

2050 City Vision



Overview
of the proposals

Planning the future together to better our homes, communities and world



Toward a 2050 Land Use and Mobility Plan

In 2023, the City of Montréal will adopt the 2050 Land Use and Mobility Plan (PUM 2050, the Plan d'urbanisme et de mobilité 2050), a reference document that will propose new ways of developing Montréal and shaping its inhabitants' mobility. The 2050 Land Use and Mobility Plan (PUM 2050) will frame decisions that will affect Montrealers' daily lives for years to come.

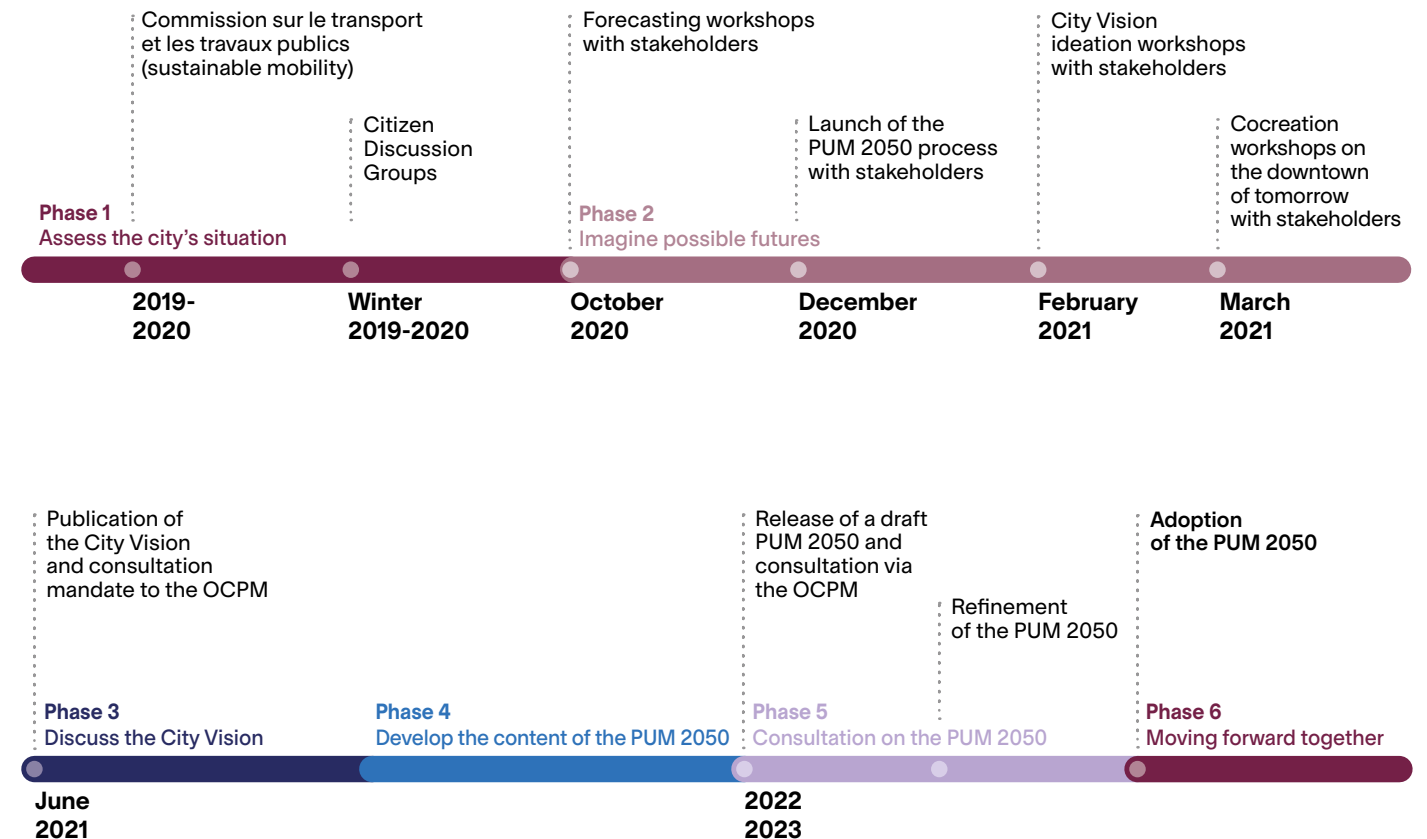
Why 2050?

Because Montréal is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and to developing lifestyles that do not endanger the ecosystems on which we depend.

Today, 40% of greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation and 28% from buildings. Changing the way we live in cities, the ways we move around, build, house ourselves and consume could have significant impacts in the fight against climate change.

However, one step precedes the PUM 2050: the City Vision.

The 2050 City Vision is a document that identifies the main intentions of the future PUM 2050. It raises fundamental issues and proposes innovative solutions, sometimes inspired by initiatives that already exist in Montréal.



A collaborative approach

These proposals are the result of a conception process that began in fall 2020. The city conducted a series of participatory workshops during which dozens of organizations, businesses and institutions shared their visions for Montréal. The city also organized a portrait-diagnostic exercise on urban planning and mobility in Montréal to better understand the challenges to be overcome in the coming years. The City Vision's proposals are tailored to the specificities of Montréal's territory and aim to meet the needs expressed by the organizations and groups consulted, particularly:

- Montréal's central departments and boroughs;
- Expert organizations, such as the Institut de la Statistique du Québec (ISQ), the Université de Montréal (UdeM) and the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM);
- Population groups that are typically less represented in public participation activities, such as teenagers, parents of young children and newcomers.

The proposals are also based on information gathered during public participation activities carried out in recent years by the Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM).

At the heart of our deliberations: Montrealers' quality of life

Improving the quality of life of Montrealers means thinking in terms of the four major orientations that underlie the proposals in the City Vision document.

- 1 **Accelerate the ecological transition** to improve tomorrow's quality of life, which implies producing and consuming differently today.
- 2 **Reinforce solidarity, equity and inclusion**, because urban planning and mobility must also contribute to reducing inequalities.

- 3 **Stimulate innovation and creativity**, particularly through circular economy initiatives led by businesses or citizens. These initiatives have a positive impact on the environment and create a sense of belonging to the city, to a neighbourhood, to a community.
- 4 **Amplify democracy and participation** by recognizing the importance of citizen participation and the role of organizations in decision-making, all while prioritizing the collective interest.



The Montréal 2030 Strategic Plan

Montréal 2030 is a 10-year strategic plan to make Montréal a greener and more inclusive city. After collective deliberation and in response to the COVID-19 health crisis, Montréal set forth a strategic vision for the next ten years. Based on this vision, the city has begun a process of revitalization to guide and increase the coherence and impact of municipal actions in the coming years. The objectives of Montréal 2030 are to improve the quality of life of all Montrealers and to enhance urban resilience by giving ourselves, collectively, the means to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Both in their development process and in their content, the City Vision and the PUM 2050 are consistent with the Montréal 2030 Strategic Plan, its four main guiding principles and its three levels of intervention. Since these documents will affect the spatial organization of the city, they will contribute significantly to the realization of Montréal 2030 by translating it into concrete actions in the municipality.



What streets might look like in 2050...

An invitation to meet coming challenges together

In order to open the discussion, the City Vision raises fundamental issues in terms of land use and mobility, based on observations and projections.

Raising substantive issues

1 Climate change is already being felt in Montréal, and unpredictable events are likely to increase (e.g., heavy rains, heat waves). The ecological transition implies collective action on several fronts: energy efficiency, protection of ecosystems, modifying travel and consumption habits, etc.

How can we change our lifestyles to join the ecological transition and meet the essential needs of the population?

2 Montréal may have nearly 400,000 more residents by 2050. Consequently, needs will increase: housing, schools, hospitals, public spaces, land, energy, financing... Moreover, Montréal's territory is already highly developed, and resources are limited.

How can we reconcile this expected population growth with the need to consume fewer resources?

3 The increase in Montréal's population is accompanied by an increased demand for housing, increasing pressure on community facilities (libraries, parks, etc.). Nature in the city is important, but natural environments continue to disappear despite conservation efforts. Available land is becoming scarcer and more expensive, making it difficult to acquire unspoiled areas.

How to combine the increasingly dense built environment and the preservation of open space, in a context of growing needs and scarcity of land?

4 Montrealers' lifestyles and ways of working are changing and diversifying. The acceleration of teleworking (working from home) is influencing travel patterns and office use. At the same time, new production and manufacturing activities are developing in Montréal (e.g., agricultural enterprises), and eco-friendly urban planning practices are emerging. However, the structure of Montréal cannot change overnight!

How can we reconcile the reorganization of everyday activities and the acceleration of changes necessary for the ecological transition with the slow evolution of urban spaces?



5 More and more households are buying a car, and Montréal's transportation systems are under increasing pressure. However, investments in public transit are still insufficient to enable a profound transformation of travel habits across the entire island of Montréal.

How can we reduce dependence on high-environmental-impact modes of transport (e.g. solo cars) without reducing people's access to essential urban resources (jobs, services, equipment, emergency services, etc.)?

6 Social and territorial inequity both exist in Montréal. People experiencing poverty and exclusion are more likely to live in neighbourhoods with heat islands and are more exposed to pollution and the effects of climate change. Nearly one in eight people in Montréal are food insecure.

How can we make sure the ecological transition will benefit everyone and reduce inequities?

7 Montrealers, civil organizations and private companies are increasingly involved in development projects. New modes of governance are taking shape and changing the traditional role of institutions. The desire for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the fight against discrimination are also changing the way Montréal is planned and developed.

How can we transform governance and open it up to a diversity of players so as to better meet collective needs?

Finding innovative solutions together

The City Vision proposes solutions to these major issues. But these solutions are not cast in stone! They're open to discussion.

The City Vision is a vision based on collective commitment.

Montréal will not be able to achieve carbon neutrality and make the ecological transition happen by itself.

Montrealers, businesses, community and non-profit organizations and public institutions will all have to mobilize to ensure a ecological transition that lives up to their ambitions.

This document provides an overview of the City Vision's solutions.

Fast forward to 2050: The metropolis

- 1** Residents have better access to the waterfront and can enjoy it all year long! Living in Montréal means living on an island and enjoying activities on the water.
- 2** Montréal is a laboratory for innovation in urban agriculture! A network of businesses, universities and community organizations supports these experiments and participates in the dissemination of knowledge and practices.
- 3** New, active green and community pathways reduce the barrier effects of highways and other major transportation infrastructures. They connect neighbourhoods via direct, enjoyable routes.
- 4** The multiplication of mini-hubs across the island effectively organizes deliveries, in addition to adapting transportation modes to local situations.
- 5** Leading-edge sectors – artificial intelligence, life sciences, clean technologies, etc. – and university research are vectors of change and innovation throughout Montréal. They ensure the influence and competitiveness of Greater Montréal.



- 6** The heart of the metropolitan region is a meeting place where a wide variety of major activities abound. Everyone can relate to it.
- 7** Public transit is efficient and comfortable. It allows Montrealers to access employment centres and major public facilities. This network makes Montréal proud and reduces inequities.
- 8** The efficiency of transportation infrastructures and urban logistics supports the competitiveness of Montréal businesses.
- 9** Industrial districts are transformed: they are greened and made accessible by active mobility and public transit. More compact, they house a diverse collection of complementary economic activities.
- 10** Undeveloped and green spaces rich in biodiversity are more numerous and better protected in Montréal. They are now interconnected by green corridors and accessible to the public.



Increased innovation efforts

The ecological transition requires experimentation, and Montréal is already teeming with innovative and experimental projects! These projects allow us to develop know-how and knowledge that can be replicated throughout Montréal and adapted to the realities of different neighbourhoods. The know-how developed through these projects can also be exported to other cities in Québec and even around the world.

The ecological transition also requires closer collaboration between the city, residents, businesses and non-profit organizations. All these players must be engaged to achieve more sustainable production and consumption patterns. The following are examples of sustainable solutions that could be deployed across the region:

- Develop a model for urban delivery by cargo bike
- Support urban agricultural projects led by businesses or community organizations to facilitate access to fresh, high-quality produce
- Adopt EcoDistrict models in several Montréal neighbourhoods
- Test new forms of winterization, such as equipping children's parks with playgrounds that can be used in winter.

See **2 4**

An island redesigned for biodiversity, from shore to shore

Preserving Montréal's unspoilt environments and developing new green spaces in Montréal is a major challenge. There are few natural areas left and land for green spaces is expensive.

Strategic and innovative solutions are needed to renaturalize and enhance biodiversity while providing a variety of recreational activities for Montrealers. Among the potential solutions:

- Create a network of green corridors throughout the island of Montréal (trees, gardens) that link parks and other public spaces, and that allow people to travel on foot or by bicycle
- Improve access to some large parks, for example by developing shuttle services
- Develop and enhance sites to enjoy Montréal's shores, waterways and islands.

See **1 10**

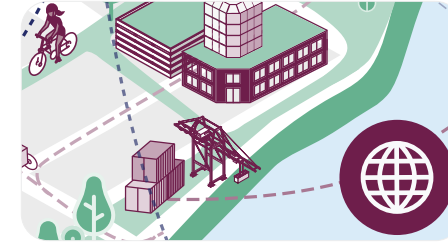
Access to all parts of the city facilitated by efficient public transit and major infrastructures well integrated into the environment

Some neighbourhoods and employment centres, such as Montréal's east end, are poorly served by public transit. Lack of accessibility to these districts can be a barrier to employment. Network saturation during peak hours is also an issue. In addition, major infrastructures (highways, railways, airport) create barriers between neighbourhoods and have negative impacts, such as noise and air pollution.

The supply of public transit must be increased to guarantee and facilitate travel across the whole city. Infrastructure must always be accompanied by co-benefits. Here are some tips on how to get there:

- Advise and integrate infrastructure construction projects (e.g., REM, extension of the blue line)
- Improve the supply of public and sustainable transportation so that all areas of Montréal (residential areas, employment centres, universities, hospitals, etc.) are served
- Systematize strategies to better integrate transportation infrastructure. For example, Place des Montréalaises covers the Ville-Marie expressway: it allows pedestrians to cross the highway easily and reduces traffic noise.

See **3 7**



A prosperous, creative, outward-looking metropolis

Montréal knows how to innovate: its diversified economy is increasingly based on domains that anticipate the development of a green and socially responsible economy. Universities and research centres support the development of high-potential economic sectors, such as artificial intelligence. With its air, land and water connections, Montréal is also a real hub for exchanges of every kind.

To consolidate Montréal's strategic position and maintain its competitiveness, several objectives must be met. Among them:

- Support the development of a green, knowledge-based and innovative economy
- Attract students, businesses and investments in emerging niches such as artificial intelligence, clean technologies and innovative manufacturing
- Rethink urban logistics (goods transportation) so it is managed efficiently and has limited impacts (noise, GHG emissions).

See **5 8**



An attractive and diversified heart of the metropolis

Well served by the Metro and buses, the city centre contributes to Montréal's international reputation. It includes buildings of great heritage interest, particularly around Mount Royal. From the commercial centre to the Lachine Canal and Old Montréal, the heart of the city is home to research centres, major head offices and prestigious international organizations. It is a destination for economic, cultural and tourist activities.

In building on these major assets, public and private players must mobilize to strengthen available public transit and facilitate cycling. By working together, they can make the heart of the city a pleasant place to live and a district geared toward a sustainable economy. Here are some tips on how to get there:

- Reconvert vacant or marginally occupied buildings to accommodate new activities, based on residents' needs
- Increase the number of local services (grocery stores, schools, etc.) to meet the needs of residents and avoid travel
- Increase green spaces, with initiatives such as the conversion of Rue McGill College into an urban forest or the redevelopment of Rue Sainte Catherine.

See **6**



Diversified, attractive and accessible industrial districts

Industrial districts are an important component of Montréal's economy both for employment and local production. Some industrial areas are being replaced by residential and commercial buildings, while others are struggling to attract businesses and a mobile workforce.

The City of Montréal wants to make industrial neighbourhoods more attractive to workers and businesses, while reducing their environmental footprint. How? Encouraging the development of new compact development models that optimize the use of space and buildings and diversify the activities that take place there. Here are some tips on how to get there:

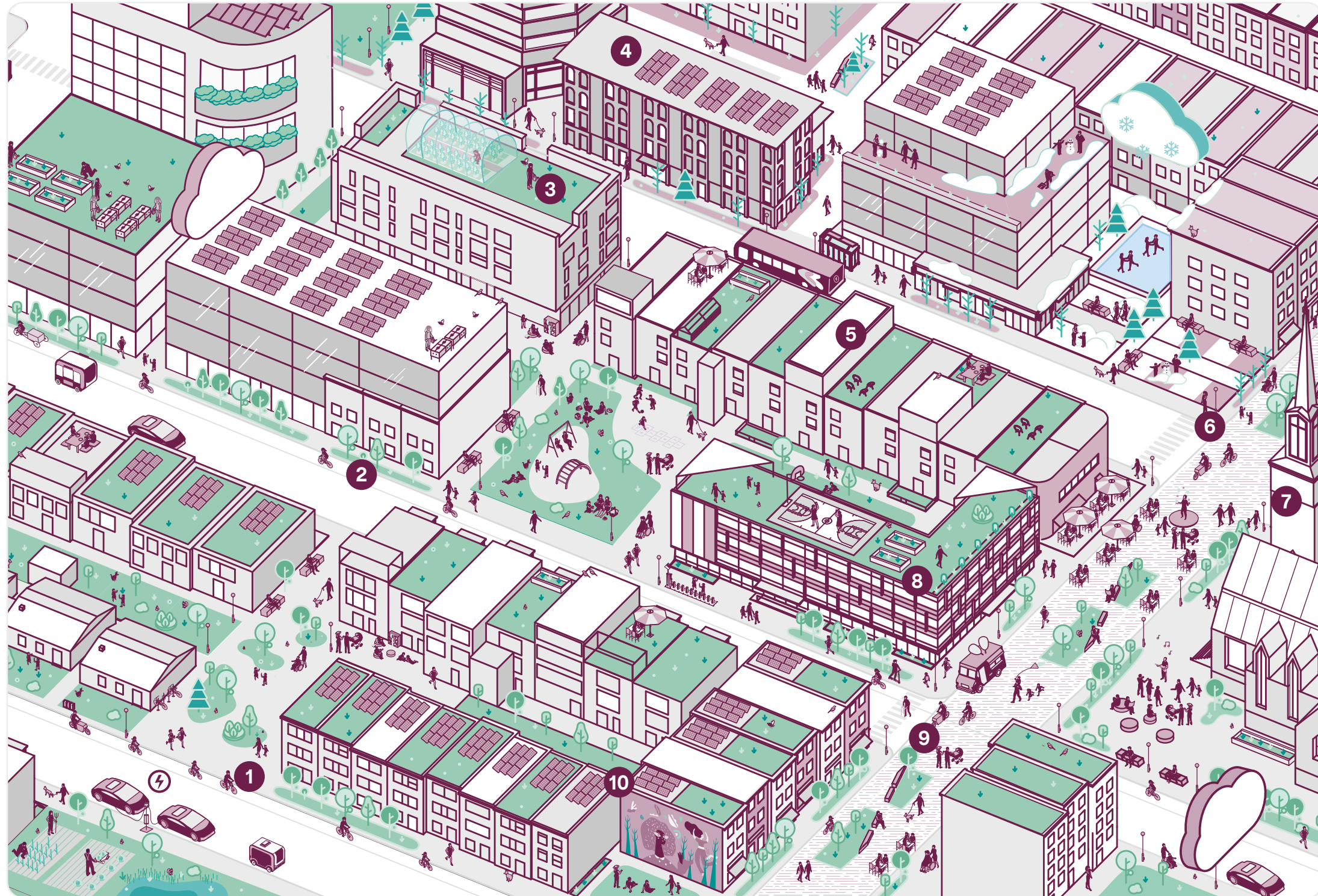
- Promote the pooling of certain resources by businesses, such as delivery systems and storage facilities
- Encourage companies whose activities are complementary to work together: the residues of one company can be the raw material of another (e.g., spent grains, which are a by-product of beer brewing, can be used in baked goods and as animal feed)
- Ensure that industrial areas are accessible by public transit and bicycle.

See **9**

Find the other proposals [here](#)

Fast forward to 2050: The neighbourhood

- 1** Green streets are living spaces that lend themselves to free play and encourage activity. They help fight isolation by encouraging social activities such as gardening.
- 2** Bicycle facilities allow anyone, regardless of age or ability, to travel by bike in a safe and enjoyable manner. Cycling is an easy way to get around any neighbourhood, in any season!
- 3** The circular economy is taking hold in neighbourhoods and helping to reduce transportation needs. In the morning, a rooftop greenhouse supplies fresh fruit and vegetables to nearby restaurants and businesses, and in the afternoon, it hosts a workshop on urban agriculture for local students.
- 4** Solutions for combating and adapting to climate change are developed and integrated into buildings while preserving their heritage qualities.
- 5** New buildings and extra floors are added to the neighbourhood in a way that creates a pleasing environment.



- 6** Cargo bikes are used to deliver goods. They respond quickly to merchants' needs and are compatible with neighbourhood life.
- 7** Emblematic buildings are preserved and enhanced. They are put to new uses to meet the needs of the population.
- 8** Schools are a high-quality focal point of neighbourhood life. Residents use them at different times of the day to learn, to play, to practice sports and to meet each other.
- 9** Streets are designed for the safety and comfort of pedestrians. They enable everyone to get around, regardless of their ability.
- 10** Close to home, it's easy to shop, socialize, go to school or attend a library lecture.



A renewed urban form

The lives of Montrealers are influenced by the urban form – the way the city is structured: the streets, the parks, the buildings and their architecture, the topography defined by Mount Royal and the St. Lawrence River, etc.

The current urban form does not systematically contribute to reducing travel, territorial disparities, resource consumption or GHG emissions. In this context, it is necessary to adapt the city while improving the quality of life, in particular by creating complete living environments that respect the significant elements of Montréal.

Among the possible solutions:

- Ensure that construction respects the existing context by creating harmony between the old and the new, whether it be through the architectural style, the alignment of buildings or other elements that characterize the neighbourhood, as is the case with the Bibliothèque Marc-Favreau
- Create more compact neighbourhoods and introduce a variety of services and activities (e.g., shops, parks, libraries) so as to bring various urban components closer together and reduce travel.

See **5** **10**

Honour heritage in the context of ecological transition

Montréal has a diverse heritage that makes its residents proud. The natural landscape and the architecture of the buildings tell the city's story! However, there are several threats to the preservation of this heritage, including the construction of very tall buildings similar to those in many large cities around the world. These buildings sometimes replace buildings with unique architectural character and obstruct the view of emblematic elements, such as Mount Royal or the St. Lawrence River.

Aware of the importance of preserving Montréal's heritage despite population growth, the city wishes to increase the number of innovative strategies to recognize its value. Here are some ideas on how to get there:

- Rehabilitate old vacant buildings (former hospitals, industrial sites, etc.) to enable them to accommodate new activities meeting the population's needs
- Consider contemporary needs when renewing significant historic sites, for example by integrating universal access into the redevelopment of Place Vauquelin in Old Montréal
- Further highlight the Indigenous history and presence in Montréal by celebrating the creativity and cultural practices of the Indigenous nations.

See **4** **7**

Shops that revitalize neighbourhoods

There are many benefits to shopping locally!

You can get there by active transportation (on foot or by bike), thus reducing car travel. Local shops are also places for creation, socialization and exchange. They bring life to neighbourhoods, highlight their diversity and create jobs throughout Montréal.

To enhance the value of local businesses, we must ensure the vitality and attractiveness of local commercial arteries, and make shopping centres truly green living environments, integrated into neighbourhoods and accessible on foot. Here are a few ways to get there:

- Develop commercial arteries into spaces enjoyable in both summer and winter
- Encourage the development of Montréal businesses and local purchasing, including online purchases
- Consolidate existing commercial areas.

See **3** **6**

Neighbourhoods that make room for soft mobility and universal design

Streets form a network of public spaces that Montrealers use every day, whether to run errands, go to a park or receive a delivery. Streets and alleys are all connections that allow travel and transport, but they can also have many more functions.

Today, Montréal's streets are primarily designed for car travel. While many improvements have been made (such as the Réseau Express Vélo bike network), much still needs to be done to ensure safe and enjoyable travel throughout Montréal, regardless of age, gender, or ability. Streets should be designed to facilitate the use of "soft" modes, such as walking or cycling. There are many possible solutions. Among them:

- Support urban delivery by cargo bike or small, motorized, carbon-neutral vehicles
- Design streets to make cycling an efficient, safe and enjoyable option
- Maximize the use of vehicles by promoting carpooling and car sharing, so that households will have less and less need to own a car.

See **2** **9**

A balanced supply of community facilities and public spaces that support life in the neighbourhoods

Community facilities and public spaces such as parks, libraries and schools support Montrealers' health and quality of life. These are important resources, especially for low-income individuals and families with children. However, these resources are sometimes insufficient in local neighbourhoods.

There is a need to improve the supply of community facilities and public spaces, but available space is limited in Montréal. Bold, innovative strategies are therefore required to ensure that residents have easy access to community facilities and quality public spaces. Here are some tips on how to get there:

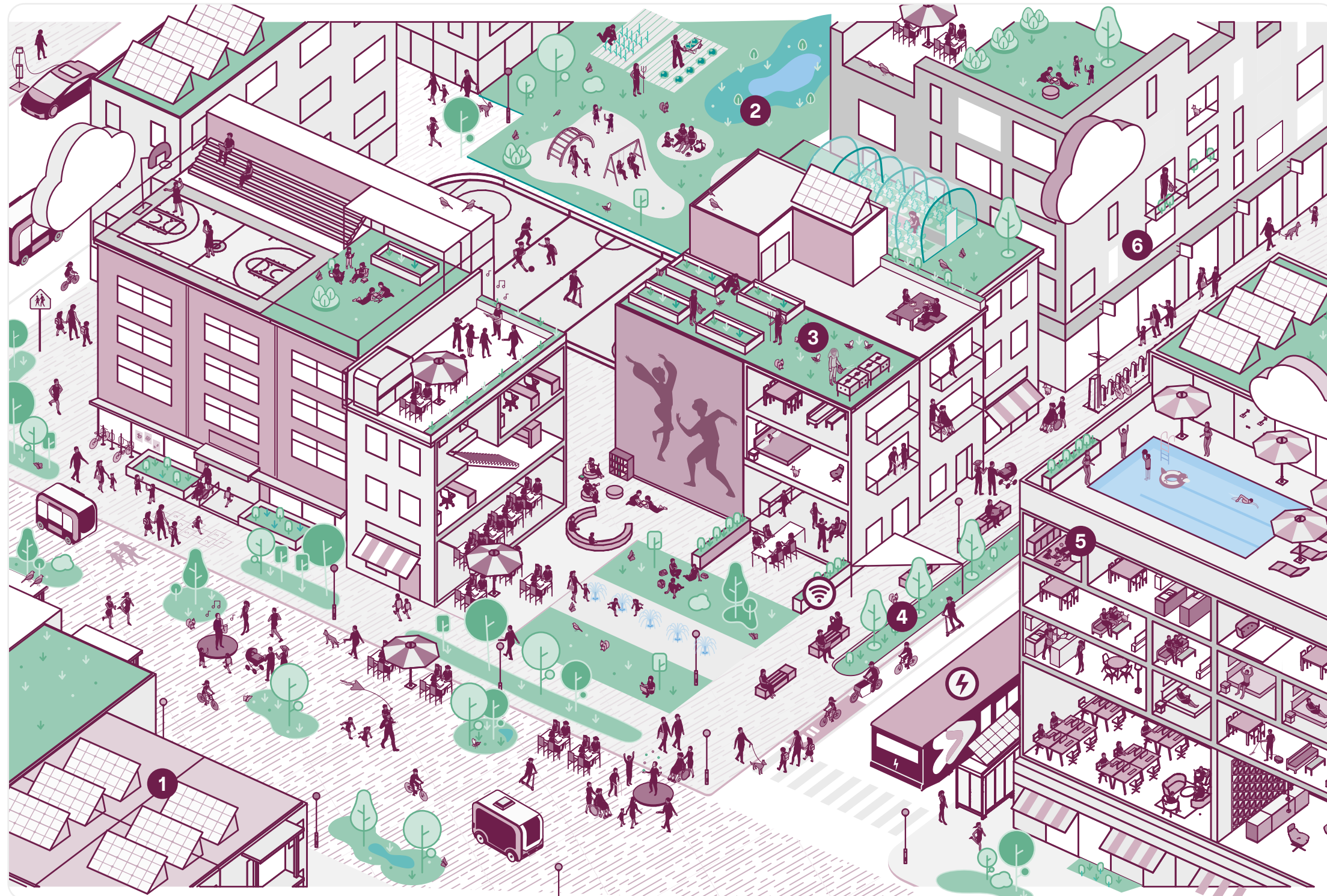
- Develop local streets and alleys as places for socializing, free play, sports and gardening
- Optimize existing community facilities so that they serve more than one purpose, for example by allowing residents to use school sports fields
- Support the creation of collective spaces that host cultural events, community and sharing activities in repurposed spaces, such as an underutilized parking lot
- Pooling community facilities such as the Complexe William Hingston, which includes an elementary school, an adult education centre, a municipal library and offices for community organizations.

See **1** **8**

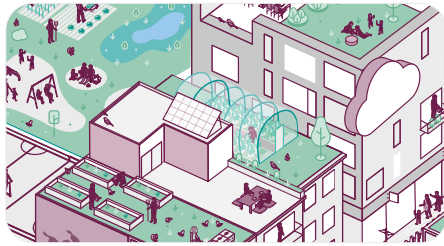
Find the other proposals here

Fast forward to 2050: buildings and their surroundings

- 1** Buildings require very little energy for heating in winter or cooling in summer. The orientation of buildings, natural lighting and ventilation, and the choice of materials are solutions brought to the fore in the design and adaptation of buildings.
- 2** Rain gardens and permeable soils allow for on-site rainwater management.
- 3** Rooftop terraces, balconies, communal gardens and parks close to home increase the living space.



- 4** The massive planting of trees, wherever possible, provides access to cool, shaded areas, increases biodiversity and improves contact with nature.
- 5** The configuration and layout of buildings allow for a diversity of population over time for different users. They evolve according to the users' needs.
- 6** Montrealers enjoy housing adapted to their situation, whether they live alone, with a family or in a shared apartment, regardless of their income or ability.



Energy-efficient, responsive, resilient and versatile buildings

Montréal buildings must be built or renovated to limit their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and must no longer be heated with oil or natural gas. However, they must remain affordable, and any alterations must be made with respect to the heritage characteristics of the buildings. Among the potential solutions:

- Improve the energy performance of the existing building stock
- Build to take maximum advantage of sun exposure, natural ventilation and lighting, and wind protection.

In addition, in collaboration with other players, the city wishes to make buildings multi-purpose in order to broaden their uses, facilitate walking and cycling, and systematize recycling and composting. Among the potential solutions:

- Create relaxation areas and greenhouses on the roofs of office and retail buildings
- Install secure bicycle racks in office and retail buildings
- Set up repair and barter spaces to reuse appliances and objects that would otherwise have been thrown away, such as Bâtiment 7 in Pointe-Saint-Charles
- Provide dedicated spaces for storing organic and residual materials, so they can be recovered.

See **1 5**

Quality and affordable housing

In Montréal, the costs of renting and purchasing property are rising rapidly. This reality prevents some people from living in the neighbourhood of their choice and leads to the development of disadvantaged areas on the periphery.

Social and generational diversity must be promoted: a single neighbourhood should be able to accommodate Montrealers of all backgrounds. It is also necessary to maintain and improve access to affordable, quality housing throughout the city. People who want to live in a neighbourhood should be able to move in, and those who already live there should be able to stay. Here are some ideas on how to get there:

- Increase and diversify the supply of housing in all neighbourhoods, particularly with social and affordable housing projects
- Promote the construction of easily adaptable housing to meet the changing needs of households
- Improve housing healthiness to allow everyone, especially the most vulnerable, to live in dignity.

See **3 6**

[Find the other proposals here](#)

Nature integrated into neighbourhoods

Montréal faces several constraints that limit the possibility of planting more trees and greening public and private spaces: lack of open spaces, bus shelters on sidewalks, etc. New construction and renovations often require cutting down trees. When they involve covering the ground with stone or concrete, these constructions contribute to the creation of heat islands. This “mineralized” soil has difficulty absorbing rainwater, while rainfall is likely to intensify with climate change.

In addition, low-income people (and, to a lesser extent, racialized people and newcomers) live in areas with less vegetation and fewer parks. These people are therefore more affected by the vagaries of the weather, even though their situations are already more difficult than for the rest of the population.

The City of Montréal wishes to generalize the development of green infrastructures in public and private spaces.

Among the potential solutions:

- Adapt construction and renovation projects to respect existing nature (e.g., try to preserve trees in new construction)
- Create rain gardens and filter strips, small green spaces designed to absorb water and withstand winter
- Increase greening measures in areas where vegetation is less abundant.

See **2 4**

The next step: Consulting with you!

Transform Montréal areas into eco-districts. Deploy the Réseau Express Vélo bicycle network. Standardize delivery by cargo bike. Plant urban forests. Develop social and affordable housing. The 2050 City Vision proposals involve collective action, but also creativity and innovation!

Several public participation activities will be organized so that you can share your daily realities, your opinions and your ideas to power the ecological transition and improve Montrealers' quality of life.

We hope that you will get involved in large numbers, that you will not hesitate to debate the City Vision proposals, and that you will propose new ideas to imagine the future of our city.

Let's not forget that together we will have to make important choices that will shape the Montréal of tomorrow.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

What buildings and their surroundings could look like in 2050...



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