

DOSSIER

The Energy and Greenhouse Gas Regional Observatory: a territorial climate policy tool

Created in 2002, the Rhône-Alpes Energy and Greenhouse Gas Regional Observatory (OREGES) transformed the regional desire to make a relevant observation and information tool available to the public, local governments and role-players in world energy. Its steering committee is co-chaired by the State and the Region, its organisation lead by Rhônâlpénérge-Environnement and it is financed by ADEME (Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie – Environment and Energy Management Agency) and the Region.

The Regional Observatory performs in particular the following missions:

- Assembling and producing information on a regional and infra-regional level regarding the different components involved in the production/consumption of energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Ensuring contact and informational exchanges and the coherence of this information between regional and national levels.
- Setting up a system for monitoring this knowledge with tools and indicators enabling the assessment of the implemented policies' impacts.
- Conducting specific studies, including under the form of forecasting, for local energy resources, consumption needs and determining factors.
- Being a place for exchanging any information related to energy and greenhouse gases and implementing of this information's dissemination.

The energy situation in the Rhône-Alpes region

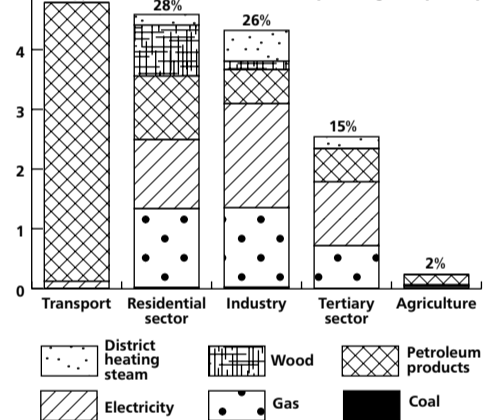
More frequent reports, shared between all of the territory's role-players

Since 2002, OREGES has been producing detailed reports on a three-yearly basis regarding the consumption, energy production and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Rhône-Alpes region. The next report will be drawn up in 2010 using data from 2008 (two-year interval due to the availability of data used to produce these analyses).

However, more complete annual reports will be published additionally (the 2006, 2007 and 2008 issues are currently being drawn up).

Recent collaboration between OREGES and the Air Observatory in the Rhône-Alpes region (Atmo Rhône-Alpes, regrouping the AASQAs¹) will, as from 2010, enable shared reports to be produced, drawn up at a finer scale, on a municipality by municipality basis, easing the process of making the report data available to infra-regional territories.

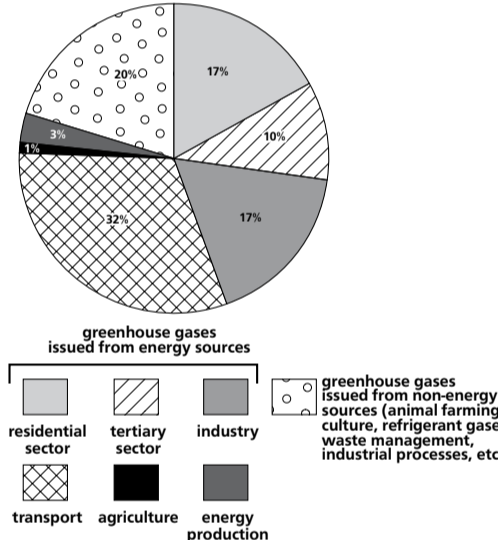
Final energy consumed in Rhône-Alpes region (2005)



The Rhône-Alpes region in numbers:

- 16.4 Mtoe/year of final energy consumed*,
 - 47.6 Mt eq. CO₂/year emitted*
- In the Rhône-Alpes region, each inhabitant consumes 2.8 toe of final energy per year and per inhabitant*, i.e. 65 "full 50-litre tanks of diesel". The highest consumption sectors are, in a decreasing order, the trans-

Sharing out of GHG emissions in Rhône-Alpes (2005)



* Data from 2005

OREGES: a tool for territorial climate policies

Implementation of the Climate-Air-Energy Regional Outlines

The Regional Observatory must be associated with the preparation works for implementing the Climate-Air-Energy Regional Outline (SRCAE), provided for by the provisions of the Grenelle Environment laws, both for the energy and greenhouse gas report, and for drawing up forecast scenarios.

The supply of data to the territories implementing the Climate-Energy Plans

A pilot study: the supply of energy-climate profiles for the Rhône-Alpes Sustainable Development Contracts (CDDRA).

As proposed by the Rhône-Alpes region, the OREGES steering committee entrusted the

mission of providing the CDDRA 2 with a "local definition of the overall information regarding GHG emissions" to Rhônâlpénérge-Environnement. The purpose of these territorial "climate-energy profiles" is to estimate GHG emissions in order to make territories reflect on the notion of drawing up Climate-Energy and Territory Plans. The data has just been supplied for ten CDDRAs, and this work will continue in 2010.

Moving towards the systematic supply of data to territories implementing a Climate-Energy Territorial Plan (PCET)

Putting aside this pilot study, the issue of using OREGES to supply report data to the territories committed to a PCET action has

been questioned. Offers are multiplying with the arrival of the obligations for territories with over 50,000 inhabitants to draw up PCETs (Grenelle law). Experience shows that, in order to mobilise people on the climate-energy issue, local governments need, among other things, an energy consumption and/or GHG emissions report. Using OREGES to supply data could, in addition to offering regional coherence, save an important amount of time and means, enabling local governments to focus on sector diagnoses or fast actions. From a technical point of view, the drawing up of future energy reports and GHG emissions reports, drawn up in collaboration with Atmo Rhône-Alpes, will enable the results to be made available on a municipal scale for

the Rhône-Alpes territory, and therefore for all intercommunalities.

The conditions for making this data available to the territories committed to climate plans are validated within the OREGES steering committee. This data constitutes an estimation of the local report and contains the uncertainties which should be explained to the local role-players. For example, it is difficult to imagine today that they can be used to precisely monitor the outcome of the actions implemented within the scope of a PCET, if only due to the time interval for the input data. OREGES will work on consolidating report methodology in the years to come, in order to set up a real monitoring tool for local energy-climate policies.

EDITORIAL



Roger Léron, President of Rhônâlpénérge-Environnement

As I am writing this editorial, the Copenhagen summit has not yet taken place. However, we can believe that this will lead to a positive result. Indeed, despite the protests from some scientists, the following basic issues will have to be dealt with:

- climate change and greenhouse gases increase,
- the depletion of fossil fuels,
- North-South imbalance,
- the need for a world governance.

In more pragmatic areas, Europe has just completed the project of directive on the energy performance of buildings and in 2010 will redefine stricter energy efficiency objectives for member countries, which are essential to fulfil the "3 times 20 by 2020" commitment: a 20% reduction in energy consumption, 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a 20% share of primary energy consumption supplied by renewable energy sources, with reference to 1990.

These targets will be difficult to achieve. Improved knowledge of the characteristics of the territories where actions must be taken is therefore essential.

This is the objective of the Rhône-Alpes Energy and Greenhouse Gas Regional Observatory, OREGES.

1. Associations Agréées de Surveillance de la Qualité de l'Air - Registered Associations for the Monitoring of Air Quality.
2. Contrat de Développement Durable Rhône-Alpes - Rhône-Alpes Sustainable Development Contract.

Strict collaboration on a national and European scale

OREGES is taking part in work groups:

– concerning energy statistics set up by the SOeS (Service d’Observation et des Statistiques – Statistics and Observation Service) of the MEEDDM³ with the participation of the DREALs (Direction régionale de l’Environnement, de l’Aménagement et du Logement – Regional Directorate for the Environment, Land-Use Planning and Housing), the RARE⁴ and the ADEME.
 – RARE “Energy and Climate regional tools”, in which the ADEME and the SOeS also participate. In the coming months, this work group will have produced ten technical specifications on the following topics: regional energy report, regional report on GHG emissions originating from energy and non-energy sources, regional energy efficiency indicators, forecasting, governance, infra-regional reports, transport, building and governance.

3. Ministère de l’Ecologie, de l’Energie, du Développement Durable et de la Mer - Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea.

4. Réseau des Agences Régionales de l’Energie et de l’Environnement - Network of Regional Agencies for Energy and the Environment

The European CLIMACT project

Rhônealpennergie-Environnement is a partner in the European CLIMACT project, which will start at the beginning of 2010. This project has set the following objectives over a three-year period:

- enabling regions to efficiently observe and list GHGs,
- building regional policies for reducing GHGs by resorting to correct governance,
- strengthening the dialogue between the regions and the European Union, via the Committee of the Regions, in particular on policies related to climate change and their application in the field.

The project will enable methodologies of assessment to be drawn up and manuals produced, which may then be used by political decision makers.

www.oreges.rhonealpes.fr: for more information on energy and greenhouse gases in the Rhône-Alpes region

Originating from significant work by all of the energy role-players in the Rhône-Alpes region, the OREGES site makes shared regional information available to all of the energy role-players, and also to local governments and the public. This information concerns the energy production park, energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and provides access to:

– personalised data on regional energy production installations,

For example: the number of existing installations producing wood energy in a municipality, producing energy originating from small hydraulic power plants in isolated locations in a territory and the power of each of these small power stations, etc.

Local governments will also find available, via secured access, information related to the technical characteristics, clients and operators of each installation in their territory.

– key figures on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the Rhône-Alpes region

For example: the share of wood energy consumption in the residential sector in a given district or CO₂ emissions in the industrial sector in the Rhône-Alpes region, etc.

– Publications

The data used for this website is provided by all of the OREGES partners:

The State via the Regional Directorate for the Environment, Land-Use Planning and Housing (DREAL), the Rhône-Alpes Region, ADEME, Rhônealpennergie-Environnement, other energy role-players in the Region and world economic and social representatives, etc.

In addition, this will be subject to regular updates and developments, regarding both the functions offered and the data made available online.

Contacts: Rhônealpennergie-Environnement, Pierrick Yalamas, Jean-Éric Mesmain
 Emmanuel Jeanjean, Laurence Monnet

NEWS

Local governments vote for wood



Wood originating from forests with sustainable management is a major tool in the fight against the greenhouse effect: the wooden material stores carbon and wood is a renewable energy source. Local governments in the Rhône-Alpes region are increasingly adapting and promoting its use in buildings, street furniture and heating.

Within this process, an initiative was set up by the Rhône-Alpes “public procurement and sustainable development” network. This

network of local governments organised by Rhônealpennergie-Environnement works on integrating sustainable development criteria into public procurement. From 2005, these local governments have been taking an interest in their wood purchases for construction or equipment, but also for energy. A steering committee was created in 2006 with the Fédération Forêt-Bois Rhône-Alpes (Rhône-Alpes Forest-Wood Federation or FIBRA), the Fédération du Bâtiment Rhône-Alpes (Rhône-Alpes Building Federation), the Confédération de l’Artisanat et des Petites Entreprises du Bâtiment Rhône-Alpes (Rhône-Alpes Confederation of Artisans and Small Building Companies or CAPEB), the Rhône-Alpes Region and Rhônealpennergie-Environnement. This committee enabled a charter to be defined, involving the local government client in the promotion of wood as a material and fuel, and in the adoption

and implementation of an executive debate.

The latter commits the local government to:

- using wood originating from forests with sustainable management (PEFC or FSC certification or equivalent),
- developing wood for construction and wood for energy,
- using locally-produced wood,
- excluding endangered species of exotic woods and preferring wood originating from forests managed by native communities,
- measuring the quantities of wood used and the classification of the buildings built,
- training the relevant local government departments and informing the future client inhabitants.

To this day, approximately one hundred municipalities have signed the charter,

notably thanks to two wood interprofessionals, Inter Forêt-Bois 42 and Créabois Isère, that maintain a local dynamic around this initiative. The objective today is to provide this signature network with the tools required to fulfil their commitments. In addition to local actions (trainings, visits, etc.), a file containing the practical guides according to the type of construction and tools used for contracting, as well as a dedicated website are all being created in order to enable any project carrier (nursery, engineering structure, tertiary building, etc.) to have reliable elements available, which fulfil the definition of the project carrier’s needs and markets.

Contacts: Rhônealpennergie-Environnement, Valérie Borroni
More information on wood
www.fibra.net, www.ifb42.com,
www.boiscollectivitesrhonealpes.org

Field trip to Styria: a pioneer region in energy efficiency and renewable energy

On the 19th and 20th of November, more than twenty elected officials and design office managers took part in a field trip to Styria (Austria) organised by Rhônealpennergie-Environnement on the theme of energy autonomy.

The participants took part in discussions with representatives from the energy commission, the regional energy agency and visited several installations on the themes of energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy.

Styria, with approximately 1.2 million inhabitants, has had an energy plan in place since 1984, aiming at stabilising energy consumption and replacing fossil fuels. This plan, the energy commissioner admits, has benefited from favourable conditions regarding its implementation, in particular with support from public authorities, public will and available technologies (in particular for the implementation of low consumption buildings, the use of biomass and solar power). Styria has also complemented this effort by setting advantageous purchasing tariffs (for example €0.36 per

kWh for photovoltaic energy and €0.11 for biogas).

The group has assisted in a presentation made by the energy agency related to the financing packages required to promote energy improvements for buildings, in particular energy performance contracts, and has visited the Dieselweg district in Graz on the theme of energy retrofitting for social buildings. This district has implemented a range of solutions based on high performance insulation (based on cardboard), individual double flow ventilation, solar power also used in an original manner to reheat building walls oriented towards north.

The field trip was also an opportunity to visit several renewable energy production installations, in particular in Mureck (town with almost 100% renewable energy), where a cooperative, the SEEG, manages a 4 MW heat network powered by wood boilers as well as biogas units, and a biofuel production unit using colza or used vegetable oils. Today, Styria is drawing up a fairly positive report for the plan set-up: the share in renewable energy has reached 23%, in particular thanks to biomass, hydraulic and

solar power. Its renewable energy industry exports throughout Europe (30% of wood boilers and solar power installations throughout the EU originate from Austria). Thanks to a mixture of different solutions, certain territories have achieved energy autonomy. The building industry is structured and the passive buildings are no longer an exception to the case. The energy commissioner specifies that there is only one drawback: energy consumption and notably electricity consumption has continued to rise over the last few years. After having widely exploited biomass and hydraulic power, the region is planning to strengthen these actions in the field of transport and energy efficiency, but also to turn even more towards solar power.

Find out more the report will soon be available to download from the following website: www.raee.org

Contact : Rhônealpennergie-Environnement, Patrick Biard

Styria is also an expert region in biogas matter and during the same period was also the destination for a field trip organised by Rhônealpennergie-Environnement within the scope of the Biogas Regions European project on the theme of industrial and agricultural anaerobic digestion. Find out more the report will soon be available to download from the following website: www.biogazrhonealpes.org.

Contact : Rhônealpennergie-Environnement, Valérie Borroni

