

Where we stand

FRANCE

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NECPs in France

A National Low-Carbon Strategy (Stratégie Nationale Bas-Carbone - SNBC) was developed as France's roadmap to reduce GHG emissions by 2030. It specified France's short-term and medium-term greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets. This strategy was complemented by a Multiannual Energy Planning (Programmation Pluriannuelle de l'Énergie - PPE), establishing the priorities for government action for 10 years. The NECP was developed based on those 2 documents, whose drafting and revision are defined by the Law on Energy Transition for Green Growth of August 2015.

A second version of the SNBC was adopted in April 2020 with two main objectives: carbon neutrality by 2050 (including the implementation of carbon budgets from 2019 to 2033) and the reduction of the carbon footprint from 10tCO_{2e}/year to 2tCO_{2e}/year in 2050. The French Government is currently drafting the future Strategy on Energy and Climate. This strategy will be the updated roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and ensure the adaptation of the territory to climate change.

Consultation Processes

The French NECP explicitly mentions that technical and financial support is required to local authorities. According to the French NECP, the local level is viewed as the most pertinent to integrate renewable and recovered energy in the Heating and Cooling sector. However, there is no mention of the Covenant of Mayors nor of the European Energy Award.

Even though consultation processes have been established with regional and local levels, these focus above all on planning and do not anticipate how national measures will be embedded and implemented in the territories.

National Level

The Ministry in charge of the NECP / SNBC process is the Ministry of Ecological Transition. To increase transversal dialogues at national level between Ministries on topics of energy and climate, the France Nation Verte plan was presented in 2022.

Where we're going FRANCE

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Opportunities

Fortunately, the current landscape in France is favourable to an increased role of local and regional actors in climate and energy policymaking. We can observe a national trend over the past 15 years of strengthening commitment and involvement of territories on energy and climate issues.

First with the creation of territorial and regional energy climate plans (Grenelle laws 2009 and 2010), and then with the energy transition law for green growth (LTECV) of 2015 reinforcing the regional plans (SRADET) and the role of inter-municipalities (PCAET). Mainly, we observe a strengthening of the role of the regions with the 2015 law on the new territorial organisation of the Republic (NOTRe).

As a result, regions are now in charge of climate, energy, regional planning, biodiversity, air quality policies, the territorialisation of national objectives, as well as the coordination of local authorities in this area.

In 2022, the French National government declared its intention to change the method of territorialisation of climate and energy plans with increased consultation. This set off the creation of a myriad of consultation processes, such as ADEME workshops on the method of territorialisation, the new general secretariat for planning with France Nation Verte, the creation of regional energy committees, numerous working groups on specific themes of the SNBC or SFEC, and more.

Needs

Despite the national Ministry's good intentions of carrying out dialogues and consultations, the actors involved in these processes (in great part local authorities and representatives of local authorities) feel that they are not at all effective. The proliferation of initiatives and consultation has created a lot of confusion and become more of a burden than a blessing for all actors involved – including the national government itself. Multiple parallel processes have made it difficult for the local level to know where to turn to make their voices heard.

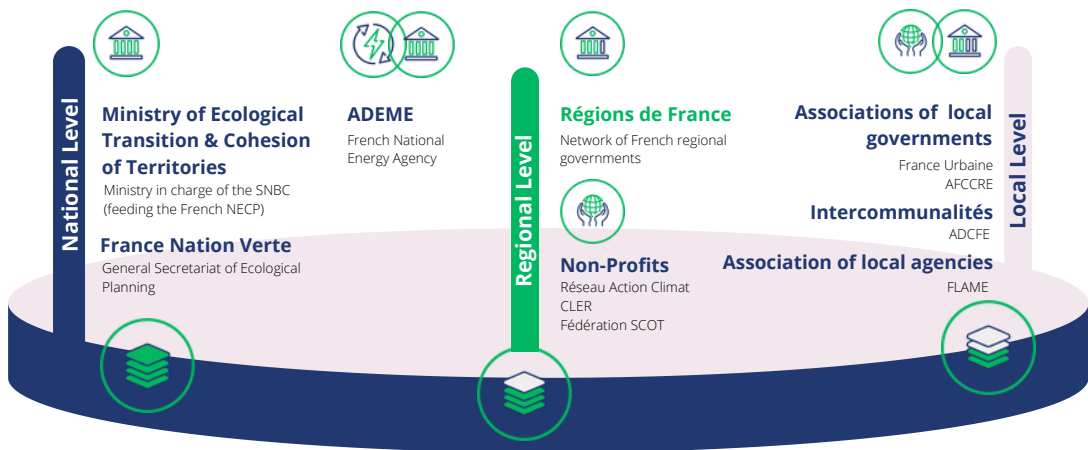
In addition, the existing multi-level discussions are organised by the State and mainly focused on national objectives and planning, falling short on the urgent question of implementation within the territories. Likewise, the concentration of these processes by the State, who set the rules of the game, also limits the active participation of stakeholders, hindering the co-creative process. As a result, consultations tend to have a top-down informative approach, rather than an integrative and co-creative approach.

CED Platform in FRANCE



Thus, the Climate and Energy Dialogue (CED) Platforms in France will not focus on influencing the NECP, which is already well underway and for which consultations have already been carried out. But instead, the roundtables organised by NECPlatform will focus on improving the consultation processes in place between the State and local/regional levels on topics of energy and climate. They will open a space where all actors involved in such consultations can agree upon and co-create a new, simplified and more effective process.

The Roundtables will above all focus on implementation of national policies, at the regional and local levels, facilitating feedback channels between local implementers and national policy makers. Moreover, they will offer a new, more neutral framework for discussion where the rules of dialogue will not be defined either by the State nor by the local authorities. This “neutral” moderation by a European project can facilitate discussion and help build the much needed (and currently lacking) trust between the different levels.



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