

Rules

Eco-Comics Contest : The Future is Your Design

The "Eco-Comics Contest - The Future is your design" is an original competition created and designed by EcoNova to encourage young people to invent new ecological stories.

This year's theme is:

The City of the Future

Participants will imagine a scenario by writing and drawing as a comic strip depicting a desirable future concerning ecology. Their comic strip will serve as their entry to the competition. An expert jury will select the works and, along with public votes, determine the winner(s) for each category.

Eligibility criteria:

- Participants must:
 - Be aged between 8 and 19 years old
 - Reside in Canada
- Participation can be individual or in a group of 2 people maximum.

Participation Guidelines:

- Each project must present an original story (the scenario, drawings, and characters cannot reproduce an existing work).
- The comic strip should be done on one or two drawing boards (= pages) depending on the participant's age:
 - Children (8 to 11 years old): comic strip on **ONE page**
 - Young adolescents (12 to 14 years old): comic strip on **TWO pages**
 - Adolescents (15 to 19 years old): comic strip on **TWO to THREE pages**
- The work must represent "**the city of the future**" and be related to ecological challenges.
- The first page should include the project **title** and the name of the author (it can be the name, first name or a pseudonym).
- The format of the pages should be **letter size**.
- The pages can be submitted in **color** or in **black and white**.
- The work can be done on **paper** or **digital tablets**.

- All comics must be **submitted in digital format** to our email account contest@econova.ca
- The art must be **scanned** or **photographed**.
- Accepted formats are jpg, png, or pdf format at the highest possible resolution. Each page shall not be over 5 Mo.
- Entries can be in **French, English or bilingual**. The use of an **indigenous language** of Canada is encouraged up to 33% of the final text (in this case, a translation of the texts is required).
- The work can be done **solo** or in **pairs**: if there is more than one author for the presented work, the prizes will be shared equally among the co-authors of the award-winning work.
- In the case of a submission by a **class**, the teacher in charge of the class is responsible for registering their students.
- If selected, participants commit themselves to sending their work to Econova offices for the organization of an exhibition. The works will be returned to the participants after.
- Registration on the dedicated platform is mandatory to participate. Registration is without any obligation to purchase, but a donation would be highly appreciated. Recommended amounts are \$5 per participant or \$20 per class.

EcoNova Education is a registered non-profit charity - and we'll issue a tax receipt for any donation of 20\$ and more! Your donation makes a big difference in our efforts to promote and accelerate environmental and climate literacy for all Canadiens. Thank you for your support.

Deadline:

The comic strip must be sent to the email address contest@econova.ca **before June 30, 2025**, no later than 11:59 PM Pacific Time.

- The works will then be selected for public voting shortly after the deadline
- The winners will be announced before October 2025 (date to be confirmed).

Tips:

To create engaging stories, Econova encourages participants to build their comics drawing from their personal feelings about climate events and environmental challenges they observe around them or around the world in relation to a city while incorporating local observations and local solutions, scientific and social knowledge, and indigenous teachings.

"EcoNova Tips" sheets are available on our website to help participants build their comics.

Ressources include:

- Story creation and Narrative development,
- Environmental and climate sciences, Reliable information research, Citizen approach to ecological issues,
- Communication, translation.

Evaluation Criteria and Jury:

The evaluation criteria for comic strips are as follows:

- The quality of the scenario; the ability of the story to have an impact on the reader.
- The originality of the vision.
- The presence of link(s) with ecology and impact on the reader.

- The quality of the visuals: drawing, lights, colors, perspective, staging, layout (technique, originality, character...).
- The quality of the language used (dialogues, narration, spelling, etc.).

The jury will consist of:

- Educators/communicators in environmental and climate issues
- Experienced artists
- EcoNova members and partners
- The public: online voting

Rewards:

For each category:

- The 1st prize will be a set of drawing materials, and a socially engaged comic book on the environmental theme and the exhibition of their work to the public.
- The 2nd prize will be a small set of drawing materials, a socially engaged comic book on the environmental theme and the exhibition of their work to the public.
- The 3rd prize will be the exhibition of their work to the public.
- Other engaging comics will also have the chance to be widely shared on our networks and possibly presented publicly in an exhibition.

All participants will receive a participation diploma from EcoNova, as well as the publication of their works on the EcoNova website.

Compensation:

- By participating in the contest, each participant releases and discharges EcoNova from any liability for injuries, losses, or damages of any kind to the participants or any other person, including bodily injuries, death, or property damage, resulting in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from the acceptance, possession, misuse or non-use of any prize, participation in the contest, any violation of the contest rules, or any activity related to the prizes.
- Each participant agrees to indemnify EcoNova from all third-party claims related to the contest, without limitation.

Rights Authorization:

- By submitting a comic strip, each participant will retain all rights, titles, and interests, including copyright, to their comic strip and will grant EcoNova a worldwide, free, irrevocable, and exclusive license to copy, use, reproduce, display, adapt, and transmit the comic strip for use on all media.
- The participant hereby confirms that the comic strip is an original work created solely by the participant, and no third party has participated as an author, co-author, illustrator, or otherwise in the creation of the comic strip or any part of it. They confirm that no artificial intelligence tool was used for the creation of the comic strip or any part of it.
- EcoNova assumes no responsibility for any claims of copyright infringement, privacy, and/or personality, and all such responsibility lies with the participants. Furthermore, each participant declares to EcoNova that the comic strip does not infringe on the copyrights of a third party.

- EcoNova reserves the right to exclude any comic strip due to concerns about the rights of third parties, including privacy, copyright, defamation, personality rights, obscenity, or hate speech.

Limitation of Liability:

- EcoNova disclaims any liability for lost, late, illegible, forged, damaged, misdirected, or incomplete comic strips or for any computer malfunction, internet, software, phone, hardware, or technical malfunction that may occur, including but not limited to, failures that may affect the transmission or non-transmission of a submission.
- EcoNova is not responsible for inaccurate information, whether caused by users of the website or by any of the equipment or programs associated with the contest or used in connection with it, or by any technical or human error that may occur in the administration of the contest.
- EcoNova disclaims any responsibility for errors, omissions, interruptions, deletions, defects, operational failures, or delays in operation or transmission, communication line failure, theft or destruction, unauthorized access, or alteration of entries.
- EcoNova is not responsible for injuries or damages caused to a participant or a computer related to participation or downloading of documents related to the contest.
- The participant is responsible for injuries caused or allegedly caused by their participation in the contest or by the acceptance, possession, use, or failure to receive a prize.
- EcoNova assumes no responsibility if the contest cannot be conducted as planned for any reason whatsoever, including reasons beyond EcoNova's control, such as infection by a virus or computer bugs, handling errors, unauthorized interventions, fraud, technical failures, or corruption of the network administrator, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Contest and/or the Contest website.
- By participating in the contest, each participant agrees to be bound by the contest rules. Participants also agree to be bound by the decisions of EcoNova, which are final and binding in all respects. Sponsors reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to disqualify any participant deemed: (a) to have violated the Contest Rules; (b) to have altered or attempted to alter the participation process or the operation of the contest, the contest website, or any related promotional website; to be in violation of the terms of service, terms of use, and/or the rules or general guidelines of any property or service of EcoNova; and/or (d) to act in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with the intention of harming, abusing, threatening, or harassing any other person.

Termination, Modification, and Liability:

- EcoNova reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to terminate the Contest, in whole or in part, and/or to modify, amend, or suspend the Contest and/or the Contest Rules in any way, at any time, for any reason, without notice.
- These are the official rules of the contest. The contests are subject to applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws and regulations. The contest rules may be changed without notice to comply with applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws or the policy of any other entity having jurisdiction over EcoNova and/or the contests.

Social Media and Media:

- This contest is in no way sponsored, endorsed, or administered by social media platforms on which the contest may have been promoted and/or published, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter. All personal information provided in the context of the contest is provided to EcoNova and not to YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter. Any questions or comments regarding the contest should be addressed to EcoNova and not to the social media platforms on which the contest may have been announced.

Privacy Rules:

By participating in the contest, each participant:

- i. Grants EcoNova the right to use their personal information provided when participating in the contest and when submitting their comic strip (collectively "personal information") for the purposes of contest administration, including communicating with the winners, announcing the winners, and coordinating the prize presentation.
- ii. Grants EcoNova the right to use their personal information for advertising and promotional purposes related to the contest in all media without further compensation, unless prohibited by law; and
- iii. Acknowledges that EcoNova may disclose their personal information to third-party agents and service providers of EcoNova in relation to any of the activities listed in (i) and/or (ii) above.