

GNL Québec supports a university research project on renewable natural gas from forest biomass

Saguenay, November 19, 2019— GNL Québec proudly confirmed today an investment totalling \$350,000 to support an inter-university research project on carbon sequestration, notably on the production of renewable natural gas (RNG) from residual forest biomass. This investment represents a concrete action as part of the company's vision to operate a carbon-neutral natural gas liquefaction plant in Saguenay.

This financial commitment, spread over a period of five years, will support the upcoming establishment of a new Inter-University Research-Action Chair on Carbon Sequestration, to be jointly led by researchers from Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, École de Technologie supérieure, Université de Laval and Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. GNL Québec is the first private partner to join the group in an official capacity.

The focus of this collaboration is to identify the potential of Quebec's forests and the conditions that would provide a sustainable supply of forest biomass for renewable natural gas (RNG) production, and to assess the RNG production potential of Quebec's forests. In this context, the money invested by GNL Québec will initially support the research efforts of the teams supervised by Professors Jean-François Boucher of UQAC, who specializes in the role of the boreal forest in carbon sequestration, and Évelyne Thiffault of Université Laval, an expert in forest biomass. In addition to analyzing the various forest-related RNG production technologies developed so far in the world, technical trials with various sources of residual biomass from Quebec forests are in the works with a promising Canadian RNG technology.

It may be remembered that last January, GNL Québec called on the expertise of UQAC's Chair on Eco-Advising to carry out a research project on credible and scientifically recognized potential ways to make the future Énergie Saguenay natural gas liquefaction complex carbon neutral. When the report was tabled in August, several suggestions were made by the Chair, including the possibility of supporting the production of renewable natural gas (RNG) from forest biomass.

GNL Québec is therefore announcing plans to further explore this energy source by supporting research projects today, as a concrete way to achieve carbon neutrality, while supporting a new economic activity that holds promise for the region's future.

Although GNL Québec's primary mission remains the liquefaction of natural gas from Western Canada, the Énergie Saguenay Project, by its commitment to carbon neutrality and its desire to set a new standard within the industry, offers a unique opportunity to diversify the region's economy and to act as a springboard to support research on RNG from forest biomass. The scenario in which GNL Québec, in its quest for carbon neutrality, becomes a buyer of future carbon credits related to the production of RNG will help promote the emergence of an infrastructure that can eventually produce this new renewable energy source.

"Through its infrastructure and vision, the Énergie Saguenay Project could potentially play a role in the development of a new renewable energy sector in Québec. The Project offers a historic opportunity for the region to become a real player in a very positive activity for its economy and the advancement of a new type of energy that could play a key role in reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution on a global scale," comments Stéphan Tremblay, Director of Regional Development at GNL Québec.

About Énergie Saguenay

Since 2014, GNL Quebec has been working to develop a natural gas liquefaction facility at Port Saguenay. The Project involves liquefaction, storage, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) equipment, and has an estimated cost of CA\$9 billion. In addition to major short-, mid- and long-term economic benefits in Québec, the Project aims to support the fight against climate change in Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world by providing a transition energy that can replace more polluting sources like coal and fuel oil. But what makes the Project really stand apart from all other GNL projects is the fact that it will be powered by hydroelectricity, making it the cleanest, lowest GHG emitting liquefaction plant worldwide.

A video featuring the Project is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLKN8Zvm5mQ>.

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