



# ADEMEINTERNATIONAL





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L'ÉDITO

**de Philippe Masset** Europe and International Director at ADEME

Sufficiency, a disruptive concept that's often distorted, must be understood as a limitation of our needs and consumption to what is useful. It supplements efficiency to reach the much desired objective of a low carbon society. The current conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which has led the European Union to introduce the RePower EU initiative, has put sufficiency firmly at the heart of the discussion. It has also been one of the key issues discussed at the last European Energy Transition Conference held in Geneva in May 2022, whose slogan was "Less For More! LESS fossil fuels, pol"Sufficiency becomes (again) a key element of the ecological transition"

lution, CO2 emissions, resources consumed, energy insecurity for MORE renewable energy, well-being, quality of life, innovation and local jobs."

Thus sufficiency has become (again) a key element of the ecological transition. ADEME's prospective study Transition(s) 2050 places it at the heart of three of the four scenarios laid out. The following pages will describe this in more detail in order to better inform you about the essential and profound changes we need to introduce. •

### SUFFICIENCY: AN ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCK OF THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Three out of the four scenarios of ADEME's prospective study "Transition(s) 2050" have highlighted the importance of the concept of sufficiency, with a word of warning: we must rethink our modes of consumption and production in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

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ufficiency entails rethinking our needs and how to meet them whilst limiting their impact on the

environment. The reduction in the demand in energy, which is itself linked to the demand in goods and services, is a key element in reaching carbon neutrality. This reduction ranges from 23% to 55% compared with 2015 according to the various scenarios of the Transition(s) 2050 prospective study. "Each scenario relies on a different balance between sufficiency and energy efficiency," explains Patrick Jolivet, Director of Socio-Economic Studies. "In one case, the idea is to rethink our needs, in another, it's to rethink the way in which we produce goods and services in order to reduce our energy consumption."

#### SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION

In the first scenario, "frugal generation", the notion of sufficiency was pushed to its limit, with for example, meat consumption cut by two thirds. Inversely, the last scenario, "restoration gamble", suggests preserving our way of life and making up for it by using technology. "These two scenarios are, we believe, the riskiest," explains Patrick Jolivet. "It seems obvious that we should aim for more sober ways of living but the question is to what extent is it both realistic and desirable to achieve this."

According to the ADEME survey "The French and the environment", sufficiency is a growing aspiration amongst the French. But to what extent are they prepared to alter their way of life? "We realise that the issue of spending power



remains very important for French people who have a very strong consumption ideal." So, if sufficiency is not yet a majority aspiration, what initiatives can we take to support the transition? "Let's take for example speed limitations on motorways. During the debate at the Citizens' Climate Convention, the 150 French panel members were largely against this at first but they ended up changing their minds. When we take the time to explain the issues at stake and the various possibilities and debate them collectively, citizens are capable of overcoming their own individual interests," Patrick Jolivet concludes. •

The Transition(s) 2050 study: transitions2050.ademe.fr/

## **TRANSITION(S) 2050:** AN ENLIGHTENED CHOICE FOR OUR FUTURE

#### Although aiming to achieve carbon neutrality is a given in France, the path forward is still uncertain. ADEME has therefore put forward four very contrasting scenarios and their implications in the hope of avoiding wrong turns and better defining a strategy.

ublished in late 2021, the prospective study Transition(s) 2050 mobilised ADEME's efforts for two years. In the end, the agency came up with four trajectories that allow us to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, by relying on very different societal choices. "Our work shows that a number of trajectories are still possible, it's reassuring. But it does also highlight the necessity to define one fairly quickly," warns Valerie Quiniou, Executive Director, Prospective and Research at ADEME.

#### FOUR GAMBLES FOR THE FUTURE

At this stage, the team at ADEME did not want to choose a specific trajectory but rather to present all four scenarios in the form of concrete narratives, so that people can imagine what these would entail, what the benefits and limits of each one would be, as well as their environmental and socio-economic impacts. Transition(s) 2050 brings up key questions:

To what extent are we able to introduce changes in terms of sufficiency? Can we avoid resorting to technological carbon sinks? What new model can the French industry adopt? What new ways of processing and consuming food should we encourage?

"Involving people in such drastic changes to the ways in which they produce, cultivate, consume, live and move can't be the result of individual decisions. We must put in place collective support measures. We also need a national debate around a shared vision of the future and to put in place the ways in which these measures will be organised and deployed."

Valérie Quiniou,

Executive Director for Prospective and Research at ADEME.

The first scenario, "Frugal generation", pushes the concept of sufficiency to its very limit in order to achieve this objective without putting pressure on energy supplies and by only using biological sinks to reach carbon neutrality. But this scenario requires such drastic behavioural changes that many people might find it unacceptable. Scenario 4, "Restoration gamble", is less divisive given it follows current trends. However, it does rely on the large-scale development of technologies that aren't yet fully reliable to capture excess atmospheric CO2. Scenario 2, "Regional cooperation", proposes an acceptable level of sufficiency but does rely heavily on consultations and the sharing economy, which can take time and possibly not come to fruition.

Scenario 3, "Green technologies", relies heavily on digital technology, renewables and new construction, which requires us to be very careful in regards to the resources utilised (energy, water, metals...), especially from the biomass on which all sectors are looking to rely for their ecological transition.

#### **ESSENTIAL MEASURES**

One thing is clear: in all cases, carbon neutrality will rely on a series of gambles. By sitting back and waiting for people's behaviours to change or for innovations to see the day, we are simply delaying climate action and allowing more greenhouse gas to be released into the atmosphere. This is why a number of measures remain essential for us to take: decarbonation, energy management, development of renewables, etc. Other recently published studies (by RTE, négaWatt, The Shift Project...) have also arrived at the same conclusions as ADEME. "Each scenario works as a whole. Each one was designed in a coherent manner, taking into account our needs in terms of resources and the constraints of the systems that produce them. We can't pick and choose what we adjust," insists David Marchal, Deputy Director of the Programmes and Expertise department at ADEME. "The next step is to come up with efficient and relevant public policy tools to help society as a whole transition towards carbon neutrality." •

To find out more about these scenarios, go to: transitions2050.ademe.fr

## VIETNAM COMMITS TO CLIMATE ACTION AND BIOCLIMATIC CONSTRUCTION

Energy efficiency in the building sector is crucial in order to reduce energy consumption and reach carbon neutrality by 2050. As part of a partnership with the Ministry of Construction in Vietnam, ADEME has taken part in the creation of two pilot construction projects of low carbon buildings in Hanoi.

> ietnam ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016. It was also one of the first countries from the Global South to join the GlobalABC (Global Alliance for Buildings and Construc-

tion) launched during COP21 in Paris with the aim of decarbonating the building sector and encouraging bioclimatic construction. The country is part of the Low Energy in Tropical Climate for Housing Innovation (LETCHI) programme, overseen by ADEME, an international platform of experts set up to discuss low carbon and bioclimatic buildings and construction.

There is a lot at stake given the high birth rate and the rapid increase in the rate of construction in Vietnam. Promoters far too often put cost reduction first by using simple design methods and limiting the construction of isolated buildings. This encourages a significant over-consumption of air conditioning.

#### FRANCO-VIETNAMESE COOPERATION IN THE BUILDING SECTOR

France and Vietnam signed a bilateral agreement in 2017 over "energy efficiency and the low carbon transition in the building sector," bringing together ADEME as operator and the PEEB programme. A call for project proposals was launched in 2020 in order to develop two new construction pilot projects, one for a secondary school (Capital House) and the other for a social housing complex (NHS). The two promoters that were shortlisted benefitted from contracting authority support from ADEME, provided by the Urban Ecology Lab, for bioclimatic design, thermal comfort and the use of local materials."

Finally, ADEME and the Ministry of Construction held 7 online training technical sessions from 9 May to 8 June, aimed at building industry professionals (architects, investors, etc.) to integrate the criteria of bioclimatic design in their work from the start of the project and to facilitate access to funding.

🕂 www.peeb.build

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#### COMPARATIVE STUDY FOR SEPARATE COLLECTION OF BIOWASTE PRACTICES IN URBAN AREAS

In this study, ADEME offers an overview of the separate collection of biowaste (more specifically foodstuffs) in 13 major cities in Europe and North America. What are the difficulties encountered, the solutions found, the similarities, the factors of success, what can we learn from this to apply to French cities?

https://librairie.ademe.fr/dechetseconomie-circulaire/5423comparative-study-of-seperatebiowaste-collection-practices-inurban-areas.html



#### CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PRACTICES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

This portfolio presents the main results of the case studies carried out between october 2019 and april 2020 by local experts in various Mediterranean basin countries. The aim of these case studies was to highlight the success factors and the pitfalls of adaptation initiatives in specific contexts, to assist in the preparation of recommendations for decision-makers to help them adapt to climate change within their territory.

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