



BRIEF PRESENTED TO THE
OFFICE DE CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE DE MONTRÉAL
BY THE MILTON PARC CITIZENS COMMITTEE
TOPIC: SUSTAINABLE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS
MARCH 9TH, 2016

The Milton Parc Citizens Committee is a citizens' organization, active in the Milton-Parc neighbourhood (between University St, Sherbrooke St, Pine Avenue and St Laurent Boulevard). Since the late 1960s, it has a long and important history mobilizing for housing rights, community control, ecological transition and heritage protection.

Thus, we believe in the goal of urgently transitioning Montreal to a climate-neutral city.

We are concerned about Montreal's dependence on fossil fuels because we want a city that is:

- Ecologically sustainable
- Democratic and participative
- Cleaner and healthier
- A localized, community-controlled economy
- Is just and accessible for all, directed toward fulfilling everyone's needs.

We believe that such a transition is only possible with the empowerment of citizens to participate in the ecological transition and social transformation of our city.

CCMP Initiatives: The CCMP is involved in fulfilling these goals through its many important initiatives. Housing co-operatives are an important part of the neighbourhood given that the Communauté Milton-Parc, the biggest non-profit housing co-operative project in Canada, is situated in the neighbourhood. Furthermore, we try to prevent over-development and housing speculation in the area. We are leading a coalition of community organisations in a campaign to save the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital from being closed and/or privatized and to instead ensure that it is used for a mixture of social housing, public healthcare, social work organisations and culture.

In collaboration with the borough, we are involved in transforming three of our lanes between Pine Ave and Milton St into green lanes. Together with Heritage Montreal and other groups, we are involved in protecting green spaces such as the Notman Gardens. In collaboration with McGill students in SSMU, we are involved in a census of the cleanliness and the litter on our streets. In collaboration with the local stadium and the SPVM police force, we are working to ensure noise reduction and a clean, safe neighbourhood after games at the stadium. We are also committed to protecting the heritage of dozens of buildings within its borders.

Less of a Car Society: We want a city that is accessible to all without the need for a car. This means making public transport more affordable and expanded. We are concerned that, since the 1960s, Montreal has been planned and built as a city for cars. Montreal's provision of public transport has not increased since 2012; meanwhile, 10 000 new cars are added to our city's streets every year. Furthermore, Montreal is already the second most polluted place in Canada.

On the other hand, public transport is often very poor in a large part of the island and the cost of \$82 per month or \$3.25 per trip is challenging for many low-income residents. Decreasing our dependency on cars requires an improved metropolitan train system so people can easily travel between the centre of Montreal and the periphery without using a car. An important aspect of reducing dependency on cars is designing cities with affordable housing close to public transport, as opposed to contributing to urban sprawl which usually increases the costs of living due to the long commute.

We need to encourage the use of bicycles and make streets safe for cyclists with bicycle lanes which at the same time makes streets safer for pedestrians.

Transitioning from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy: We want a city that is powered through alternative energy sources. It is a disgrace that Montreal hosts the huge industrial project of the Suncor oil refinery, something that

greatly pollutes our air and contributes to international polluting industries. We are concerned about the possible construction of the Energy East pipeline. Quebec has an abundance of water, sun and wind which should be used by renewable energy systems which, in turn, should be decentralized and community controlled to allow for maximum citizen participation and accountability. We also encourage institutional divestment from the fossil fuel industry.

Food and Agriculture: We want a local, sustainable, healthy and just agricultural system. We want our food consumption patterns to be sensitive to ecological impacts, especially due to meat and dairy consumption, imported produce, pesticides, monocultures and other ways modern agricultural systems are damaging the earth. We need to waste less food and to compost more.

Consumption of Goods: We want a city of modest consumption, locally sourced and waste reduced. Current consumption patterns depend on pollution-heavy transportation of goods from distant manufacturing economies where low-wage labour is exploited. Many such goods are plastics, produced with fossil fuels and are not easily re-used. We need to find ways to re-use goods, to share, to buy locally and to waste less.

Green Economy: We need to promote a green economy in which human needs are provided for in an ecologically sustainable way, reducing the dependency on destructive extractivist industries like fossil fuels and deforestation. In this way we would be able to promote care services like healthcare, education, social work, and culture. One large step forward would be city-run vigorously promoted recycling and composting programs.

A green economy includes protecting and promoting green spaces which guarantee better air quality and better healthy living. It also includes better management of water. Montreal, constructed on top of numerous streams, has an old and problematic water management system and needs a new one that is more concerned about protecting water quality.

Building Construction and Design: We want a city where buildings are constructed sustainably, especially using sustainably sourced and recycled construction materials to reduce excessive deforestation and mining. Buildings should be heated and powered sustainably with renewable energy rather than gas, oil and coal.

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