ABOUT RECYC-QUÉBEC

RECYC-QUÉBEC is a Crown corporation established in 1990 with the mission of making Québec a model for innovative and sustainable waste management in a zero-waste society. It promotes, develops, and supports the reduction, reuse, recovery, and recycling of containers, packaging, materials, and products, as well as their valorization, within a circular economy framework and in the fight against climate change.

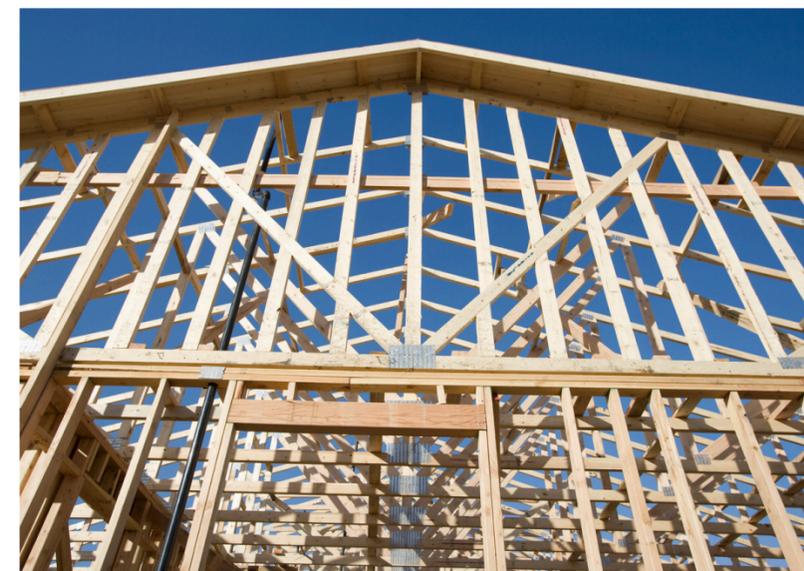
ABOUT CYCLE MOMENTUM

Cycle Momentum is an international acceleration and innovation platform whose mission since 2015 has been to identify and support the development of cutting-edge technologies addressing humanity's major ecological challenges. As a member of the Cycle Capital platform, Cycle Momentum offers acceleration and open innovation programs to support entrepreneurial growth, financing, and commercialization of climate technologies. We facilitate the necessary collaborations between industrial players and startups to accelerate commercialization and provide investment opportunities through our Origo program and extensive network of investors.

Powered by



Operated by



OUR MISSION PARTNERS



Are you building, renovating, or demolishing? AIM Éco-Centre is here to support you! Container rental and CRD material management tailored to your needs—simple, fast, and eco-friendly! AIM Éco-Centre and AIM Recyclage—your partners for sustainable and responsible projects! With our eco-responsible approach, we ensure efficient sorting and optimal recycling of materials, helping reduce your environmental footprint.



Hydro-Québec produces, transmits, and distributes electricity. It is the main electricity producer in Canada and one of the largest hydroelectricity producers in the world. Its sole shareholder is the Government of Québec. To secure its energy autonomy, the company has implemented an action plan. The massive deployment of infrastructure will generate significant economic benefits for Québec, as the projects are expected to engage an average of 35,000 construction workers per year until 2035. Positive impacts on Québec's gross domestic product (GDP) related to the energy sector could exceed \$100 billion by 2035.



Matrec, a division of GFL Environmental Inc., is a leading player in residual materials recovery. Operating in 16 administrative regions across Québec, we are much more than an environmental services company: we are pioneers in the circular economy and green technologies. Guided by high safety standards, we offer a wide range of integrated and reliable environmental solutions tailored to the needs of municipalities, industries, and businesses. With seven sorting centers dedicated to the construction, renovation, and demolition (CRD) sector in Québec, all certified by RECYC-QUÉBEC, wood recovery is at the heart of our priorities, aiming to give it a second life.