The second of th

## 2014-2018 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Proud of our commitment, responsibility, and performance in terms of environmental issues.



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## Message from the president

The five years that followed the unveiling of our second Sustainability Report in 2014 have flown by for Artopex. With the sustained growth we're experiencing, keeping a balance between the environmental, economic, and social pillars is a formula we must evaluate even more closely.



Daniel Pelletier

In 2018, a highly competitive market has led us to announce significant investments for the automation and robotization of our manufacturing. The ecosystem in which our company operates also prompted us to completely rethink our head office in order to offer our employees an inspiring and mobilizing work environment where collaboration and creativity can be cultivated naturally.

We are proud to see that we are on track for our 2025 objective of improving our energy efficiency by 50% while increasing our business volume. The next few years will be crucial, and I feel that our teams are ready to take the next step to meet this challenge.

I am a nature lover. Our natural resources are infinitely precious and I recognize that managing them soundly is a responsibility in itself, a commitment to which I must dedicate passion and energy as president.

I also pride myself in thinking that our other fundamental resource is our employees who, year after year, are helping to take us to new heights and who are our best chance for success, now and in the future.

## Message from the Environment and Certification Manager

We are happy to present our third sustainable development report covering five years of operation from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. It also covers Artopex's five production units, with the exception of some results.

## Laurence Robitaille

Environment and Certification Manager



When our second report was published in 2014, Artopex organized its commitment to sustainable development around a main objective, ZERO 2X. With this goal in its sights, Artopex has deployed numerous large-scale projects over the past five years in all areas of the company.

This sustainable development report outlines the achievements and results related to five focus areas: Responsible business management, Supply chain responsibility, Quality of life, Manufacturing and environmental performance, and Responsible products. These initiatives highlight our commitment to managing the company responsibly and ensuring its longevity.

Since we are constantly seeking to improve our performance in those focus areas, we always stay apprised of new technologies, materials, and innovations on the market. Therefore, in addition to presenting our initiatives and the results for the last five years, this report also covers some of our future projects. We are proud to present what we have accomplished so far and hope that this will inspire other companies to join the movement to achieve sustainable development.

Artopex owns 5 production units, distributed over 4 plants in Canada.

> Granby Laval - Sherbrooke

O1. Laminate furniture and components manufacturer

Pro-Meubles, head office 800 Vadnais Street, Granby, QC

Wood furniture and panel systems manufacturer

Pro-Systèmes

1050 Industriel Boulevard, Granby, QC

Metal furniture and components manufacturer

**Artopex Plus** 

2129 Berlier Street, Laval, QC

O-4. Architectural walls manufacturer

Euro-Pro

1050 Industriel Boulevard, Granby, QC

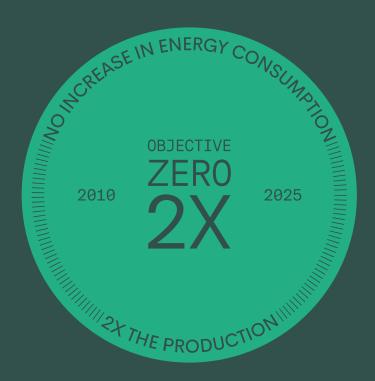
Chair and seating manufacturer

Tec Innovation

4001 Portland Boulevard, Sherbrooke, QC

## Objective ZERO 2X aims to improve the energy efficiency of our installations by 50% over 15 years (from 2010 to 2025).

To properly reflect this objective, ZERO 2X's performance statement implies that we could double our production capacity using the same amount of energy. This means that we could use half the energy to transform the same amount of raw materials into a finished product.



## Our commitment - 5 focus areas

4.1	Responsible business management
4.2	Supply chain responsibility
4.3	Quality of life
4.4	Manufacturing and environmental performance
4.5	Responsible products

## SECTION 4 RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

## Responsible business management

## 4.1.1 Longevity of the company

Artopex's acquisitions over the last few years have been part of a strategy of broadening the product range in order to offer our clients "everything under one roof". The last few years have also been dedicated to improving the brand's outreach in key markets to sustain growth objectives.

Opening showrooms in Montreal and Quebec has had a quick and positive impact on sales in those priority markets for Artopex. The two showrooms have been awarded many prizes by local and even international designer and architect communities.

2018 was also marked by the renovation of the Calgary and Toronto showrooms, as well as the opening of showrooms in a partnership with major office furniture distributors in the United States, particularly in Atlanta and New York (opening in 2019).



Calgary showroom





## 4.1.2 An investment of \$30.1 million

In April of 2018, Daniel Pelletier, president and CEO, announced the company's major investment plan of \$30.1 million at a press conference in attendance of then Deputy Premier of Quebec and Minister of Economy, Science and Innovation, Dominique Anglade.

## Shift to factory 4.0 (smart production)

This bold project to robotize and automate production lines began in 2016 and the last phase of implementation is planned for the fall of 2019. The plants are being modernized to improve the company's manufacturing capabilities and flexibility. This will help support the company's growth in North America and consolidate jobs.

The 4.0 shift also led Artopex to implement a new resource planning software (ERP) to support production efficiency and to continue improving its client experience

## Expansion of the head office

This investment was also used to transform the Granby head office, which almost doubled in size. The workstations, collaborative areas, and cafeteria now integrate new technologies and follow recent design trends. The head office now reflects the brand's DNA in terms of innovation, creativity, and family spirit.

## 2019-2020 Project

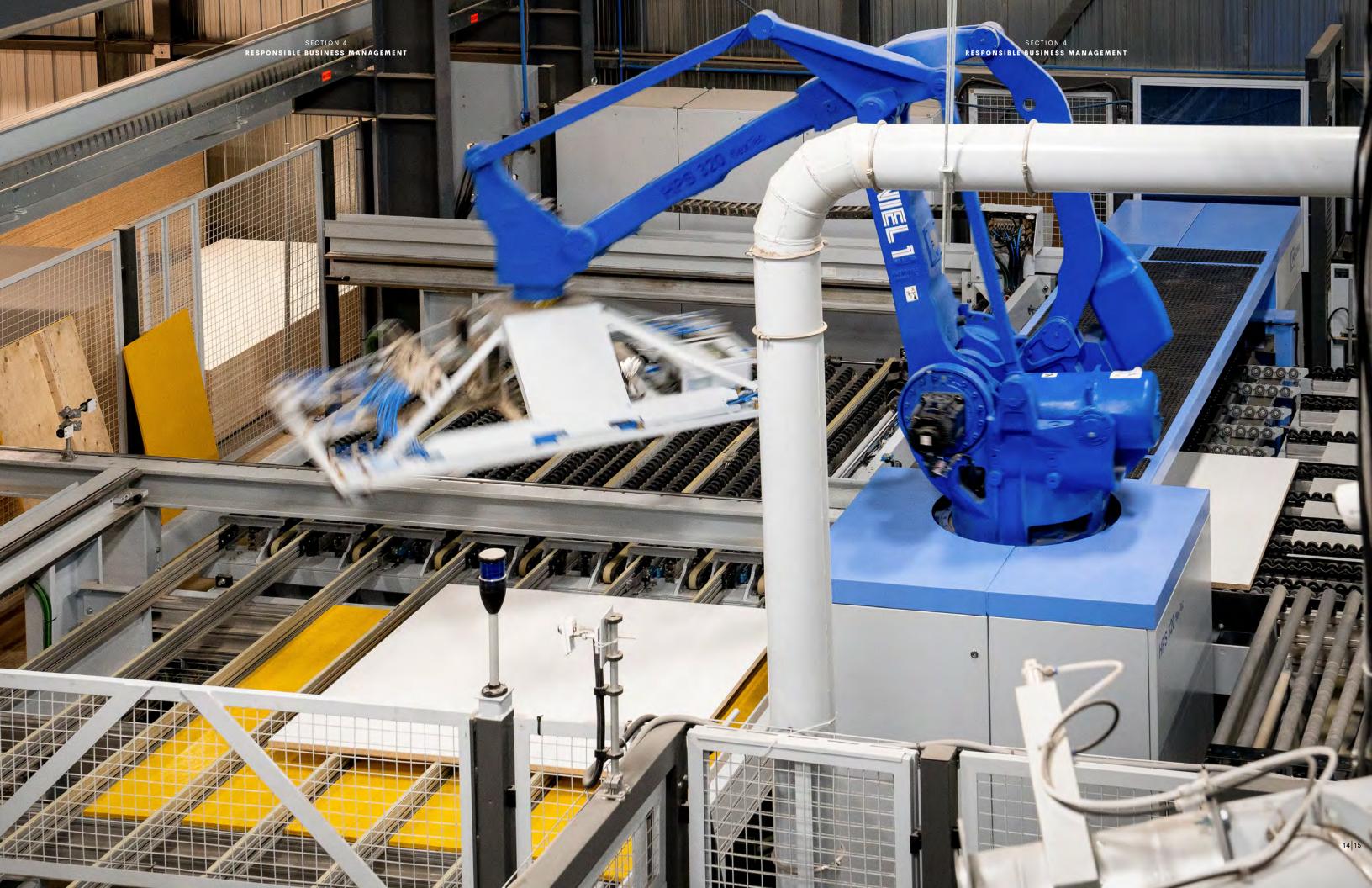
Two other production units will undergo expansion and modernization projects in order to support growth while maintaining the quality of life of employees.



"We need to see big, we need to see far, and we need companies that stand out, like this one."

## Dominique Anglade

Deputy Premier of Quebec and Minister of Economy, Science and Innovation (2018)



## SECTION 4 RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

## 4.1.3 Succession

Artopex is a family business that now relies on the next generation: Francis and Martin Pelletier, sons of Daniel Pelletier, president and CEO. Francis Pelletier's role as executive vice-president of sales and marketing is to ensure the fulfillment of the company's vision in terms of sales, marketing, and research & development, while Martin Pelletier, executive vice-president of operations, supervises manufacturing operations, finances, human resources, and information technology.



From left to right: Francis Pelletier, Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Martin Pelletier, Executive Vice President, Operations and Daniel Pelletier, President and CEO.

## 4.1.4 Market positioning

Artopex's sales have grown by a significant 44.1% between 2014 and 2018. To understand the impact of this increase in sales volume, it is pertinent to compare it to BIFMA's industry records. During the same period (excluding 2018), sales for the office furniture manufacturing industry have increased by 13.1% between 2014 and 2017, which is three times lower than Artopex's growth.

## ARTOPEX VS BIFMA\* Sales growth from 2014 to 2018



## \*BIFMA (Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer Association)

BIFMA's statistics are based on the results of several manufacturers who represent a significant portion of sales in office, education, and health care furniture in Canada and the United States.

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## 4.1.5 Awards and involvement

## **Business awards**

Thanks to its performance and sustained growth, Artopex has reached Canada's Best Managed Companies' Platinum Club in 2019 for the twelfth consecutive year.

### 2018 Involvement

Daniel Pelletier participated in the Breakfast Seminar organized by the Quebec Chamber of Commerce and Industry, presenting his conference "Growth through the acquisition and modernization of manufacturing equipment" to an audience of more than 400 businesspeople from the Quebec City region.

Daniel Pelletier has spoken for a sixth time as an entrepreneur-coach at the *École d'entrepreneurship de Beauce* (EEB, a corporate leadership training center).

## 4.1.6 Additional involvement

## Fédération des Chambres de Commerce du Québec (FCCQ)

Executive committee and board of directors from 2012 to 2016, member since 2004.

## Quebec Furniture Manufacturers' Assocation (QFMA)

Board of directors since 1993, board chair from 2012 to 2014, member since 1985.

## Council of partners of Quebec entrepreneurship Since 2005.

FIER Montestrie Capital inc.

Member of the board of directors since 2006.

## Gestion Nouveau Départ inc.

Member of the board of directors since 2006.

## Complexe sportif Artopex inc.

Member of the board of directors since its inception in 2010.

## **Entrepreneurship Foundation**

Governing member since 2005.

"Well-managed companies are important for our country's economic growth. They are models that help all Canadian companies perform better."

## Lorrie King

Deloitte partner and co-leader of the Canada's Best Managed Companies program

## Supply chain responsibility

## 4.2.1 Responsible supplier

Artopex recognizes the importance of a sustainable and responsible economy. With the globalization of trade and manufacturing operations being moved to lower-income countries, the challenges are significant, even more so when you are committed to favoring partnerships with responsible suppliers and to the traceability of raw materials and other product components.

To ensure that our suppliers share our values and practices in terms of social and environmental responsibility, Artopex has decided to implement a Code of Conduct. This document communicates our vision and expectations in terms of human rights and responsible environmental practices. We also encourage our suppliers to take part in this movement by urging them to apply the same requirements to their own suppliers. This approach seeks to obtain an additional guarantee that our products are produced more responsibly.

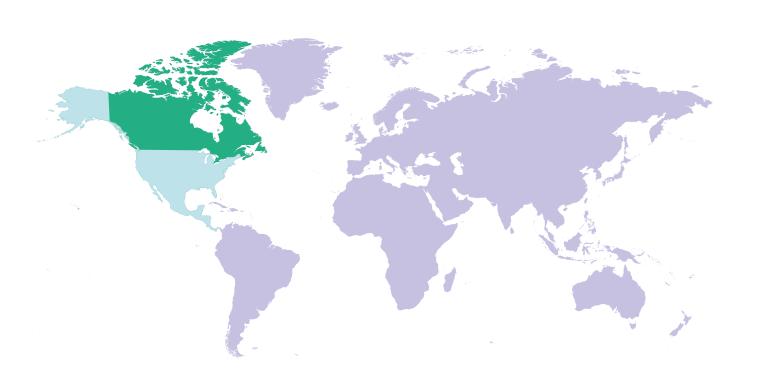
In the same vein, buying local, or at the shortest possible distance, is always preferred. The impact of greenhouse gases linked to goods transportation is a key factor when choosing a supplier. Working with local suppliers also helps ensure better traceability for our raw materials and components.

## 2019-2020 Project

The company is committed to having at least 75% of its suppliers (by purchase value) sign its Code of Conduct.

We are proud that 75.2% of our purchases are from Canada to help reduce our environmental impact and to participate in the development of communities and in the strength of our local economy.

## Distribution of purchases by geographic area in 2018



## **CANADA 75.2%**



75.2% of our purchases are made in Canada close to our production units.



SECTION 4

QUALITY OF LIFE

QUALITY OF LIFE

## 4.3.1 Human resources

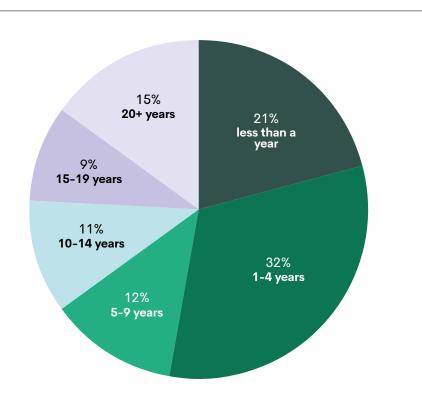
## Growth

Artopex has grown significantly from 2014 to 2018, which translates to a 39.7% increase in the number of regular employees. In this regard, half of the employees have been in the Artopex community for more than five years are under age 40. This balance between old and new employees ensures that newcomers are well supported and that knowledge and expertise is passed on promoting collaboration and sustained productivity within the company.

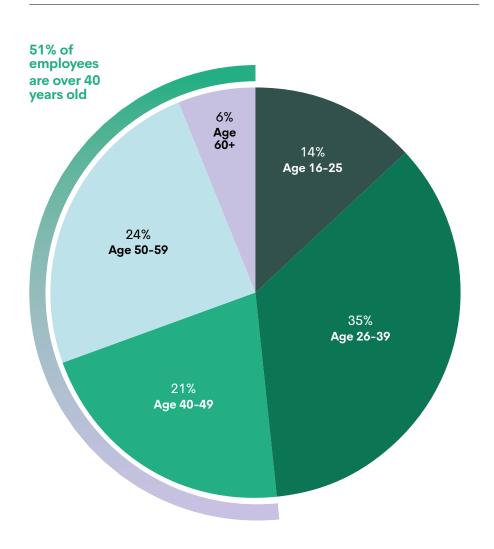
## Diversity and inclusion

Our company's diversity and community inclusion policy can be summarized by "Respect for everyone, from everyone". This vision stimulates discussion between employees, and both enriches the company's culture and promotes innovation and creativity. In 2018, women accounted for 34% of total employees.

## Seniority of employees in 2018



## Age of employees in 2018





SECTION 4

QUALITY OF LIFE

QUALITY OF LIFE

## 4.3.2 Inspiring a culture of well-being

Consideration for the well-being of employees has never been more important than today in terms of work environment and company culture. The issues of employee recruitment and retention combined with the high level of competition in the market forges not only workspaces but also the working relationships between managers and their employees. In 2018, Artopex unveiled a new head office fully aligned with new market trends.

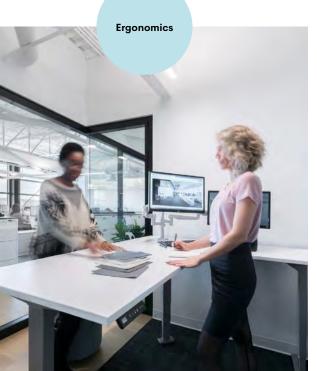
## Work environment

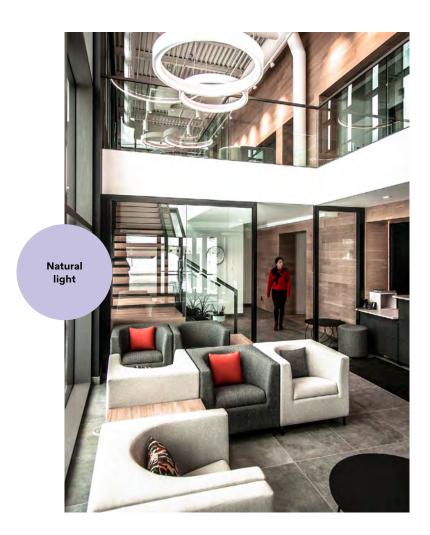
President Daniel Pelletier and his sons have always considered the human dimension of company management to be of great importance. The renovation of the Granby head office was not only to demonstrate Artopex's expertise in workspace planning, but also to promote the well-being of employees.

Offices, the cafeteria, and common areas were all redesigned to improve employee well-being and to offer them a healthy, ergonomic, and inspiring work environment. Our team of designers drew inspiration from the most recent workplace health and well-being trends, in addition to considering the needs of employees. The head office now includes:

- · Varied, ergonomic, acoustic, and bright spaces;
- Furniture that allows employees to work seated or standing up;
- Biophilic elements.













SECTION 4

QUALITY OF LIFE

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QUALITY OF LIFE

Artopex encourages projects that contribute to the well-being of employees. Here are a few of the initiatives that were implemented:

## Food

Free fruit and vegetables

Herbs are grown in the cafeteria

Healthy meals offered on-site

## Physical activity

Yoga classes are offered during lunchtime and after work at the head office

Distribution of a guide to encourage employees to perform yoga exercises at their workstation

## Comfort

Ergonomics consultant

## Spirit

Stress management training

A library with various books on stress management, meditation, physical activity, etc.

A game room with ping-pong and foosball tables

## 2019-2020 Project

The offices of two of the five production units will be renovated. The unique needs of employees and industry standards of well-being will be considered in developing this project.





SECTION 4

QUALITY OF LIFE

QUALITY OF LIFE





## 4.3.3 Work and support

## Respect for human rights

Helping employees reach their goals is crucial to ensure their well-being and Artopex continually strives to do so. In particular, the company ensures the proper management of human rights for its workers. Among other initiatives, communication channels have been established between management and employees through the creation of an employee relations committee. Meetings have been organized to allow employees to discuss their needs and implement solutions.

## Training

Artopex ensures that training, resources, and adequate tools are offered to employees so they can do their work well, develop professionally, and reach their goals. The training offered develops skills, confidence, motivation, and fulfillment for our teams. In 2018, Artopex has offered a significant number of training courses at its five facilities in various fields of expertise, including health and safety, customer service, leadership for managers, as well as stress management.

## Training through coaching

Coaching-training is being implemented throughout our manufacturing operations to arm managers with tools to help them develop their skills and autonomy during problem resolution. Tools such as A3, Kata, and PCRP are used to learn to develop a better approach when looking for solutions and to involve and mobilize employees around common goals.

SECTION 4

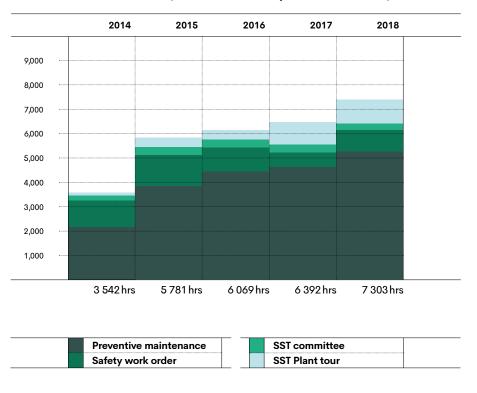
QUALITY OF LIFE

QUALITY OF LIFE

## 4.3.4 Health and safety

Health and safety are a priority for Artopex. As a precautionary and corrective measure, the company evaluates itself each month and deploys internal resources and external experts to ensure that health and safety standards exceed current regulations and that they reflect the aspirations of each production unit.

## Hours invested in occupational health and safety from 2014 to 2018 (three of the five production units)



## **Prevention Week**

Prevention week highlights the initiatives and creativity of our teams and the commitment of all members of the different production units. It is also a moment to examine different themes such as physical health, stress management, and staying active. Training workshops, influential speakers, and the presentation of employee projects help make the week a success.

## Hours invested for prevention week from 2014 to 2018

2014 - 2015	Take action to avoid the worst	600 hrs
2015 - 2016	Get your ideas to the finish line!	700 hrs
2016 - 2017	Physical and mental health	670 hrs
2017 - 2018	Stress management	790 hrs

## Health and safety awards

In 2017, the chair and seating manufacturing unit was awarded the *Grand Prix Santé et sécurité du travail* in the "Large Company – Innovation" category during the regional contest organized by the *Grand Prix Santé et sécurité du travail* (CNESST) for its project "Chair packaging manipulation station". In 2018, the same project won the "Public's Choice" prize.

## "Chair packaging manipulation station" project

In order to reduce the amount of product packaging, employees had to disassemble work chairs before packaging them. For this task, the employees at this station needed to bend over 50 to 300 times per day, depending on how many chairs needed to be packaged. To prevent work injuries associated with this task, the employees of this unit took the initiative and developed an ingenious system that lifts the chairs during disassembly and packaging to avoid the need to bend over.



## 4.3.5 Community involvement

Year after year, Artopex is involved in its community. This involvement stands out through donations and sponsorships to foundations, various organizations, and athletes, in addition to the many different activities in which management and employees take part. From 2014 to 2018, three quarters of all donations and sponsorships have been allocated to the fields of health, culture, and sports.

## Fondation du Centre hospitalier de Granby

From 2014 to 2018, more than half of funds (56%) have been allocated to health. Notably, in 2017, the president of Artopex, M. Daniel Pelletier, accepted presidency of the largest fundraising campaign of the Fondation du Centre hospitalier de Granby (2013–2017), with the goal of raising \$10 million. In addition to chairing this campaign, M. Pelletier made a \$150,000 donation in Artopex's name.

In 2018, the company made a \$30,000 donation to the *Fondation du Centre hospitalier de Granby*. The sums raised will be used to implement a new intensive care unit, a mother-child center, an ambulatory care clinic, to replace medical imagery equipment, and to add and upgrade specialized devices.



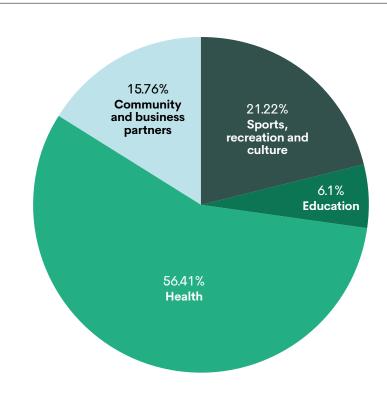
## Festival international de la chanson de Granby

In 2018, M. Daniel Pelletier accepted the honorary presidency for the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Festival international de la chanson de Granby*, an internationally renowned French-language singing contest. His role was to invite the business community to get involved in the festival. M. Pelletier also donated \$15,000 in Artopex's name.

## **Complexe sportif Artopex**

Artopex cares deeply about offering its community an environment dedicated to health and sports. In addition to financing the construction of the *Complexe sportif Artopex* in 2010, the company has participated in the funding of its yearly maintenance from the very start. Moreover, Daniel Pelletier, president of the company, and Simon Lapointe, vice-president of finances, volunteer for around 30 hours a year to help manage the Complex.

## Average donations and sponsorships from 2014 to 2018



## Manufacturing and environmental performance

## 4.4.1 Responsible manufacturing

Artopex has an environmental policy that acts as a guideline in daily decisions and practices. In addition to its commitment to meeting and exceeding environmental requirements, the company aims to constantly improve, particularly through the implementation of targets for energy consumption and the use of chemicals.

## 4.4.2 Energy

## 4.4.2.1 Objective ZERO 2X

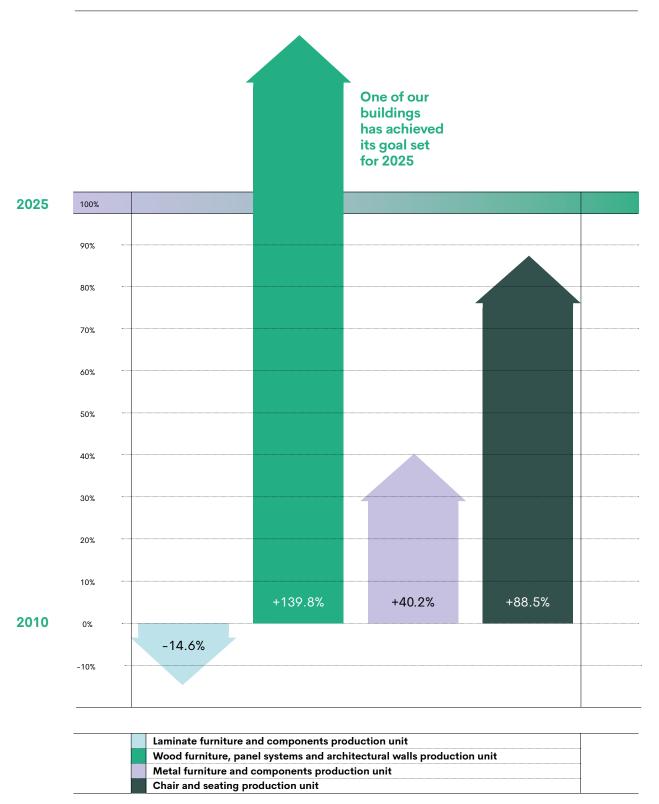
Artopex has set itself an ambitious goal in terms of energy conservation. Objective ZERO 2X aims to improve energy efficiency over a 15-year period, from 2010 to 2025.

To measure the achievement of this objective, the calculation must take into account the amount of energy used to process the main raw material processed by each of the production units.

Electricity and natural gas consumed by our five production units are the two energy sources measured when calculating our goal. Electricity consumption in kilowatt hours and natural gas in cubic meters were regrouped under a single unit of measure, joules.

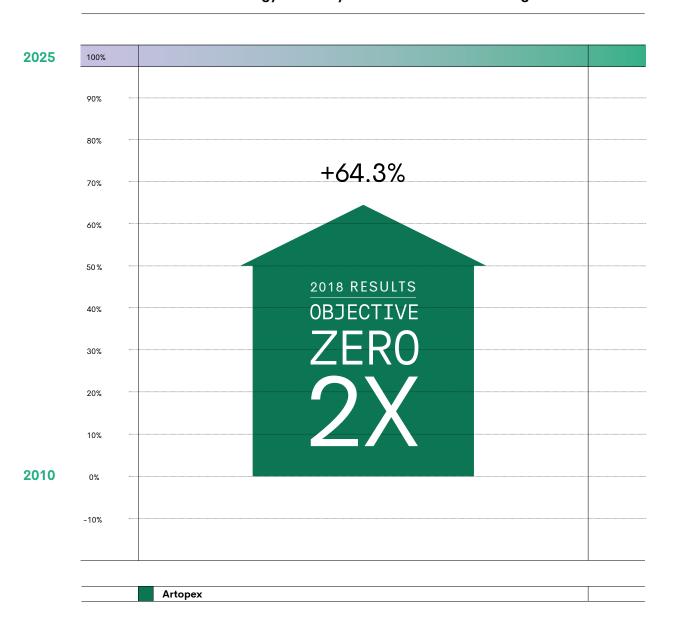


Energy efficiency results for the four buildings (five production units)



In 2018, Objective ZERO 2X is at 64.3%. Thanks to our current and future projects, we are confident that we will achieve our goal in 2025.

## Combined energy efficiency results for all manufacturing units



## SECTION 4 MANUFACTURING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

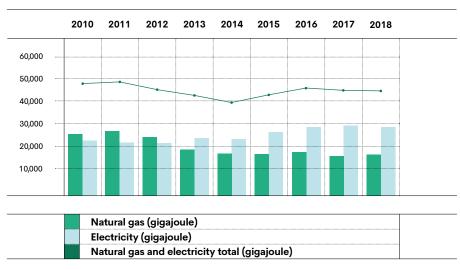
## 4.4.2.2 Energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions

Electricity and natural gas are the two energy sources consumed by our production units. Hydroelectricity and wind energy are used to power manufacturing equipment, air conditioning, administrative areas, and outdoor and indoor lighting. Natural gas is used mainly for heating our buildings. This energy source is also used to fuel the oven of the electrostatic painting line.

With Objective ZERO 2X, many projects have been deployed to minimize our energy consumption, especially our use of natural gas. We have been able to reduce our consumption of natural gas by 36.1% in 2018 compared to 2010.

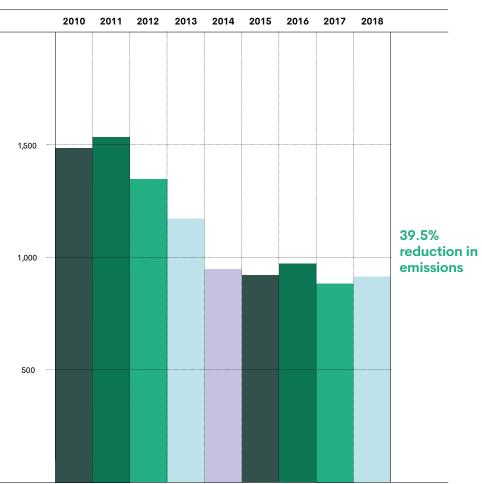
Our total energy consumption has decreased by 7.1% which is a significant result considering production has increased by 53.3% in 2018.

## Energy consumption (gigajoule) from 2010 to 2018 related to electricity and natural gas by production units



Growing climate change concerns have made the reduction of greenhouse gases an important issue. Artopex is proud to have reduced its greenhouse gas emissions related to product manufacturing by 39.5% in 2018 compared to 2010, mostly through a decrease in the use of natural gas.

## Greenhouse gas emissions (tons CO<sup>2</sup>) from 2010 à 2018 related to electricity and natural gas consumption by Artopex



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## 4.4.2.3 Presentation of energy efficiency projects for the metal furniture and components production unit

With an average consumption of 73% in 2018, the metal manufacturing plant is the biggest consumer of natural gas among all of Artopex production units due to its metal components painting line. From 2010 to 2018, major projects were deployed in collaboration with energy conservation specialists to improve energy performance.



Solar wall on the facade of the metal furniture and components production unit Artopex Plus, Laval, Quebec

## Reducing energy consumption

In 2013, the replacement of both painting lines by a single powder line had a major impact on natural gas consumption, reducing it by 31.9% compared to the previous year.

In 2014, insulation was added to the roof and the garage doors were replaced to reduce heat losses.

In 2016, a 3,600 square feet solar wall was installed on one of the plant's facades. This installation stores heat in winter and redistributes it throughout the factory. In summer, the solar wall stores fresh air during the night to reduce ambient temperature during the day. As a complement to the solar wall, two balloons were installed inside the factory to store even more hot air in winter and cool air in summer.

Smoke generated by soldering is also vacuumed and filtered since 2017 instead of being released outdoors.

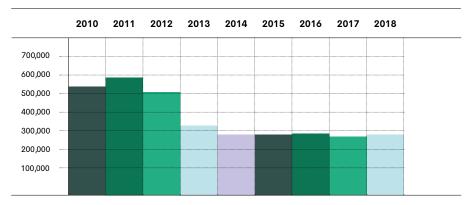
### Reusing heat

Ingenious strategies were also implemented to optimize natural gas consumption, notably through the installation of a heat exchange system. The goal was to recover all internal heat sources, which were lost in the past, and reuse them in manufacturing processes or to heat the building. For example, heat produced by the painting line that washes and dries metal components is retrieved and sent back to the curing ovens. At the same time, this recovered heat warms the core of the heat exchange system, which in turn heats the cold air from outside to heat the building during the winter season.

## Results

Thanks to the many projects deployed between 2010 and 2018, the estimated natural gas consumption economy is 358,327 m<sup>3</sup> per year, the equivalent of 63% of total consumption in 2010.

## Natural gas consumption in cubic meters between 2010 and 2018 by the metal furniture and components production unit



## 4.4.2.4 Other actions to reduce consumption

- Replacement and optimization of the air conditioning system for 75% of our buildings.
- Replacement of fluorescent lights by LED lights for 25% of our buildings.
- Addition of air curtains in 75% of our buildings.
- Installation or replacement of variable speed compressors in 75% of our buildings.

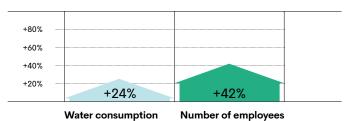


## 4.4.3 Water consumption

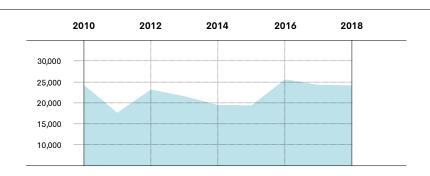
The processes for four of our five production units allow for very little water usage, with the exception of the painting line and welding operations at the metal components and furniture production unit. Nevertheless, we observe a 24% increase in water consumption from 2014 and 2018 which could be explained by a 42% increase in employees occupying the buildings for the same period.

Regardless, mindful of protecting this precious resource, Artopex has implemented initiatives to reduce its consumption. For instance, the head office's water-cooled air conditioning system was replaced by an air-cooled system in 2017. The water-cooled compressor was also replaced by an air-cooled system.

## Increase in water consumption compared to the increase in employees from 2014 to 2018



## Water consumption (cubic meters) from 2010 to 2018



<sup>\*</sup>Data is not available for the chair and seating production unit.

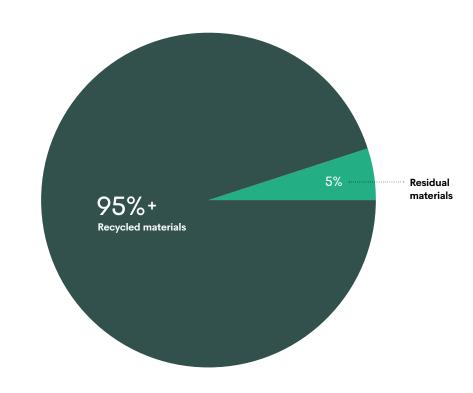
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## 4.4.4 Waste management

## Two of our five production units recycle more than 95% of waste

Artopex is constantly studying new ways to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, notably through the creation of partnerships with our suppliers as well as the optimization of manufacturing processes to reduce waste at the source.

## Minimum percentage of recycled material (for two of the five production units)



# Industrial symbiosis: One person's waste is another's raw material. Waste processing into raw material

Laminate trimmings and dust represent most of the waste for laminate production plants. Our trimmings are shredded and mixed with dust. Our laminate supplier then sends this material to a local greenhouse which uses it as a secondary fuel to heat the building. This partnership has steered an impressive amount of material away from landfills: 7367,9 tons of dust between 2014 and 2018.

Tons of residual materials (laminate) steered away from landfills between 2014 to 2018

7367,9 TONS

SECTION 4

## MANUFACTURING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

## 4.4.5 Consumption of chemicals

One of the main chemicals used by the company is solvent. For many years, production units have had the goal of optimizing solvent use in order to reduce their consumption. Since 2010, an important decrease in use was observed despite an increase in production. This improvement is due in part to the integration of new equipment and awareness measures.

## Decrease in solvent use from 2014 to 2018



## 2019-2020 Project Laser edge bander

Solvent use will continue to decrease thanks to the installation of a laser edge bander in 2019. It will notably eliminate the use of glue when installing edge banding and therefore the use of solvent.

## Strategic re-organization

In addition, the cutting and installation of laminate edge banding will be done at the head office only. Since this plant is equipped with more modern machinery, our solvent use will be significantly reduced.

## 4.4.6 Environmental initiatives that stand out

## Packaging: Semi-assembled chairs

In 2016, the chair and seating production unit optimized the storage of products in delivery trucks. By packaging semi-assembled products instead of assembled products, 55% more chairs can fit in the same truck, which also reduces greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation.

## Chair and seating packaging optimization from 2016



## Sustainable transportation

In order to reduce Artopex's greenhouse gas emissions, skirts have been added on the sides of truck trailers which could improve fuel economy by 5% to 8%.

Artopex encourages its employees to travel using sustainable transportation methods. The company therefore offers to its employees:

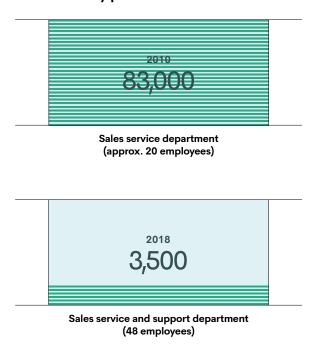
- Eight electric terminals (more to come);
- One bike rack for every production unit;
- Four cars, two of which are hybrids, are offered to employees for their travel outside the workplaces to promote carpooling.



## "Paperless" shift in the sales service and support departments

By taking advantage of technology and by re-organizing and optimizing their way of working, the sales service and support departments have gone from 4,150 to 72 printed sheets per month, per person. The projects saved a substantial amount of paper and time, as well as contributing to better project monitoring.

## Comparison of monthly printed sheets between 2010 and 2018



## 2019-2020 Project

In 2019–2020, a «green team» composed of employees and management will be formed to implement various actions based on sustainable development objectives.

## SECTION 4 RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTS

## Responsible products

## 4.5.1 Eco-design

Integrating eco-design principles into the research and development process helps the R&D team take into account the environmental impact of a product at each step of its life cycle, from raw material extraction, to manufacturing, distribution, use, and disposal. The following eight eco-design criteria are now part of the product development process for the R&D team:

- Sustainable wood;
- Energy efficiency;
- End of life management;
- Recyclable and biodegradable material;
- Water management;
- Recycled material;
- Renewable material;
- Low-emission products.

Artopex products are designed with functionality, quality, aesthetics, and ergonomics in mind. In addition, as the Artopex limited lifetime warranty attests, offering durable products is a notion at the heart of the company's manufacturing system. All products are designed to conform with the AINSI/BIFMA performance requirements.

Recently, Artopex has endeavoured to have its products certified for the e3 AINSI/BIFMA norm, with a view of obtaining a Level certification for its responsible products.

## 2019-2020 Project

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) has been the subject of many debates in the community, notably due to its impact on health and the environment. In order to continue our approach of manufacturing responsible products, the company aims to replace 100% of PVC edge banding with ABS edge banding. ABS edge banding is attached by laser, which eliminates the use of solvent-based glues for better environmental performance.

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## SECTION 5 CERTIFICATIONS

## Certifications

To constantly better ourselves in terms of the environment, we adhere to the following programs and certifications:

## ISO 9001:2015

Quality management system which optimizes our manufacturing processes and our product finishes.

## ISO 14001:2015

Environmental management system which reduces the environmental impact of our production units.

Greenguard (system) and Greenguard Gold (chairs, free-standing furniture, and tables)
Superior indoor air quality.

## Other certifications to which we can contribute

## LEED

Contributing to a building with a reduced environmental impact.

## WEL

Contributing to a building which improves well-being.

## 2019 Project

## Implementation of BIFMA's e3 Level certification

Institutional furniture with reduced social and environmental impact.

## **Artopex Resources**

For questions regarding this report or about sustainability in general here at Artopex, please contact:

## Laurence Robitaille

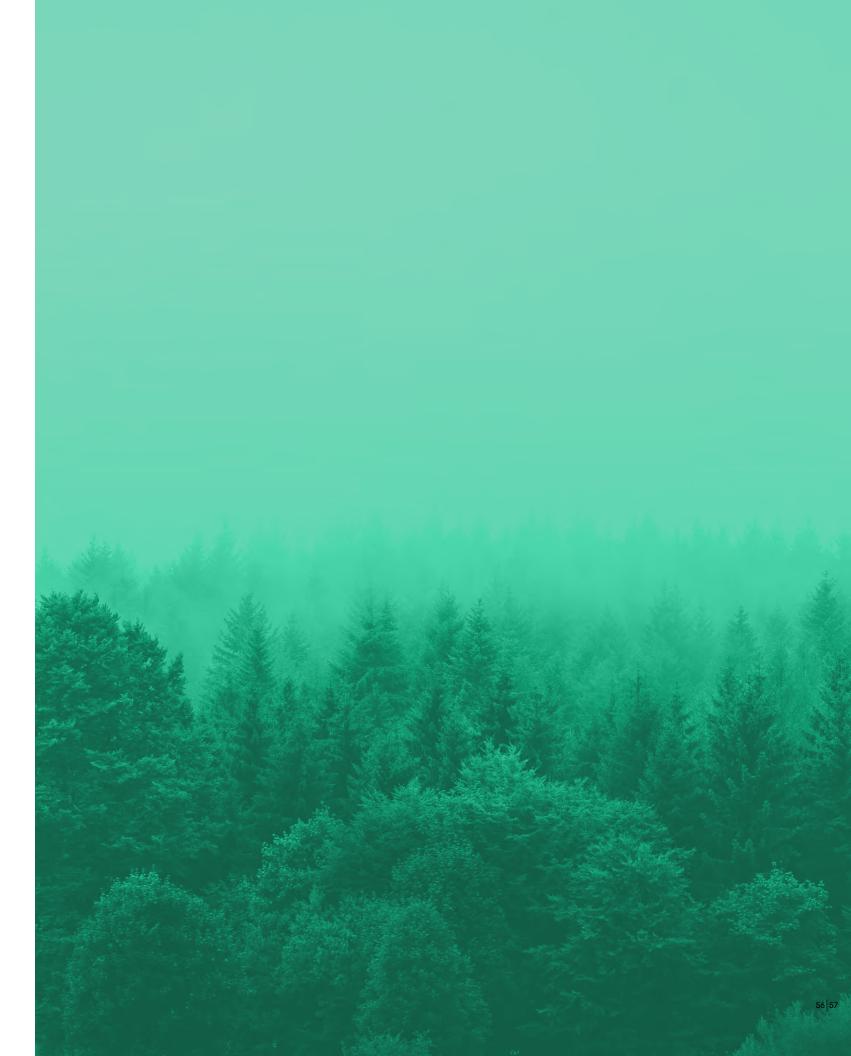
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