

GRENNELLE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT: CONTRIBUTION OF RHONALPENERGIE-ENVIRONNEMENT

DOSSIER

Launched in July 2007, the Grenelle on the environment, organised by Jean-Louis Borloo, Dominique Bussereau and Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, brings together the State and representatives of non commercial associations in order to define an action plan in favour of sustainable planning, development and ecology. Following two months of exchanges, the six task forces presented their proposals for action at the end of September. The second stage of the Grenelle consists of collecting the opinion of the various audiences on these proposals. These are submitted in October to an extensive consultation process with the organisation of 17 regional meetings throughout France and the setting up of a discussion forum on the site www.legrenelle-environnement.fr.

Afterwards, at the end of October, the Grenelle must produce an action plan containing 15 to 20 concrete, quantifiable measures with the greatest possible agreement amongst participants.

Rhônealpeénergie-Environnement, directly involved in several of the task forces, has decided to participate in this Grenelle, in terms of contributions.

As proposals were wide-ranging and covered many areas, the regional agency focused on limiting and targeting them according to priorities, the development of other procedures already underway and the wishes of the association members. This report presents a summary of this contribution, the full text of which is available on www.raee.org/grenelle-environnement.

Regional climate - energy plans and local recommendation

A regional climate - energy plan, in line with European and national objectives, must allow authorities to identify in their region the main activities responsible for greenhouse gas emissions and to create locally, in collaboration with all local partners, an action plan and policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.

In addition, the POPE law of 2005 (Loi de Programme fixant les Orientations de la Politique Énergétique – Programme Law determining Energy Policy Guidelines) introduces the “support for energy demand control actions” recommendation without stating its content. This recommendation is

compulsory for urban authorities and optional for metropolitan authorities and combined district councils. To date, several trials in France, conducted by towns, metropolitan areas, regions and natural parks have demonstrated the relevance and usefulness of implementing regional climate plans. However, this type of initiative, which has proven effective, is still too infrequently implemented at present.

Within this context, Rhônealpeénergie-Environnement proposes to:

1. make the implementation of regional climate – energy plans compulsory for larger local authorities,

2. position regions as leaders of energy-climate plans by conferring to them assistance, coordination and monitoring relating to these plans, linked to the regional energy and greenhouse gas monitoring centres, which must increase in number,

3. set targets in line with the size of combined local authorities and share national and European objectives locally,

4. link town planning documents and urban commuter plans to the local climate plan and incorporate greenhouse gas emission control objectives into these documents.

Development, town planning and energy saving in buildings

The building sector represents 25% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is easier to achieve results in new buildings, the real challenge relates to old ones. Also, it is necessary both to enforce regulations and make our citizens adhere to these objectives.

1. Facilitate implementation of sustainable planning and development projects by getting involved with town planning documents:

– Suggest some ecological performance activities of a public interest nature to facilitate public intervention in the private domain especially with regard to thermal planning and development work relating to buildings, their renovation, backfitting of sanitation devices...

– Provide the means of making a link between the Building and Town Planning Code and the Dwelling Code to make the application of thermal regulations compulsory in all new buildings.

– Put forward an environmental challenges ranking system in State recommendations for the creation of planning documents (decentralised production of energy, protection of resources, especially water, ecological security).

– Give a regulatory value to sustainable architecture reference systems which could be appended to local town planning plans.

– Allow use of new thresholds and coefficients, such as a minimum number of properties to reach in some territorial cohesion plan or local town planning plan zones, a coefficient of green areas, a maximum amount of land sealing...

2. Take maximum advantage of the enormous energy saving potential in existing buildings:

– Reinforce thermal regulation on existing buildings, to make it consistent with the national climate plan and regional energy-climate plans, by setting performance targets such as the BBC label (Effinergie: on existing buildings at 80 kWh/sqm/yr), long and medium-term requirements, and making a systematic global simplified audit compulsory during work and inspections.

– Make energy and thermal retrofitting of buildings compulsory, during real estate transactions (sales).

– Introduce new rules for renovated and new social housing rent observing energy performance criteria, leading to an overall reduction of the rates-utility expenses combination, during large-scale energy renovations.

– Facilitate access of authorities to Third-party Financing and Energy Efficiency Services, by changing the Procurement Contract Code and setting up support for contracting authorities.

– Maintain and develop the energy saving certificates procedure, in relation to other procedures to reduce CO₂ emissions and facilitate its access to authorities.

– Modify tax incentives to encourage reductions in energy consumption, by favouring insulation, for example.

3. Develop cogeneration:

– State the role that small and large-scale cogeneration must play, in France



and Europe. This is a matter for the State, which must publish new standing offer agreements.

– Promote cogenerations sustained by renewable energy (biogas, pure plant oil, wood).

4. Recycle fermentable waste and develop methanisation:

– Grant agriculture the authority to process organic matter and ensure recognition by authorities of this role (financing, liability insurance...).

– Impose, nationally, systematic sorting of fermentable agricultural and household waste and systematic recycling of organic matter in the form of methanisation.

– Simplify administrative procedures relating to connection to the power grid: shortened deadlines, preliminary stages eliminated, limited information requested.

EDITORIAL



Roger Léron,
President of
Rhônealpeénergie-Environnement

The reality of climate change hits home a little more every day. Countries that have ratified the Kyoto protocol have made a commitment to globally reduce, by 2012, their emissions by 5.2% compared to those of 1990. France, for its part, has made a commitment to stabilise its emissions. The effort required in all sectors of activity is therefore significant and must be implemented on a local basis.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions means reducing energy consumption and thereby greatly reducing emissions of pollutants other than greenhouse gases.

Rhônealpeénergie-Environnement wished to contribute to the national debate relating to the Grenelle on the environment which must lead to the definition of a strong national policy allowing set objectives to be achieved. Amongst the many proposals made by the regional agency, I will put forward:

– The need to draw up regional climate-energy plans which will allow action planning to reduce greenhouse gases, with regions ensuring its consistency;

– The requirement to upgrade real estate in line with current standards, in accordance with a new thermal regulation on existing buildings, during modifications. Renovation shall thus be possible and will reduce increases in property value, but will not require state funding;

– The need to consider the rent + utility expenses combination for social housing so that offices can carry out work without state subsidies;

– Modification of the Procurement Contract Code: the limitation on financing energy investments using savings made on operating costs makes no economic sense. All European countries use this method which, again, saves public money;

– The development of a policy for training professionals. No progress can be made if there are no qualified workers. This relates not only to new jobs but also to existing professionals taking on new challenges;

– The future of the cogeneration sector must be clearly defined by the State. Europe has established a framework and it seems that this is not being observed. Partners need clarification, which they do not have at the moment;

– The establishment of commuter plans for municipal councils and businesses;

– Finally, it would be helpful to officially recognise, at regional authority level, the possibility of creating agencies to implement (with all partners involved) these policies;

I really hope that the Grenelle on the environment results in some effective measures being created for our country, municipalities and citizens, in order to find some solutions to the biggest environmental problem of the century – global warming.

DOSSIER CONTINUED

Travelling: define a Plan National des Déplacements (PNAD) – National urban plan

Travel represents 33% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is fundamental and urgent that we take action regarding this sector.

1. Set government assistance conditions for development in line with diversity and density of the town:

setting up public financing environmental cross-compliance in all development projects according to the diversity of positions and the density of the urban fabric.

2. Develop distance working

3. Make the creation of urban transport plans compulsory incorporating an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions avoided for schools, large public institutions, businesses or activities that create the greatest traffic flows (hospitals, shopping centres, corporate busi-

ness, tourist activities, companies).

4. Take action to balance modes of travel

(balancing resources allocated to road infrastructures, public transport and soft transport modes).

5. Promote eco-mobility**6. Make cars and personal vehicles more environmentally friendly:**

develop car sharing, car pooling, alternative motor fuel, promote eco driving.

Regional approach

Sustainable development can come about from the involvement of local partners and, firstly, local authorities which are influencers, instigators and must lead by example.

1. Develop renewable energy:

Transfer some State commitments to regional level by supplying regions with the means to take regulatory action, allowing them to have a significant impact on current legislation and regulations.

– **Commitment of each region with regard to energy saving and renewable energy allowances to be achieved** by 2010, 2012 and 2015 with the setting up of regional energy monitoring centres in 2008.

– **Establish regional recommendations** with relation to renewable energy and energy saving.

– **Negotiate in 2008, with all willing regions, a regulatory procedures trial agreement for the region.**

– **Reorganise ADEME's decentralised**

financial and technical resources.

– **Set up, for the regions, new financial resources adapted** to climatic and environmental challenges.

2. Strengthen regional coordination:

– **Institutionally recognise the existence of energy and environmental regional agencies** within the framework of decentralisation laws, identical to that which exists in the areas of tourism, town planning and culture.

3. Develop participatory democracy in land use planning local policies:

– **Systematize compulsory consultation** for the definition of all land use planning or urban policies.

– **Set conditions for its implementation by imposing some parameters** favourable

to a real participative assessment (educational, prior training/information, open working sessions, use of an external mediator, definition of measurement indicators within the population...).

– **Revise the public inquiry procedure** to make it consistent with consultation implemented throughout the development and planning project.

4. Support sustainable public purchasing:

– **Promote and apply the Sustainable Public Purchasing National Action Plan (PNAAPD)**, published in 2007, by defining the minimum objectives to be met with regard to sustainable public purchasing.

– **Recognise and support the creation and operation of local and regional networks** aimed at taking into account sus-



tainable development in public purchasing.

– **Develop supporting tools** (training, systems of reference, charter...).

– **Consider the benefits of local production** within the framework of procurement contracts and non discrimination.

Emerging professions and businesses

Sustainable development is an opportunity for all industrial activities, mainly for those in the building and energy sector. But an obstacle may still exist: a lack of qualified labour.

1. Develop and recognise emerging professions:

– **Clarify professional identity and classify (job categories) professions which are emerging** but not currently recognised in

the areas of building, renewable energy and energy conservation, in partnership with professional sectors, national education, training bodies, ANPE (national employment agency).

– **Develop continuing education and modify some basic training programmes** both for existing professions and also for future demands in emerging sectors.

2. Support the creation of eco-clusters:

– **Facilitate and support the creation of groups of partners and businesses** in the form of eco-clusters, the main aim of which is to make businesses more competitive.

IN BRIEF

Make cold with heat in summer

In summer, since heat requirements are smaller, a large part of the heat produced by cogenerations and incineration facilities is not used in the heat network. In addition, in summer, the use of cold production systems is constantly increasing.

The challenge of the SUMMERHEAT European project is therefore ambitious: recycle summer heat from cogeneration systems and incineration facilities by using it to produce cold. The aim of this project is to study, within the European Union, the political framework and market conditions for using unused heat originating from the technology of combined electricity-heat generation (cogeneration) and incineration facilities, in urban district heating systems for air-conditioning use in summer.

The project brings together, throughout Europe, 9 partner organisations which contribute to the development of strategies to increase the use of residual heat in participating regions.

Rhônealpennergie-Environnement is the French partner for the project in cooperation with the intermunicipal Heating Company of the Grenoble metropolitan area.

Contacts

Rhônealpennergie-Environnement
Reinhard Six, Jean-Eric Mesmain

PREBAT: Model buildings with low energy consumption

This request for proposals forms part of the 2007-2013 State-Region-Ademe framework agreement and the Programme for Research and Trials

on Energy in Buildings, PREBAT. This research programme proposes, notably, to make available regionally requests for proposals to set up regional examples of model buildings with low energy consumption from a perspective of a fourfold reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in buildings by 2050.

Contacts

Rhônealpennergie-Environnement
Laurent Chanussot, Reinhard Six

Energy efficiency services in authorities

The results of the European project Pu-Benefs as well as a wide range of information on energy efficiency services are available on the site: www.service-energie.org.

Contacts

Rhônealpennergie-Environnement
Laurent Chanussot, Reinhard Six

A resource site for teachers: www.energiealecole.org

The objective of this new Internet site, created as part of the FEEDU European project, is to promote understanding of the challenges relating to energy conservation in order to take action on a daily basis. The site offers content relating to training, educational resources (tools, visits...), school experiment sheets and a network of participants able to assist teachers in their teaching activities (association of the IERA network).

Contacts

Rhônealpennergie-Environnement
Emmanuel Jeanjean

Energy efficiency and summer comfort for retirement homes in the Rhône-Alpes

The aim of the European Cool Region project is to address energy efficiency in relation to air-conditioning of new and existing buildings, an area in which we are not very familiar with the challenges, but which is assuming increasing importance especially from a perspective of climate change. This project brings together partners from 7 European countries including Rhônealpennergie- Environnement. In the Rhône-Alpes, the work relates to retirement homes and its objective is:

– for existing buildings: to gather examples of retirement home audits and models of renovation improving summer comfort with limited consumption and to organise energy audit campaigns,

– for new buildings: to express recommendations in terms of legal provisions able to be incorporated into specifications during calls for tender.

A conference on the topic of underground heat exchangers and earth cooling tubes will be organised at the beginning of 2008 by Rhônealpennergie- Environnement.

Contacts

Rhônealpennergie-Environnement
Laurent Chanussot

Stop the ice melting!

On 5 September, a 1,022 kg block of ice was installed in a super-insulated module at the Saint-Etienne exhibition centre. The level of insulation corresponds to that of a "passive house". An identical block of ice was left in the open air by way of comparison and melted in 6 days. Was the ice in the

passive module still there 24 days later and, if so, what weight was it? That was the question participants in a competition, organised by Inter Forêt-Bois 42 and LATERE, were asked. Rhônealpennergie-Environnement contributed to financing via the European project NENA (exchange and preparation of an alpine network for the promotion of wood, renewable energy and the passive house).

The "passive" module was opened on 29 September, in the presence of Mr Michel THIOILLIERE, Deputy-Mayor of Saint-Etienne and President of Saint-Etienne metropolis. 788 kg of ice remained. Only 22% of the block had melted in almost 4 weeks!

The experiment was conclusive: the wooden passive house protects from "melting ice"!

More information

www.maisonpassivebois.net

View our latest publications on www.raee.org

– *Sustainable development and urban policies: how to favour energy conservation and renewable energy*, June 2007

– *The Property Energy Performance Assessment – Information for lessors*, July 2007

– *Alternative travel – 27 noteworthy European initiatives regarding eco-mobility in tourist areas*, June 2007

– *Fundamental elements of travel and energy*, September 2007

– *Find out everything about alternative motor fuel*, October 2007

– *Alternative motor fuels? It's for...*, October 2007