Funded by the European Union



WHITE DADER for the ecological transition of associations

#TEDDAprojet











Contents

PART

Introduction

1.1 The observation of global warming	4
1.2 The White Paper for the ecological transition	
of associations	7



Issues and messages by theme



2.1 Purchases	9
2.2 Waste	14
2.3 Building and energy flows	19
2.4 Mobility	23
2.5 Digital	29
2.6 Biodiversity	35



Global issues and messages

3.1 Major issues of the ecological transition on a				
	European scale	42		
3.2	Main actions undertaken by associations both internally and among themselves	46		
3.3	Actions of the associations towards the			
	institutions	48		
3.4	Actions of the associations towards the citizens	49		





Introduction



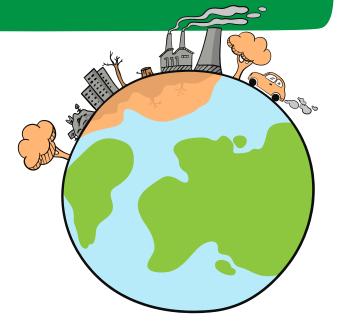
11 The observation of global warming

Global warming is one of the biggest problems facing humanity. Human activity and the development model of recent decades are the main causes. In recent years, collective awareness has increased considerably, even if the results are not yet visible.¹

In 2015, following the signing of the Paris Agreement, a historic event within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 195 countries committed to combating global warming by reducing carbon emissions. greenhouse gases from 2020. Despite the importance of this agreement, eight years later, there is still a long way to go to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The pollution of ecosystems, the collapse of biodiversity, the depletion of natural resources, the acceleration of global warming and other impacts caused by human activity are increasingly evident. A growing number of organizations are alerting us and inviting us to act collectively, to intervene decisively and reverse this situation.

In the context of global policies, reference documents have been published in recent years to guide the actions of governments to bring about a paradigm shift and promote a sustainable development model¹ more focused on people and the environment. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda, promoted by the United Nations, defines the 17 major Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which must be achieved by the entire world population:



governments, citizens, civil society, businesses and the private sector. These 17 major goals aim to establish equality between people, protect the planet and ensure prosperity as part of a new sustainable development agenda.

In these documents, there are few specific references to the environment of associations, although it is present in a certain way in a transversal way.

In this context, different European organisations from three countries have come together to promote the TEDDA project, whose main objective is to give visibility to small and medium-sized associations, to provide awareness tools and action methodologies to mitigate emissions, reduce pollution, join the circular economy and raise public awareness.²

Sustainable development is a concept of development which takes a long-term perspective and integrates environmental and social constraints into the economy. According to the definition given in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development of the United Nations, known as the Brundtland Report, where this expression appeared for the first time in 1987, "sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." <u>https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Brundtland_ Report</u>

² https://www.tedda.eu/

We have the challenge of changing the world and, through our actions, we can and must be co-responsible for a much more sustainable development model on the social, economic and energy levels. We can help reverse the current trend of global warming.

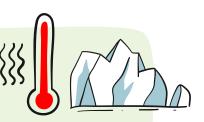
The climate is changing and human activity is to blame

Over the past decades, the average temperature of our planet has increased significantly. This increase in temperature, far from attenuating, continues to grow slowly but surely. Experts warn us that it is necessary to take urgent measures to ensure that this increase does not exceed 2°C, because if it did, the consequences would be catastrophic for our planet and the living beings that inhabit it.

Global warming is directly linked to gases produced by human activity. The increase in temperature coincided with the start of the industrial revolution and the implementation of a development model based on the production of goods and mass consumption on a global scale, without taking into account the consequences for the environment and natural resources of the planet.

Today, the effects and consequences of climate change are already perceptible on a global scale and in the natural environment:

The melting of the Arctic Ocean continues (it has shrunk by 40% over the last 30 years, according to Greenpeace).³



- Average sea level rise of 19 cm since 1901. An increase of 10 to 68 cm is predicted by the end of the 21st century.⁴
- → Increase in average air and water temperatures of 0.5°C on average per decade. Temperatures are expected to rise by 6°C by 2100, leading to increased aridity conditions, as well as more extreme precipitation.⁵
- Increased frequency and duration of heat waves.
- Decrease in average annual precipitation.



- → Increased flooding and extreme weather events.
- Increased forest fires and deforestation due to the decreasing resilience of forests in sensitive areas of the planet, such as the Mediterranean.
- Impact on biodiversity in all regions of the planet. Ecosystems are threatened with disappearance and climate change is affecting the essential processes of many organisms and species.

3 <u>https://es.greenpeace.org/ca/trabajamos-en/oceanos/artico/consecuencias-del-deshielo-del-artico/</u>

4 Same

5 IPCC https://www.ipcc.ch/

These effects on the natural environment already have socio-economic consequences across the planet.

- Increasing inequalities between countries and territories.
- Increased poverty rates due to impact on basic sectors such as agriculture and housing.
- → Increased population migration for climatic reasons.
- Emergence of socio-economic conflicts due to lack of resources or massive migratory movements.
- Increase in the price of certain products due to their rarity.

There is still time to change the situation

We face the collective challenge of trying to slow global warming. To achieve this, we must significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural spaces.

The ecological transition consists of modifying production and consumption systems to make them more environmentally friendly and more sustainable. We understand this concept as the implementation of actions allowing a territory to concretely prepare for shocks relating to climate change and resource depletion. While being aware of the climate situation, it is about implementing "solutions based on a positive vision of the future and which aim to:

Significantly reduce, individually and collectively, the consumption of fossil energy and our CO2 emissions.

 \odot

Strengthen the resilience of our territories, their capacity to absorb future shocks through a relocation of the economy (food, renewable energies, etc.).

Strengthen links, solidarity and cooperation between all stakeholders in the territory.

Acquire the skills that will become necessary to strengthen our autonomy.⁶

The reduction of greenhouse gases must be approached from various areas of our society: from political initiative, but also from the responsibility of companies, associations and citizens when it comes to reviewing and modifying our own daily behaviours and habits. This could include, for example, reducing electricity consumption, promoting energy efficiency, reducing the use of fossil fuels or managing other resources such as water more responsibly. By addressing this issue in a comprehensive and engaged way, we can move towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

6 https://www.entransition.fr/2016/04/20/presentation/#more-10584

1.2 The White Paper for the ecological transition of associations

In this context, and with the support of the European Union through the funding provided by the Erasmus+ program, the partners of the TEDDA project wish to contribute to the dissemination of the values of ecological transition that we must, individually and collectively, apply in our everyday life.

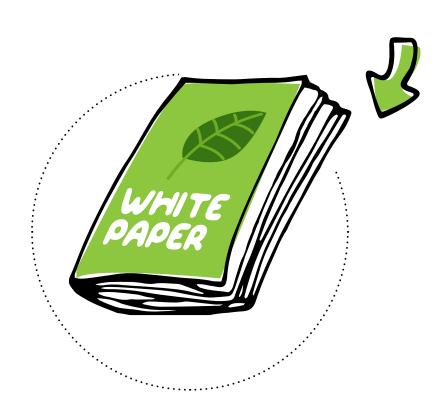
This White Paper has been specifically designed for small and medium-sized associations and constitutes a call to action. By spreading different actions that we can integrate into our daily lives, we seek to encourage a change in habits in the way we interact and live with our environment.

Furthermore, these tools can be used by volunteer organisations to convince their counterparts, institutional partners and the general public of the need to act. With a collective and committed approach, we will be able to contribute significantly to the preservation of the environment and build a more sustainable future for all.

With the publication of this White Paper, we do not intend to be exhaustive, far from it, but to point out some actions that small associations, often without great resources, can incorporate into their own management to improve their indices environmental sustainability and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

To make reading easier, we have divided the actions according to the main themes selected in the methodological guide: mobility, purchases, waste, biodiversity, digital and building.

Rethinking our way of being and living with our environment is the first step in helping to improve the health of our planet.





Issues and messages by theme

مر ۲۰۲

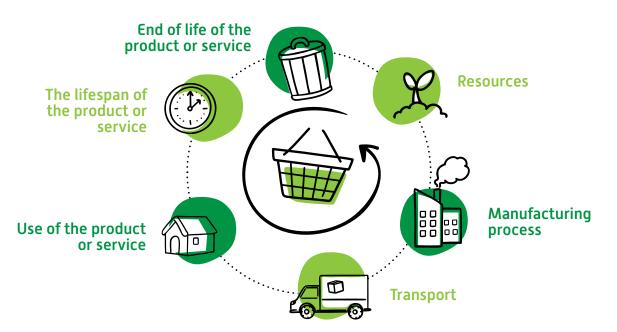


We all know that the human and economic resources of associations are most of the time limited. Faced with sustained work rhythms, our choices often move towards what is known, speed, convenience and lower costs.

No guilt to be generated but rather an increased awareness, in order to gain a **political reading of our purchases**, essential, to tackle certain "bad" reflexes. Questioning your purchases on their real needs, price, ease, quality, etc. is only sustainable if the team **agrees on its priorities**, and marks its desire **to commit as an agent of change.**

All the products and services we purchase generate environmental impacts well beyond their intended usage: it is on the supply chain, from the choice of raw materials to production and distribution, that one must first and foremost look at oneself.

The supply chain invites us to examine the environmental impact of products and services at the levels of



Issue 2: Making sustainable solutions accessible and visible



It is essential that associations, as well as the entire population, have **quick and simple access to all suppliers of sustainable goods and services.**

They promote responsible purchasing practices internally and with their customers by minimizing environmental and societal impacts and developing good practices in terms of ethics and human rights.

Numerous catalogues and mappings currently exist both locally and nationally (like <u>PAM to PAM</u> in Spain or "<u>près de chez nous</u>" in France).

However, these initiatives are often funded for a specific time and sometimes lack continuity.

This is an issue that falls primarily to federations and groups of associations but also to institutions, which could provide constant support.

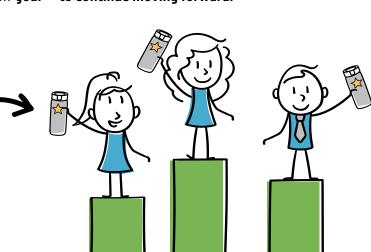
Among other areas for improvement, we advise you to participate in more local mapping initiatives (a city, a neighbourhood, an urban area). They require less investment and are easier to manage collectively. The thematic approach is also interesting in order to engage stakeholders more strongly and offer a more complete and better updated service to citizens (like sustainable fashion in Italy with <u>Vestilanatura</u> or food in France with <u>coop circuit</u>).

Internal actions of associations

Action 1: Starting from your story and identify your totem

The openness, acceptance and continued attention paid by your teams to your purchasing choices will only be better supported if they are based on **your history, your values**. Choose an initial simbolic action and make it a totem, a regular act of celebration and a benchmark to continue moving forward.

Are you a sports association? Reward your little dribblers with reusable water bottles. And why not, personalize these prices with special editions.



Action 2: Cultivating a sensible approach to your Re-humanise your purchases by defining criteria based on your shared sensibilities. What are the criteria that make the most sense to guide your association's future purchases: AVAILABILITY 🗲 **CRAFTSMAN** Accessible adapted to needs BIO short circuit fair trade Δρτνέρ creator of activities/jobs **SUSTAINABLE** rent REPAIR eco-designed resource efficient integration CIRCULAR ECONOMY **BORROW** COMMON equality between women and men free homemade SHARE DISABILITY NON-CHEMICAL label inclusive LOCAL unprocessed delivery + ecological low-tech NATURAL safety non-polluting ASOCIATION OUALITY bulk health SHAREABLE **E-COMMERCE RECYCLABLE** vegetarian direct sales



Action 3: Collaborating with changemakers

We invite you to browse all the sustainable services available to you locally. Find out more from the networks of social and solidarity economy (SSE) and participate in strengthening the local and committed entrepreneurial community, a driving force of the ecological and social transition. As a second essential axis, banking, insurance, electricity suppliers, etc. represent **services with a strong impact on society**. However, there are more and more **ethical and responsible alternative solutions** for which associations, throughout Europe, could be the first promoters.

Browse all the actions you can take in our methodological guide

Actions of the associations towards the institutions



Action 1: Co-creating responsible purchasing policies

If lines of dialogue are present, institutions can play the game of co-creation to define their responsible purchasing policy strategy.

This participatory framework engaging the plurality of SSE stakeholders can take different forms, such as annual meetings or thematic working groups aimed at establishing a common and shared vision of responsible purchasing in a territory. SSE stakeholders know the field and are generally sources of proposals. These sharing spaces on a local scale not only **contribute to a participatory renewal of institutions** but also facilitate the **strategic cohesion** of local actors in the ecological transition to be pursued.



A long-standing demand of the SSE, it still remains relevant as many public procurements can be **pivotal agents in the ecological transition**. By purchasing sustainable products and services, they contribute actively to advance **employment in sustainable sectors**, to strengthen social policies and improve working conditions.

Secondly, by setting responsible purchasing objectives, they promote the ecological transition of suppliers.

Measures are already present at local, national and European level (see <u>71 good practices</u> identified by the European Commission),However, many actions are expected. ESS stakeholders are well placed to participate in the co-construction of the purchasing strategies of public entities in their territory.

Actions of the associations towards the citizens



Action 1: Creating attractive worlds

Create attractive worlds that make audiences want to repair, buy, recondition, rent out or share is essential to develop the sectors. If a degree of urgency is always welcome (in a moderate way), overly moralizing and guilt-inducing speeches must give way to the co-construction of a desirable future. Make citizens and **professions eco-responsible, like repairers,** the superheroes of our modern times !

Action 2: Slowing down purchasing actions



Ease and speed are often synonyms of our purchasing actions, particularly on the internet. Yet, they keep us away from partners who are less accessible, less effective or less inclined to usual marketing techniques (advertising pressure, discounts, focus on low prices, immediate offers, etc.). A more responsible purchase requires taking side steps, questioning oneself, comparing and varying the purchasing spaces. Depending on their specialties, associations could participate in **this cultural change essential to the ecological transition by supporting their users.**

Consider preparing communications geared toward this use (posters, messages in your social networks, etc.), providing concrete information (local stakeholders in responsible purchasing, exchanges, rentals, maintenance, etc.), or even organize targeted workshops on "better consumption" habits (examples: food, toys, sports products, etc.).

Action 3: Your eco-events as a source of inspiration

Raising awareness through exemplarity directly places your audiences in a process of action and solutions. The several events that you organize, regardless of their size (from a general assembly to an event), are all opportunities to disseminate virtuous practices and create a snowball effect.



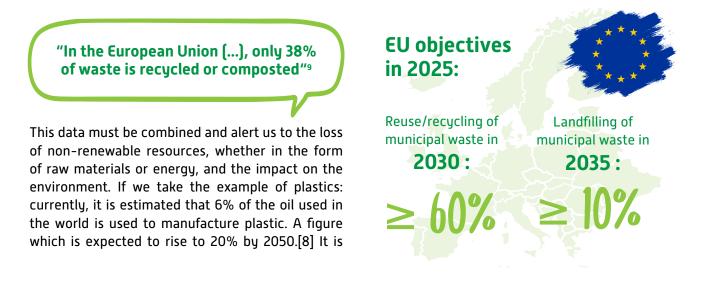
https://communication-responsable.ademe.fr/evenementiel https://evenementresponsable.ademe.fr/ https://www.colibris-lemouvement.org/magazine/comment-organiser-unevenement-eco-responsable

https://www.hellocarbo.com/blog/reduire/evenement-eco-responsable/



Despite a strengthening of the legislative and regulatory framework, the 2.2 billion tonnes of annual waste are stagnating and still represent a huge problem within the EU⁷. In the ranking, mines and quarries (24%) and construction (37%) dominate, and household waste represents a tenth of the total volume. The latter are decreasing very slowly, with strong disparities within member countries in the recycling rate and landfilling (see the table below)⁸.

estimated that there are 8 million tonnes of "large waste" plastic in our oceans. These are poorly managed wastes that end up in the oceans (plastic bags, dishes, bottles, etc.). In the Mediterranean alone, we are talking about 570,000 tonnes of plastic waste per year!¹⁰ When plastic materials are collected, their recycling remains problematic for several reasons.¹¹In addition, landfilling, still very present in many countries, is a source of constant contamination of air, water and soil.



- 7 <u>Waste management in the EU: facts and figures (infographic)</u>, European Parliament, June 2023.
- 8 <u>Italy, Belgium, Latvia: which European countries recycle the most?</u> Euronews; Data from Eurostat 2020.
- 9 Waste and recycling, European Commission
- 10 <u>What's the problem with plastic?</u> Ecoconso.be (2019)
- 11 <u>https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20181212ST021610/plastic-waste-and-recycling-in-the-eu-facts-and-figures</u>







	Municipal waste generated (kg/inhabitant –2021)	Share of recycling and composting of municipal waste (2021)	Waste landfill rate (excluding major mineral waste) (2020)
European average – EU 27	530	49.6%	18%
Germany	646	71.1%	9%
Romania	302	11.3%	51%
Denmark	786	34.3%	1%
France	561	45.1%	22%
Spain	472	36.7%	43%
Malta	611	13.6%	73%



Section 2: Developing repair and reuse

The observation is known and unanimous, discarded products are often still viable and repairable. According to a latest Eurobarometer survey, it is estimated to result in 35 million tonnes of waste, 30 million tonnes of resources and 261 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU each year (1). Yet, citizens would be willing to act if the repair and reuse markets were more advantageous and organized.

Europe and several of its member states have taken up this major issue in recent years. The European Commission has specially developed **a new right to repairing**¹²which will facilitate, among other things, consumer procedures for products out of warranty, and is working on a new regulation for the ecodesign of products which will make it possible to set new requirements on numerous categories of products: durability, reuse, disposal level, recycling, product repair, energy efficiency, carbon and environmental footprint, etc.

These markets represent a strong potential for activities for the non-profit sector and a real cultural challenge to engage with citizens (see also the messages to send to institutions). At the scale of associations, the deployment of repair cafés or libraries of things, for example, embodies a promising path.

Issue 3: Beware of overconsumption in the second-hand market



The development of second-hand online platforms also questions the challenges of recycling and the circular economy. If, on the one hand, we see positively that the second-hand market has been able to integrate into consumer habits, on the other hand, we see a trend emerging towards overconsumption of these goods. These purchasing/ resale behaviours require us to be vigilant about their evolution, so that the sobriety and solidarity (via donations) associated with anti-waste are not replaced or affected by this overconsumption¹³.

- 12 <u>Right to repair: Commission introduces new rights for consumers for easy and attractive repairs</u>, European Commission, March 2023.
- 13 https://presse.ademe.fr/2023/01/achats-doccasion-surconsommation-ou-sobriete.html



Stepping up to rigorous and regular selective sorting still represents a **common obstacle within associations**, **particularly during events and demonstrations**. Remember that associations, like companies, have the obligation to respect 7 flow sorting¹⁴.

Given the progress needed in terms of overall waste reduction and recycling rates, it is essential that associations take this civic responsibility to heart and move to the next level: Start by identifying and evaluating the quantity of waste generated, an unusual but essential action to reduce waste.



Browse all the actions you can implement with our methodological guide

Internal actions of associations



Action 1: Extending the lifespan

If the 5 R rule¹⁵ (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Return to the Earth) is better known (even if not always assimilated), the constant tension on resources and the ecological transition in general undeniably call for the **strengthening of another criterion: extending the lifespan of our objects and equipment.**

It encourages us to determine regular internal maintenance procedures for our goods and services, as well as purchasing policies which aim, upstream, to facilitate repairs. REFUSE REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE RETURN TO

HE EARTH

Action 2: Switching to eco mode for your events

Taken in the production flow, confronted to the difficulties of supporting and monitoring the good actions of users, the task of managing waste during our events is not always easy. However, we must attack this weak link, especially since it represents a very good opportunity to raise awareness among participants. The associative and professional event sectors have largely taken up the subject in many countries. Get informed!

14 What is waste sorting 7 streams: https://www.az-environnement.fr/le-tri-des-dechets/le-tri-des-7-flux/

15 Also think about the KISS! method: Do I need it? Immediately ? Do I have something similar to replace? What is the Origin of my product? And is it really Useful?

IDING THF

BROWSE:

In France

- → The site of responsible events from ADEME
- → The platform ADERE supports you, from design to completion.
- → The publications of https://www.zerowastefrance.org/en/, such as "My zero waste sporting event".
- The guide to eco-events in Tourcoing from the Maison des associations de Tourcoing http://www.mda-tourcoing.fr/1/news_fichiers/1424guideecoevenementatelecharger.pd

Actions of the associations towards the institutions



Cited in issue 2, the promising development of repair and reuse for the sector of associations could be favoured by the implementation of **more concrete** tax advantages. For example, by applying a reduced VAT rate for refurbished items and repairing activities, or by multiplying funding towards the reuse sector¹⁶ from the **extended producer** **responsibility (EPR) channels**. These measures, still pending, would allow a significant change of scale.

Finally, let us recall the importance of administrative support for the development of disability inclusive sectors in particular, which, without a doubt, would benefit from the development of the repair and reuse markets.

Action 2: Increasing the number of stakeholders on the field to develop incentive pricing

Common household waste management systems rely on taxes or fees. However, as it has been documented for many years, these systems struggle to reduce waste production upstream. Already initiated in several member countries¹⁷, incentive pricing is among the most effective measures to tackle this problem and aim for waste reduction objectives at European level (see issue 1).

Incentive pricing: reduction of household waste by 30 to 50%, improvement in selective collections by 30%. (France, 2022, <u>source</u>)

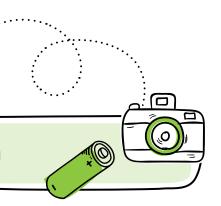
16 Principle recognised in the European framework directive on waste, according to which the own producers in the same sector are made responsible for ensuring the prevention and management of waste: <u>https://www.notre-environnement.gouv.fr/themes/economie/les-dechets-ressources/article/les-filieres-a-responsabilite-elargie-du-producteur-486</u>

17 Including France, see: Waste prevention: what public policy?

This incentive pricing partly links the amount paid by users to the actual quantity of waste they produce, so that "everyone (is) led to examine their consumption, from the angle of their own consequences on waste production" ¹⁸.

The problem often comes from its implementation by municipalities (cost and complexity) and its acceptance or unpopularity by households (the more waste we generate, the more we pay... but also vice versa). To promote this new system, associations could be a force for raising awareness, and, as such, be considered as co-acting partners with public authorities. The cultural obstacles are such and the issue so essential that we must increase the number of stakeholders on the field and mediation initiatives.

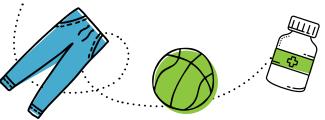
Actions of the associations towards the citizens



Action 1: Sectors that are still unknown

The sector itself notes a lack of information from users on a daily basis. Many products are thrown into household waste and end up in incinerators even though they can be partially or totally reused or recycled are **in extended producer responsibility (EPR) sectors**.

It is therefore **important to inform your users about these sectors and to know the measures put in place locally** (deposit in recycling centres, donations to associations, etc.). Among these poorly recycled products and yet associated with an EPR sector, we can name: sporting and leisure articles, toys, textile products, chemicals, batteries and accumulators, unused medicines, mineral and synthetic oils, electrical and electronic equipment, furnishing elements, DIY and garden articles.





Action 2: Many joyful and supportive alternatives exist. Make them known!

The ecological transition has multiplied collective initiatives, from associations or not, which help and raise awareness among citizens on the fight against waste and the proliferation of waste. Repair cafés, collective composters, solidarity fridges, library of things, local donation networks, second-hand fair, etc. are among some examples that we advise you to make known to your audiences. These initiatives are the emerging sign of a new culture of consumption, more sober and united, and so necessary for the paradigm shift required by the ecological transition. Get informed in your networks, you will undoubtedly be surprised to see the quantity of initiatives present in your city or town!

18 What realistic incentive system for the household waste reduction policy? CAIRN.info (2019)



Building and energy flows

Issues

Elssue 1: Energy sobriety and renewable energies

Since the industrial revolution, energy consumption continues to increase. The final global energy grew by 115% between 1973 and 2019.¹⁹

To achieve a viable model thanks to renewable energies, it is not enough to invest and build more and more wind turbines or solar panels. We need a real social project, a society that consumes less energy, much less energy. We must also be able to store this energy and better manage its flows in a more efficient and decentralized manner.²⁰

To contribute to this challenge, it is imperative that each of us act individually but also collectively to reduce our energy consumption and minimize the impact on the environment.

∄⊒⊞

∄≞∄

∄≞∄

Ħ

FP

Issue 2: Reducing the energy consumption of buildings

Buildings in the EU are responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions. An important area of improvement is the heating and cooling of buildings as well as domestic hot water which together represent 80% of the energy consumption of households.²¹ Reducing energy consumption in buildings is one of the priorities of the European Commission and the Member States of the European Union. In this sense, public initiatives are being promoted to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, such as the directive on the energy performance of buildings recently approved by the European Commission.²²

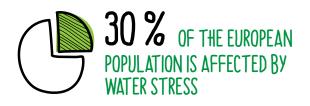
- 19 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_energy_supply_and_consumption
- 20 https://youmatter.world/en/
- 21 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20221128ST058002/energy-saving-eu-action-toreduce-energy-consumption
- 22 <u>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1639582331528&uri=COM%3A2021%3A802%3AFIN</u>

Issue 3: The energy and water crises in Europe

The energy crisis in Europe poses significant challenges for energy supply and demand. Growing dependence on imported fossil fuels and price volatility have highlighted Europe's vulnerability in terms of energy security. The energy production and consumption of all economic sectors represents more than 75% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions.²³

On the other hand, around 30% of the European population is affected by water stress²⁴, and we can expect the situation to get worse. Climate change is increasing the frequency, magnitude and impact of droughts.²⁵

The European Green Deal embodies the EU's commitment to initiating a green transition towards sustainability and energy sovereignty with the objectives of developing renewable energy and decarbonizing the energy system.²⁶



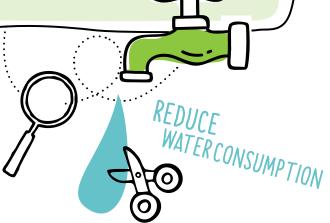
Internal actions of associations

Action 1: Auditing the consumption of energy flows: a key action for designing appropriate responses

An examination of our consumption in terms of flows (energy and water) allows us to identify opportunities for action and make informed decisions to implement effective measures, thus optimizing the use of resources and contributing to sustainability.

This analysis must be carried out in particular in two areas:

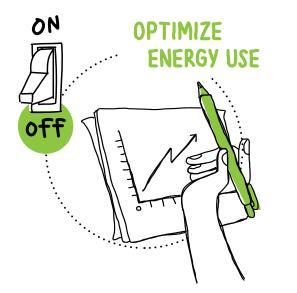
→ Water consumption: Reducing water consumption in buildings is essential to promote efficiency and sustainability. This involves responsible use of water, avoiding waste and maintaining facilities in optimal conditions. It



is advisable to implement water saving devices and, if possible, apply a monitoring system in order to identify consumption habits and make the necessary improvements.

- 23 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/En/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0640&
- 24 Situation in which there is not enough water of sufficient quality to meet the needs of the population and the environment
- 25 European Environment Agency <u>https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/water-stress-is-a-major</u>
- 26 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/En/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0640&from=EN%20

→ Sobriety in energy consumption: energy consumption in offices, particularly for air conditioning and heating, is essential. Knowing detailed consumption information helps improve energy efficiency. In the event of excessive consumption, it is essential to carry out a thorough audit of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system and understand user behaviour. Implementing automation and home automation can be an effective tool to help optimize energy use. These actions must be carried out in collaboration with the owners in the case of associations which do not have their own premises.



Action 2: Maintenance and responsible acquisition of equipment



Today, we are seeing a significant increase in the availability of energy-efficient equipment and installations, which consume less energy.²⁷ Ecolabelling plays a key role in guiding and assisting buyers in their choice. However, it is essential to emphasize the importance of proper use and proper maintenance of this equipment and installations to ensure their effectiveness over time.

Action 3: Proposing an internal protocol to the association in order to reduce emissions from energy devices

Within the framework of our associations, we recommend creating an internal protocol containing measures aimed at reducing emissions from our energy devices, by implementing actions for more environmentally friendly operation.

We also proactively promote sustainable behaviour among our members by raising awareness about energy savings, providing training and resources to promote eco-responsible practices. At the same time, we will ensure that we regularly assess our progress, monitor our performance and make necessary adjustments to achieve our emissions reduction targets.

²⁷ Energy labelling classifies energy-consuming equipment according to its energy efficiency, on a scale of letters and colours: class A (green) devices consume the least energy (the most energy efficient); Class G devices (red) consume the most energy.

To improve access and transparency of the energy labelling system, the European Product Register for Energy Labelling (EPREL - <u>https://eprel.ec.europa.eu</u>/) website is now fully operational . All products with mandatory energy labelling must be registered there before they can be sold on the EU market (physically or through online sales), by providing: the product information sheet, technical documentation and conformity control.

Actions of the associations towards the institutions

Action 1: Establishing and maintaining subsidies for renovation work and energy efficiency in the association buildings

In Europe, there are thousands of small and medium-sized associations which have very limited financial resources and do not have the capacity to face significant investments to improve the energy efficiency of their premises.

In this context, it is crucial that institutions at the local, regional level, national and European continually provide direct support or subsidies for the renovation of offices and buildings of these associations. These subsidies are necessary to encourage and facilitate the adoption of sustainable measures, such as the installation of energy-efficient lighting systems, improved thermal insulation, use of renewable energies and the modernisation of obsolete equipment.



Action 2: Promoting awareness campaigns

It is essential to promote awareness campaigns among associations. These initiatives aim to inform associations about the importance of responsible energy management, sustainable energy sources and measures to reduce their energy footprint. These campaigns encourage organizations to adopt eco-responsible practices, optimize their energy consumption and thus contribute to a more sustainable future.



Action 3: Supporting innovative projects to reduce energy consumption

Many associations are ready to take concrete actions to reduce their energy consumption. However, due to the high financial cost, rental constraints and lack of specific knowledge on how to proceed effectively, these actions still remain limited.

In this context, it is important that administrations support innovative initiatives, whether financially or

by promoting the visibility and recognition of these initiatives for their contribution to the ecological transition. Providing this visibility is also a way of being an example and a source of inspiration for other associations.



Having a more sustainable building does not guarantee a reduction in energy consumption. To move towards a true ecological transition, it is essential that we are aware of our energy consumption and that we take measures to reduce it. Energy efficiency consists of using energy efficiently, avoiding waste and opting for sustainable sources. The ecological transition is only possible if each of us commits individually. Associations are structures that promote human relations, collective responsibility and commitment to action for sustainable development

Action 2: Encouraging the creation of places to meet and exchange experiences

It is essential to establish environments conducive to dialogue and collaboration, where we can share experiences and knowledge with the aim of strengthening our actions in favour of the ecological transition.

The relevance of this issue is such that, from the sphere of associations, the creation of these spaces must be encouraged in order to promote greater collective awareness and provide participants with concrete tools to act.





Issue 1: Promoting low-carbon mobility to respond to the climate crisis

The objective sets out the scale of the challenge: in accordance with the European Green Deal, **we must reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transport by 90% to achieve carbon neutrality in 2050**. Among all GHG emissions due to transport, the share falling to personal cars is the main one since it represents 60.6% of road transport (which represents 71.7% of GHGs from transport in total)²⁸.

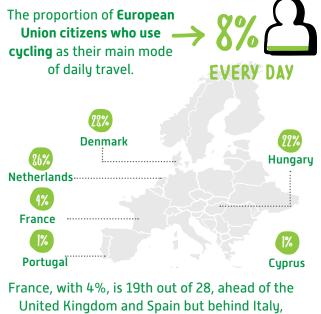
In the shorter term, the European Union's intermediate emissions reduction targets for 2030 will **mark the next few years**²⁹:

15 km/h in town on average for the cyclist,

compared to 14 km/h for the car driver (ademe)

- → 55% for cars
- → 50% for vans.

We can clearly see that the use of individual vehicles represents a great challenge for sustainable mobility, and requires integrating **a low carbon approach** for all our professional and personal travel (see source ³⁰ and the graph on the reason for travel).



Poland and Belgium. (source)

28 CO2 emissions from cars: facts and figures (infographic), European Parliament, 2023

KM/H

29 <u>Adjustment to Target 55: Council adopts regulation on CO2 emissions from new cars and vans</u>, European Council, March 2023.

30 Traveling by car alone, with others or in a carpool?, Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, France, July 2022.

Issue 2: Beware of the risks of increasing mobility precariousness



Radically reducing our dependence on fossil fuels or individual use of the car (autosolism) raises the obligation to support the millions of citizens who are already (and risk becoming even more so) in a situation of precarious mobility.

In France, for example, there are a total of **13.3 million people** who encounter difficulties in: simply getting around, paying for their fuel, changing their aging vehicle for a more recent one, having alternatives to the car for long journeys.³¹

13.3 MILLION PEOPLE ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING AROUND



These difficulties have **direct social repercussions** on access to employment, health and leisure, especially since they directly confront other vital choices: eating, heating.

At European level, the recent **Social Climate Fund**³² intends to participate in overcoming these difficulties and new measures are recommended at national level, such as social leasing of vehicles and electric bicycles³³.

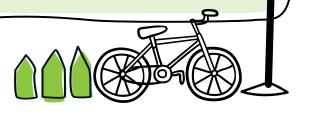
The sector of associations will obviously be attentive to the social measures deployed so that the ecological transition is not a sign of growing social injustice.

Internal actions of associations

Action 1: Taking the step of sustainable mobility internally and then support your employees

Take the first step towards sustainable mobility. It will place your entity in action, concreteness and will more actively support changes in behaviour internally than if your intention is simply informative, or even restrictive.

More fully detailed in **our methodological guide** (*link*), you can first consider improving your spaces (such as setting up secure bicycle parking), offering training (such as getting back into the saddle) or a service (such as a subscription to a car-sharing and carpooling network or cover public transport subscriptions beyond the legal 50%).



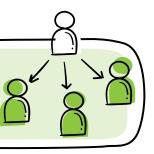
The second and main chapter concerns **the public aid from which your association could benefit. These mechanisms often remain unknown.** In France, for example, associations can rely on the electrically assisted bicycle bonus (VAE), the sustainable mobility package, the bicycle conversion bonus (PAC Vélo) or the ecological bonus for sales of electric vehicles. Get support from your communities or associations specializing in mobility.

31 https://www.fnh.org/13-3-millions-de-francais-en-precarite-mobilite/(2021)

32 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/fit-for-55-social-climate-fund/

33 <u>How to transform everyday mobility</u> [19 measures for fairer and more sustainable mobility, Climate Action Network [2022]

Action 2: Share actions with other local stakeholders



A new area of mobility requires **an enormous cultural change**: dethroning the individualistic approach to transport by strengthening the benefits of the collective. Public transport as well as **the development of carpooling and car sharing** are examples to follow within your structures (especially in less dense areas).

"A motorist employee who lives 30 km from their workplace and who carpools daily alternating with a neighbour colleague saves around €2000 per year".³⁴ While waiting for a real development of daily carpooling by the public authorities, associations have to gain in **cooperating with other neighbouring entities.**

However, the pooling of actions can extend to many other areas, from the moment we become aware of the needs of those around us. **Consider sharing**: secure bicycle parking, training (bicycle repair, city driving), purchasing or renting bicycles, coworking spaces when the workplace is far from home, challenges and games around mobility (such as <u>Bikecitizens</u> in Austria), etc.

These approaches are both beneficial for creating social bonds and will allow **collaboration with other entities sensitive to the ecological transition.**

Actions of the associations towards the institutions

Action 1: Supporting associations that develop sustainable mobility solutions

The proximity and community services of the associations make them undeniable allies in promoting sustainable mobility. Whether or not they specialize in this field, associations can act at their level to train and raise awareness among their users through multiple activities: by managing sustainably transport during events, during training to get back in the saddle or connecting people for carpooling or car sharing.

In terms of training and direct support for the sector, associations could encourage institutions to **open "sustainable mobility" type packagese to volunteers**, or support them in their procedures

(help with the purchase/rental of vehicleselos and VAE, materials, subsidies for a reduction in carsharing or carpooling services, etc.).

Valorising and financing more massively actions and **field experiences** of associations is necessary to accelerate changes in behaviour and address the climate and social issues mentioned above.

However, certain institutions are embarking on ecoconditionality of aid. Let's stay vigilant to these new forms of contractualization. A descending position of financiers could risk blocking associations in the process of improvement.

34 <u>How to transform everyday mobility?</u> Climate Action network, Oct 2022.

Action 2: For local town planning that promotes soft mobility



At first glance, land use planning or urban sprawl seems to go beyond the operational framework of many small and medium-sized associations. However, cities like Ghent³⁵in Belgium, or Barcelona³⁶in Spain, have been able to develop innovative public policies in collaboration with the local fabric of associations. The latter is an essential partner for **co-creating such development measures and promoting the acceptance of residents.**

The stakes are high and touch the heart of sustainable mobility. This involves **densifying and diversifying local services and businesses**, to reduce travel and promote soft mobility (see the Shift Project recommendations)³⁷

Very attached to the social and economic development of territories, associations are leading field agents to support the transition to softer mobility. Number of them participated in the development of promising and popular initiatives, such as <u>streets for children</u>, that managed to seduce residents and merchants by pacifying the streets for a day or a weekend, or even the <u>school streets</u>. On a larger scale, the <u>European Mobility Week</u> or thematic months, like <u>https://maiavelo.fr/</u>, are also good opportunities for associations to combine proximity and soft mobility with their activities.

Actions by associations with citizens



The obstacles to soft mobility are often well anchored in our personal and social habits. To resolve these blockages, it is strongly recommended to **mobilise the emotions and the body** so that an awarenessraising process, in addition to being informative, is also a **lived experience**. Whether your association is sporting, cultural, social, etc., you can take the first steps by supporting your users to a group get back in the saddle or a carpooling experience, for example for an event. Mentioned above, initiatives such as children's streets are also great successes in restoring a taste for walking and cycling. Participate and raise awareness among your audiences through all these local initiatives, which invite in a friendly way to promote a better quality of life, less stressful and polluting.

^{35 &}lt;u>https://rue-avenir.ch/themes/quartiers-sans-voitures/gand-vile-modele/</u>

³⁶ https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/superilles/en/

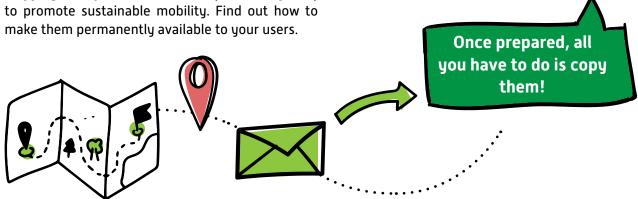
³⁷ https://theshiftproject.org/en/a-guide-to-daily-low-carbon-mobility/

Action 2: Facilitate information to your users



Encourage users to find alternatives driving. To do this, provide them with clear information on active travel modes (walking, shared bikes and scooters, etc.), on public transport, carpooling and carsharing is essential.

Many communities and specialized associations offer free communication kits, displays and even mappings and peaceful itineraries(on foot, by bike) to promote sustainable mobility. Find out how to make them permanently available to your users. For all your activities, **punctuate your usual communications** (emails, displays, social networks) with practical and clear instructions on the sustainable mobility available (how to get there at your premises or at an event, what services operate in your area, etc.).

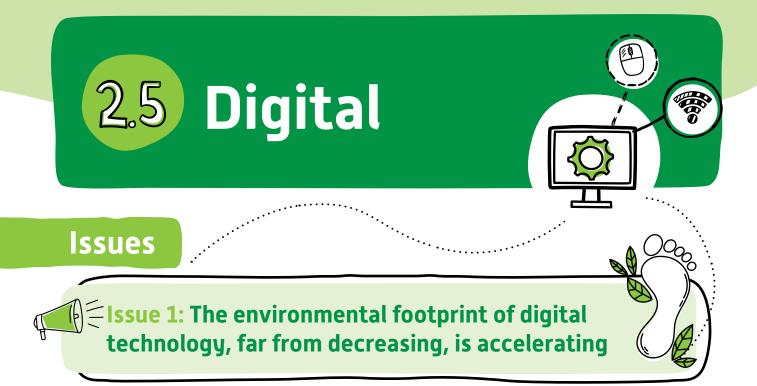


Action 3: Make the cost and ecological impact cars more visible

We mentioned it in the issues, it is essential to participate collectively in reducing short car journeys as well as single-use driving. If the development of an imagination focused on well-being and better living together generally recommended in soft mobility is, it is also interesting **to focus awareness on the cost and ecological impact** of the car, particularly in relation to other modes of travel.

You will touch **sensitive points there at the individual level** (health and purchasing power) but also at the level of common goods (the figures on air pollution due to road transport speak for themselves).





Digital technology is undoubtedly at the heart and at a pivotal moment in our ecological transition. Individually, several decades have led us to constantly "update", and many of our digital uses are now well covered by efficient devices. Yet, technologies continue to evolve at high speed (5G, connected objects, ChatGPT, etc.) and increasingly draw on the planet's resources, which questions our relation to innovation.

Our choices for developing digital technologies will become crucial, particularly in relation to their carbon footprint. This footprint could be multiplied or, on the contrary, limited thanks to the resource savings implemented.

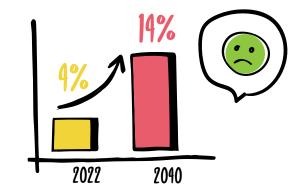
This is the whole point of <u>the digital strategy for</u> <u>Europe</u> which will have to adapt to the objective of climate neutrality by 2050.

Right now, the curve is not moving in the direction of digital sobriety : if the carbon footprint of digital technology already represented 3 to 4% of global GHG emissions in 2022³⁸, it could reach 14% of emissions by 2040³⁹.

However, the carbon footprint is not the only debate. Depletion of abiotic resources (fossils, minerals and metals), acidification, ecotoxicity, ionizing radiation, emissions of fine particles, production of waste, are all challenges to which we will have to respond.

Let's take the sole case of rare metals, omnipresent in our technological devices. Their growing uses will constantly be confronted with their own accessibility. It is expected that they will become a crucial strategic issue in the low-carbon transition and that they will be at the heart of political tensions in the future.

THE CURVE IS NOT MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF DIGITAL SOBRIETY



If the carbon footprint of digital technology already represented **3 to 4% of global GHG emissions in 2022**, it could reach **14% of emissions by 2040**.

^{38 &}lt;u>Assessment of the environmental impact of digital technology in France and prospective analysis</u>, ADEME and Arcep, January 2022

³⁹ Supporting the green transition - shaping Europe's future, European Commission, February 2020.

Elssue 2: From illiteracy to digital illiteracy

The integration of digital technologies into daily life, including public services, often remains out of step with the digital skills of residents. As pointed out by <u>DESI Index</u>, strong inequalities are observed within the European Union and it appears that the digital divide tends to become more pronounced by putting the least advantaged people on the margins of the digitalization of our societies⁴⁰. Access to public services, care, training, management of an association, job search, this divide requires redoubled efforts so that the inclusion of digital services is transversal to all publics.



🗧 Issue 3: Respect for privacy

Targeted advertisements based on our internet searches or recurring recommendations from our social networks have made us aware of the collection of data in our daily lives. Largely opaque several years ago, **the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, in force since 2018 in Europe, wanted to make us aware of this phenomenon and improve our rights:

- → Be informed and consent or not to the use of our data;
- Know the data that an organization holds from us;

However, it is clear that given the scale, constant pressure and complexity of these data collections, **most users have become permissive and do not yet understand the potential repercussions**. Among these, we note the analysis and sale of targeted consumer list according to marketing criteria which has become an exponential market that is difficult to control, the expected increase of mass surveillance (facial recognition, drone, etc.), or even geolocation and connected objects which will raise enormous questions in terms of data security and confidentiality.

- CONSENT OR NOT \rightarrow (RNOW) \rightarrow (CORRECT OR DELETE RGPD
- → Correct or delete our data.

40 In Europe, only 35% of 55-74 year olds and 29% of inactive or retired people have the basics in terms of digital skills. The proportion of Belgians with low incomes in a situation of digital vulnerability reaches 63% (Data reported by the study : Electronicism in Europe, A digital and social divide, Pour la Solidarité, March 2023)

Internal actions of associations

Action 1: Using reconditioned equipment, a driving market



Think about it! There are still many of simply not paying attention to it⁴¹. Booming, reconditioning could quickly become **a driving market for the digital transition**. If the offer of mobile phones dominates, all the electronic or electrical equipment that an association needs gradually adds to the catalogue. Indeed, if reconditioning is able to respond to usual purchasing behaviours, such as reduced prices, access to a quality offer or the desire for renewal, it carries within itself strong values such as antiwaste, reuse and protection of resources.

Its potential is a very encouraging sign **on an economic but also cultural level**. In the short term, it could lead to significant changes in behaviour to democratize and make the second-hand and repair market more attractive.

Action 2: Bring yourself up-to-date (as far as possible) on the issues and good practices

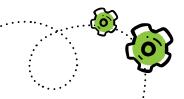
In view of the complexity of issues cited (digital sobriety and divide, respect for privacy), we measure the difficulty for associations to take on the challenges of sustainable digital technology. Training employees and volunteers should be a prerequisite. As such, free software*present tools that are generally better eco-designed and more respectful of privacy (however, we advise you to bring someone with you).

Particular attention is also to be brought on **the choice of your providers**. Choose a web developer who masters good practices in eco-responsible digital technology (like a server running to renewable energies). Also pay attention to respecting the privacy of your users, a database created for one-off activity and kept on a cloud (by you or a collaborating entity) should be deleted once the activity is completed.



⁴¹ According to the <u>study</u> conducted in France in 2020 by the German platform Rebuy, 22% of those questioned had not thought about it.

Actions of the associations towards the institutions





Action 1: Encourage the repair market

As we indicate in our fact sheet on waste, Europe is in the process of applying new, more restrictive measures in terms of product sustainability.

These measures will apply in particular to the digital and electronic market, which will undoubtedly make it possible to fill the lack of consumer information and to push competition from manufacturers.

Note that France, with the law to combat waste and for the circular economy, is a pioneer in the

obligation of such measures, with the entry into force in 2024 of the sustainability index⁴², which should replace the repairability index⁴³.

We can only encourage the sector of associations to be vigilant about the requirements and application of these next measures as the repair market **could bring jobs and investments**, particularly for associations.

Action 2: Promoting information to consumers

Raw material extraction conditions, planned obsolescence, product durability, etc., purchasing computer equipment while being aware of its social and environmental impact is often reserved for the most daring. Despite the numerous labels (see our methodological guide), **digital environmental labelling** has not been well assimilated by the general public, who demand, in particular, greater transparency on the durability and repairability of products⁴⁴. Support European public initiatives, such as the **digital passport**⁴⁵, or national, such as the sustainability index in France, is an essential issue of the digital transition to which all associations should provide their support.



42 The index should be structured around the following three main criteria: reliability, repairability, and scalability. https://www.stopobsolescence.org/

44 Product sustainability, a strategic issue for companies, The Sustainability Club, November 2018.

^{43 &}quot;By displaying a score out of 10, this index informs consumers about the more or less repairable nature of the products concerned." <u>https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/indice-reparabilite</u>

⁴⁵ It is a digital product sheet that will provide information on the origin, composition, repair and disassembly options of a product as well as how the different components can be recycled. <u>https://www.gs1.fr/actualite/passeport-numerique-produits</u>

Actions of the associations towards the citizens



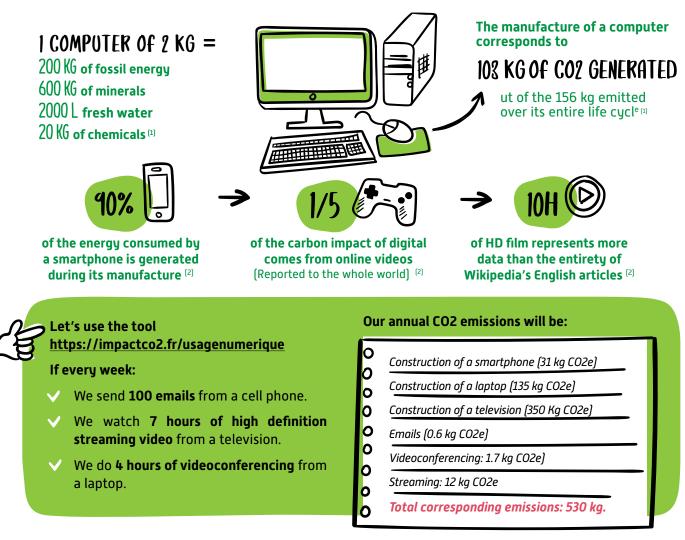
Action 1: Raise awareness of the impacts

Associations have a notable role in raising citizen awareness on the impacts of digital technology on the environment. Indeed, confusion remains for many people about the real impacts of our devices and their uses.

If flat screens quickly managed to erase their impacts from our memory, we can still talk about a "hidden face", "virtual world, real impacts". We advise you to follow these formulas to highlight the impact of our uses and purchases.

- Please note that it is the device manufacturing phase that has the most impact. It represents 78% of the carbon footprint of digital equipment (report from Ademe and Arcep).
- → Our uses also require increased attention, particularly with a view to their expansions: emails, streaming, video conferences and all the tools available on the cloud.

Here are some benchmarks and examples that can serve to your audiences:



(1) Ademe

(2) Online videos emit as much CO2 as a European country, Novethic, July 2019

Action 2: Deprogram this easy reflex of changing equipment

Communicate the need to change this (bad) reflex! Even if the renewal rate has recently fallen in Europe, following the economic difficulties of Covid 19 and the satisfactory performance of most of our devices, this easy reflex to change equipment as soon as it shows a failure or out of desire to have a more efficient model remains well established. **Slowing down this decision, questioning the real needs and skills of your users is an essential challenge,** especially as 5G arrives to challenge us again on our purchasing behaviour.

IDENTIFY SUPPLIERS OF RECONDITIONED PRODUCTS. LABELLED PRODUCTS





DO NOT BUY A CHEAP AND NOT DURABLE PRODUCT IN A HURRY!

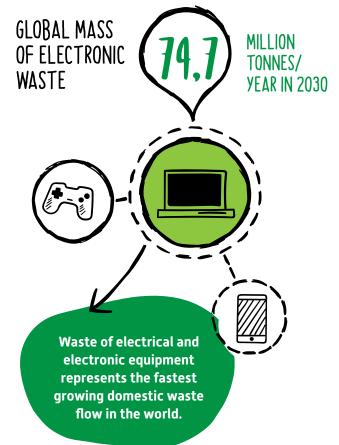
Action 3: Let's free up the drawers... and recycle better!

Telephones, hi-fi systems, computers, connected objects, televisions, video games... This global mass of electronic waste could reach **74.7 million tonnes/** year in 2030⁴⁶. It is the fastest growing domestic waste flow in the world.

In Europe, measures are piling up and our old continent could be a good student at the global level. But with less than 40% recycling rate⁴⁷, the efforts to be made are still considerable **and we are completely exceeding our capacity to safely recycle or destroy our waste.**

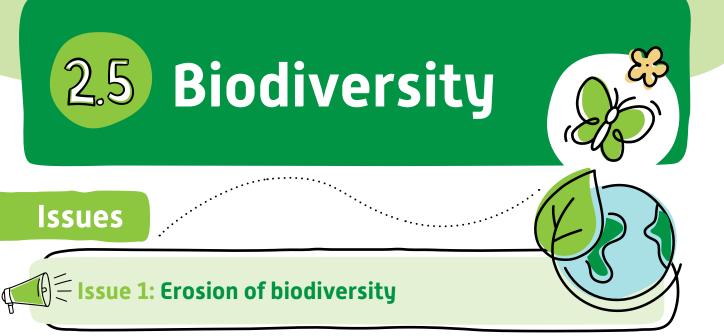
This is a vast subject for raising awareness among your users, especially since the consequences of these devices that are not or little recycled are still poorly understood: contamination of soil, wildlife and people, export to third countries in huge landfills, waste of rare metals not reused, etc.

Encourage your users to free their drawers and help them recycle better by offering them alternatives.



46 The volume of electronic waste is exploding and its recycling rate remains ridiculous, August 2020, The conversation.

47 Electronic waste in the European Union: facts and figures (infographic), European Parliament, April 2023.



It is established that the state of the planet in general and of biodiversity in particular is seriously deteriorating. Since the advent of the Anthropocene, the rate of extinction of animal and plant species has never been so high, estimated at 100 times higher than the rates of the five great mass extinctions on Earth, to the point that we are witnessing, today, at the sixth mass extinction.⁴⁸According to a 2019 report of the IPBES, one million species are endangered out of approximately eight

million.⁴⁹Across the European continent, more than 80% of natural habitats are in a poor state of conservation.⁵⁰ Protecting biodiversity means preserving the beauty of the world in which we live and all the vital services it provides to humans.

Awareness of our belonging to living things and the links that unite us to all other species is the sine qua none condition for the survival of our species.⁵¹

Issue 2: Erosion of knowledge and of our connection with nature

Distance, "disconnection" and ignorance of nature do not allow us to act to protect it. $^{\rm 52}$

Erosion of knowledge and experience of nature

Everyone has already measured it, during a family or work meeting, in a group of adults or children: we know less and less about nature. Who today knows how to name the bird that sings in the garden or the butterfly that gathers nectar on a dandelion? Few people know that the dandelion is a plant very rich in nectar and pollen, that ivy does not make holes in the walls but on the contrary protects them from fine particle pollution and temperature variations (a wall covered with Ivy is 4°C warmer in winter and 15°C cooler in summer, compared to a wall without ivy!).

- 48 Threats to biodiversity our environment
- 49 <u>Press release: The dangerous decline of nature: An "unprecedented" and accelerating rate of species extinction | IPBES</u> secretariat
- 50 Biodiversity: what is the European Union doing? Touteleurope.eu
- 51 Threatened biodiversity: what are the findings? what strategies? our environment
- 52 Introduction-to-the-Plan-and-list-of-actions.pdf (graine-normandie.net)

The feeling of connection to our natural environment, of belonging to living things, diminishes from generation to generation, due to a scarcity of opportunities and desires to experience nature without constraint, freely and in a personal way.⁵³

Clearly identified reasons

We are decreasing our contact with nature through our more urban lifestyles and the increasing use of technologies. Travel to school and work is mainly done by car⁵⁴, young children play less outside. The attraction of technology, screens of all kinds, game consoles, the internet and other social networks diverts our attention to nature.⁵⁵ Parents, sometimes looking for maximum safety and perfect hygiene, keep their children away from situations deemed dangerous, or simply dirty...⁵⁶

Issue 3: Conserve biodiversity to protect health and fight poverty

Scientific research reveals a growing number of links between biological diversity, human health and well-being.

Health is on the plate

On a physiological level, it is proven that many diseases are a direct result of the industrialisation of our diet. The existence of a variety of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity is essential to maintaining human health. It ensures food security, adequate nutrition, which promotes resistance to diseases.⁵⁷

The poorest populations are the most impacted by the collapse of biodiversity. Seventy percent of the world's poor live in rural areas and are directly dependent on biodiversity for their survival and wellbeing. That of urban areas is also very dependent on biological diversity to access food and a healthy environment.⁵⁸



of the **world's poor** live in rural areas and are **directly dependent on biodiversity** for their survival and well-being.

Lack of nature syndrome

In the West, it is recognized that we spend less and less time in nature, but it is good for our health and it is now proven! If this public health issue affects populations in industrialised countries who have cut themselves off from their connection with nature, it widens inequalities. It is often the most disadvantaged populations who live cut off from the benefits of nature in dense housing and sparsely green neighbourhoods.

- 53 Introduction-to-the-Plan-and-list-of-actions.pdf (graine-normandie.net)
 - R. Pyle and J. Miller developed the idea of extinction of nature experience, Miller, JR 2005. Biodiversity conservation and the extinction of experience. Trends in Ecol. Evol. 20, 430–434.
- 54 In France, 60% of home-work journeys of less than 5 km are made by car (Insee 2021)
- 55 The time spent on screens is only increasing. Adults spend on average 5h07 minutes per day in front of screens, compared to 3h10 ten years ago. And this, outside of professional activity! <u>Screens, a health hazard?</u> Produced by Décod'actu in 2018
- 56 Young children and screens: a study confirms that uses in France exceed recommendations (lemonde.fr)
- 57 https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/fr/CBD-IDB%20booklet%20UNDP%20FR-Web.pdf
- 58 Same

"Spending time in nature is essential for development, both psychologically and physically. Some researchers even claim that a daily dose of nature can prevent and treat many medical conditions. » Hyperactivity, obesity, hypertension, asthma, depression, motor delay, social disability, stress, fatigue. In 2008, a Birdlife International report on *Well-being through nature in the European Union* synthesized several of these studies.⁵⁹

NATURE = PREVENTION



Internal actions of associations



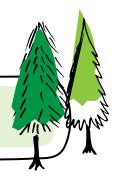
Action 1: Develop the "culture of nature"

First of all, we invite you to develop a culture of nature within your volunteer and employee teams. It is now established that the acquisition of knowledge, as essential as it may be to form enlightened citizens, does not go without the feeling of belonging to the living community. Today, nature is at best a

"We are capable of going through the forest without the forest going through us", Louis Espinassous. backdrop. And if we want to trigger action, we must "touch and be touched" by nature.

Make regular appointments outside to familiarize yourself with the surrounding nature, visit it regularly, and pay particular attention to it.

Propose actions that allow you to observe and learn about the surrounding flora and fauna and become aware of the ordinary biodiversity in the environment close to the association (garden, courtyard, neighbourhood, city).



Action 2: Act on surrounding biodiversity

To take action, you can also transmit your observations on the surrounding fauna and flora (birds, butterflies, insects, etc.) by participating in participatory science actions and help researchers study the effects of climate, urbanisation and agriculture on biodiversity. In France, there is the Vigie-Nature program which allows you to simply transmit data such as the number of snails, birds, wild plants (...) observed in your garden or street.⁶⁰

60 https://www.vigienature.fr/fr/tous-2932

^{59 &}lt;u>Syndrome-lack-of-nature-ASH.pdf;</u> Louv R., Last Child in the woods: saving our children from nature-deficit disorder, 2005. Unfortunately not translated into French

Invite the members of your association to identify green spaces on which the association can have an action favourable to nature: greening of common areas, greening of parking lots, bird nesting boxes, flowers for feeding wild bees, etc. The development of the site spaces can be organized in the form of participatory projects with, if necessary, the support of an environmental association.

Create a link between your activities and the protection of nature by integrating biodiversity into the association's projects (e.g. sporting challenge or cultural event).⁶¹

0

Actions of the associations towards the institutions



Action 1: Preserve nature

Urbanisation, infrastructure and intensive agriculture destroy and fragment natural spaces. The green and blue framework identifies the network of environments essential to the life cycles of species to better protect, restore and connect them. These links ensure ecological continuity and make it possible to develop the territory while preserving biodiversity. It is necessary for public authorities to take them into account in all construction projects for buildings, business zones or roads, and therefore to identify them when developing the rules for occupation of different parts of the territory.⁶²

The authorities can also help protect biodiversity by promoting access to agricultural land for farms that preserve soil and biodiversity and by encouraging the revegetation of streets by residents. For example, the development of a charter for the greening of public space makes it possible to supervise citizen initiatives to appropriate public space to green their city.⁶³

NATURE

EXPERIENCES

Action 2: Support nature education and the creation of green spaces

Institutions can play a leading role by supporting nature education projects that make individuals sensitive and receptive to their natural environment. From this perspective, it is fundamental to give citizens access to natural spaces where they can

live "nature experiences" or find conditions of pleasure and well-being. These green spaces can also become reservoirs of biodiversity. Awareness associations, the public, teachers and educators are waiting for local nature discovery places.

^{61 &}lt;u>https://www.sportsdenature.gouv.fr/sport-et-biodiversite-le-nouveau-guide-de-l-union-internationale-de-</u> conservation-de-la-nature; Introduction-to-the-Plan-and-list-of-actions.pdf (graine-normandie.net)

^{62 &}lt;u>https://www.ofb.gouv.fr/trame-verte-et-bleue</u>

⁶³ https://www.nature4citylife.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/N4CL_Marseille_permis_.pdf

Finally, nature education aims to train informed and clearsighted citizens on biodiversity issues in their territory, able to make choices and get involved at their level.

<section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text>

Inform by making visible, by showing and learning about biodiversity on the association's website: label the plants (plant tags) and the actions carried out by the association on the subject (bird nest boxes, etc.).

Unite around meetings and simple actions that will trigger awareness, the feeling of belonging to living things and commitment. The routes are diverse and varied to make you want to join action groups: waste collection, biodiversity fresco, nature festival, cooking workshop. The important thing is to give food for thought, to take pleasure in doing things together and to question our practices, our modes of consumption without judgment!

64 <u>Reconnect to Nature — The barometer of connection to nature (reconnect-to-nature.com)</u> or <u>Test to calculate your</u> <u>connection to nature – Maïté Jacquot (maitejacquot.com)</u>

65 (The sensitive approach to nature education | FCPN p7)

Action 2: A small gesture for humans, a big one for biodiversity!

Raise awareness about easy eco-actions to preserve biodiversity: avoid using pesticides, toxic household products, chemical cosmetics and do not leave trash in nature⁶⁶.

No product is without impact. A first step would be to favour the aforementioned products bearing eco-labels. Although less polluting, they still contain many molecules from petrochemicals. The best is therefore to create it yourself using products that are as natural as they are effective such as, for household products, black soap, baking soda, lemon or white vinegar and to perfume them with essential oils.⁶⁷



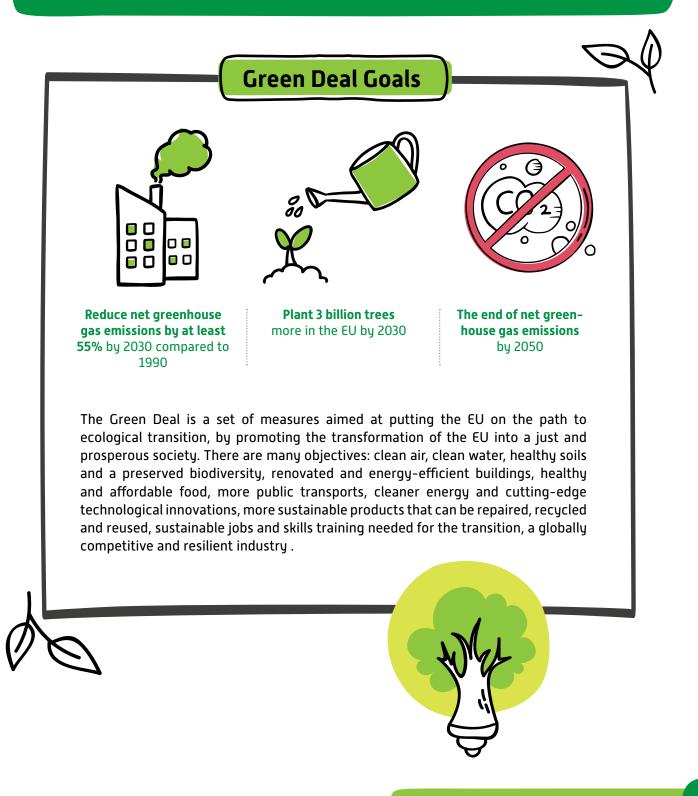
⁶⁶ According to a report from <u>the International Union for Conservation of Nature</u> (IUCN), nearly 230,000 tonnes of plastic are dumped into the Mediterranean each year.

⁶⁷ Source: Biodiversity - All the gestures (ofb.fr)



Global issues and messages

Major issues of the ecological transition on a European scale



Issue 1: Involving and collaborate with all stakeholders in society for the ecological transition

This **desire to act** for the transition is today part of a global European, and almost global, movement. From the youth climate marches in many cities around the world, to the European Green Deal, the current transition trend is real and driven collaboratively by stakeholders of society at all levels. :



The citizens commit on an individual level to changing their habits, their way of moving, consuming, their relationship with things. This commitment can also become collective in their workplace and/or in a voluntary setting.



Companies and organisations, notably those of social economy, act for the ecological transition in order to have a positive impact on society.

Associations through their values of respect and inclusion, are actors in the ecological transition or want to become one. The TEDDA project is an example, and is perfectly anchored in the ecological transition path desired by the European Union.



Local authorities actively support the ecological transition through their funding allocated to the transformation.



The European Commission works to establish a framework that is increasingly conducive to the development of a more sustainable and resilient social economy. Indeed, after co-construction work with 80 social economy stakeholders, including small and medium-sized associations, the Commission launched in 2022 the transition path for the local and social economy ecosystem. This is an essential element of its industrial policy and its action plan for the social economy.⁶⁸

Public authorities at all levels – local, regional, national and European – therefore provide a **leverage effect** to make this transition, from which small and medium-sized associations can benefit **to activate and raise awareness of this issue in their communities**.

68 The report of this consultation presents thirty actions, non-binding and grouped within fourteen areas. It encourages public authorities to support the creation of local green partnerships and proposes improving value chains in circular waste management, accelerating the production of clean energy, to support sustainable food markets etc.

For more information: <u>https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/proximity-and-social-economy/</u> transition-pathway_en

Issue 2: Contributing to the implementation of the Green Deal for Europe: co-finance its projects using European funds

- → The current European trend is towards transition. The European Commission gives an important place to the transition by massively promoting local, regional and national projects working towards this objective. One of the EU's five priorities for the period 2021-2027⁶⁹ is a greener, "net-zero emissions" Europe⁷⁰» by 2030, which implements the Paris Agreement and invests in the energy transition, renewable energies and the fight against climate change.
- Structural funds:_it is recently, as part of the 2021-2027 programming, that these funds from the European Commission have been used for the transition, and this is indicative of a desire to support structures wishing to work in this direction. These structural funds are broadly divided into two parts: the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and the **ESF+** (European Social Fund), which will be implemented through regional or national programs or European territorial cooperation (Interreg). The FEDER allows more "material" investments, for the renovation or construction of buildings for example. The ESF allows more investments in skills development, such as training. Even if the administrative burden can represent an obstacle to these funding requests, associations can build complementary partnerships in terms of expertise (themes, knowledge of financing mechanisms and monitoring) to remedy this.
- **Erasmus+ program:** preserving the environment and the fight against global warming is one of the four **priorities** of the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 program. For example, the program finances **cooperative partnerships** enabling the coconstruction of methods and tools, which are transnational projects in which at least three organizations from three EU Member States must participate. The TEDDA project is an example of a project resulting from this system.
- A key challenge for associations, as vectors of European policies and major field players in society, is to be part of the transition by relying in particular on the European action plan for the social economy.



⁶⁹ For illustration, see: https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/fonds-europeens-2021-2027

^{70 &}quot;Net zero emissions" simply means that greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to as close to zero as possible, with remaining emissions in the atmosphere reabsorbed, for example by oceans and forests. <u>https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition</u>

Issue 3: Acting together towards a common objective: a just transition



- → The common objective is to successfully complete a transition with social and environmental implications, and society's stakeholders all have an interest in working in this direction. Indeed, according to the European Alliance for a Just Transition, of which POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS (partner of the TEDDA project) is a part, action to fight against global warming can be a real lever to generate opportunities for people the most disadvantaged and to improve the wellbeing of people, their quality of life, to ensure access to rights (to healthy food, to drinking water, etc.) and to reduce social injustices, because the people most affected by climate change are generally those who are already the most vulnerable!
- The Alliance also insists that this profound societal transformation must be developed in a holistic and inclusive manner, protecting and guaranteeing the rights of all. To be truly just, climate action must improve the living and working conditions of all people and communities around the world, in the South and the North.
- This ecological and inclusive transition approach is also supported by the European Commission, which wishes to transform our economy and our societies while supporting vulnerable citizens and fighting against inequalities and energy poverty.

Resources on the Just Transition

European Alliance for a Just Transition:

- joint-declaration-by-european-alliance-for-a-just-transition-fr.pdf (pourlasolidarite.eu)
- <u>SOLIDAR_Study_Just_Transition_2021.pdf</u>

European Commission :

<u>The Just Transition Mechanism (europa.eu)</u>

CLER-Réseau for the energy transition:

- <u>Gender disparities in behaviours and consequences associated with climate change | Bank</u> of France (banque-france.fr)
- Social issues of the ecological transition: Social Information Review 2022/2 | Cairn.info
- Reappropriate the sector landscapes to have control over the collective choices that lead to them: <u>ARTICLE-65-Collectif-Pap_AD-min.pdf (paysages-apres-petrole.org)</u>

Real estate and solidarity sobriety, a challenge to take up:

Debate: Should we still build? - The Great Conversation



Main actions undertaken by associations both internally and among themselves

Action 1: Raising awareness among your partners: no need to be an expert in sustainable development!

In connection with issue 1, the success of the ecological transition lies in the necessity of all to contribute to it! Even if your action does not directly concern the environment, everyone has the right to speak and raise awareness about sustainable development: raising awareness is a way to equip yourself to act. If each contributes to the transition, we will create changes of scale, as theorized by Malcolm Gladwell in his book *The Tipping Point, how to make a big difference with very small things*. Because yes, small changes can change everything: if 10% of the population mobilizes then we reach the tipping point! From this book, which we recommend, we can compare small and medium-sized associations

to "rare birds", that is to say those who take up an major issue, and thanks to their varied network, their energy, their enthusiasm and their knowledge, spread their good practices and contribute to change.

- Raising awareness among the volunteer and employee team is therefore a first step before taking action, so that everyone understands the issue and takes charge of it.
 - Obviously, this awareness-raising action is present throughout the transition process, when you take stock of your practices, and take measures for greater sobriety, communicate and let your ecosystem know that taking action is possible!

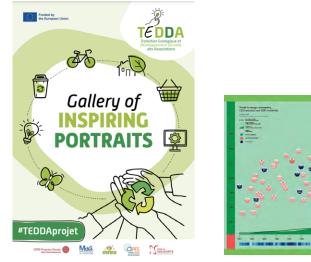
150

Action 2: Taking stock of practices within the structure: discuss possible changes together

- Establish an "Ecological Transition Plan" in its association and its activities, based in particular on the themes addressed in the TEDDA methodological guide, to evolve based on clear and concrete data. This will allow you to identify the most emitting areas of your association, and will give you an overview of possible areas of action.
- → Where to start ? Discuss and define the actions that each and the collective are ready to take. Starting from changes in habits that are simpler to implement, it is possible, as specified in issue 2, to then carry out larger projects for the ecological transition and co-finance them with EU programs and/or national or territorial initiatives.

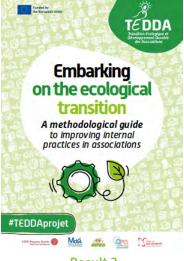
Action 3: Supporting the structure and its members in changing practices and acquiring new skills

- To support the transformation of your organisation towards greater energy sobriety, numerous tools are at your disposal, including the tools of the TEDDA project: gallery of inspiring portraits (result 1), the energy transition timeline and the footprint game carbon (result 2), and the methodological guide to initiate your ecological transition (result 3).
- It is desirable to train and integrate a sustainability referent manager in your association, which will design a sustainability plan and supervise actions in this area. This ensures that the transition process is carried out, with a person responsible for monitoring.



Result 1

Result 2



Result 3

Actions of the associations towards the institutions

Action 1: Identifying and sharing your association's progress with public entities

- → By showing the authorities everything you are doing to be more energy sober and make a just transition, they will better understand the essential role you play, and will think of you to co-construct the transition policy in your locality.
- Through their field practice, associations often have a fair view of realities. It is therefore very important to convey to decision-makersshare the actions of your association and your progress to make your voices heard and show the way.

Action 2: Requesting an ecological transition plan with concrete and evaluable actions for companies and associations

Ask institutions to provide more support to associations committed to the just transition: training, support, financial aid, etc. Helping associations that offer solutions to consolidate their economic model (environmental education, repair workshops or bicycle delivery, etc.). Let's encourage elected officials to really support structures in their functioning for a sustainable and lasting change in internal practice!

As an association, you have an important position to convey a message to your elected officials on subjects that relate to your themes. Ask that your local authority take up national or European programs on transition⁷¹.



Action 3: The transition must be fair!

→ To show the importance of thinking about the transition while protecting the rights of all, it is possible to extract messages from eight recommendations of the "Alliance for a Just Transition" (joint-declaration-byeuropean-alliance-for-a-just-transition-fr.pdf (pourlasolidarite.eu)) and resources cited in Box 2.

71 For example, the French national Slime program, launched in 2013, supported nearly 50 communities, including 18 departments, in the fight against fuel poverty. The Gironde Department launched in 2017 and has been able to help 3,500 households in fuel poverty since then <u>[Slime: reconciling energy efficiency and social justice | CLER]</u>.



Actions of the associations towards the citizens

Action 1: Mobilizing your members and your community around actions for a just transition



- Organizing collective action in favour of the ecological transition, such as a clean walk, or a joint reflection on how to change our habits, is a very good way of raising awareness: it shows that it is an important issue, which encourages participation of a large number, and that together we have more impact!
- Participating in such an action shows the importance of getting involved locally, of surrounding yourself with people who want to act like you. This is a way of minimizing the strong emotions linked to climate change, by feeling like an actor in the face of the current multiple crises, thanks to collective action and local action which makes it possible to generate and bring about short-term change.

Action 2: Relaying the ecological and social actions of citizens to the public

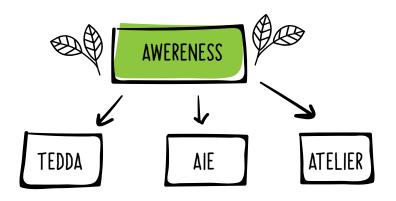
Showing and promoting examples of citizen actions is a way to prove that changing your lifestyle habits for more sobriety is possible and exciting! Preserving our environments means breathing healthier air and drinking clean water, allowing everyone to have access to it, even future generations. It also means preserving the soil, and having a better diet, with fewer ultra-processed products. It's a paradigm shift: finding our happiness elsewhere than in the accumulation of goods. It's renovating our buildings, having more public transport, and therefore saving energy and money. Ultimately, it means **finding meaning in what we do**, and thus being in **better physical and moral health**.

Action 3: Diversifying your awareness tools and methods to reach the widest possible audience



Tools and digital sources of good practices: all the TEDDA results cited above! Another important source of information and possible measures is the European Union. For example, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the European Commission presented in April 2022 a series of 9 simple measures that citizens can take to reduce their energy consumption and save money (<u>Playing my part (europa.eu</u>)).

Continuing education workshops: for example, Atelier 2Tonnes, the principle of the Climate Fresco (present in several countries, notably in France, England, etc.).



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The production of this white paper is also the result of the support and advice of many people. Among other things, they have contributed to completing and enriching our research on the themes or participated in the videos that have been made in association with the white paper.

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to all of them.

Aëla Mocaer, POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS Alexandre Durrande, rédacteur freelance spécialisé dans le développement durable Alexis Willemot, POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS Alice Duchêne, MRES Anna Bosch, la Central del Circ Anne-Laure Blaise, MRES Antoine Roland, Cigales Hauts-de-France Antony Jaugeard, consultant/formateur en économie circulaire Bertrand Bohain, du Centre National du Recyclage Bouchra Masmoudi, MRES Camille Frazzetta, Tilt Céline Bollaert, MRES Céline Urso, Tourcoing en transition Céline Viardot, Donner du sens à l'entreprise Denis Stokkink, POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS Domitille Roucou, GRDR Eduard Bernal, Trànsit Projectes Elodie Delannoy, Citiz Etienne Vaudet, Solaire en Nord Fanny Obled, Apes Joackim Lebrun, Apes Jordi Fàbregas, Trànsit Projectes Jordi Panyella, Pol·len Edicions José Julián Morales, PlantaUno Juan del Río, Facilitador y consultor sobre Transición Ecosocial Judicaël Potonnec, Centre ressource régional en écomobilité

Léa Coulomb, ESSTEAM Ludivine CARPENTIER, Choisis ta Planète Mariana Pfenniger, CEPS Projectes Social Marion Vidal, Maison des associations de Tourcoing Michel Anceau, Association Droit au Vélo Nadège Carlier, MRES Nathalie Bardaille, Apes Olivia Mailfert, Apes Pascale Geoffray, Cigales Hauts-de-France Philippe Pary, Maison Régionale de l'Environnement et des Solidarités Rebecca Wangler, Virage Énergie Saïd Guebli, Roues Libres Sanjin Plakalo, POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ - PLS Sarah Derouet, Maison des associations de Tourcoing Simon Meert, HEC Liège Centre d'économie sociale Sophie TAY, ESSTEAM Sylvie POULAIN, Comité Départemental Olympique et Sportif du Nord Théo Melin, Chicomendes Théo Melin, Nord Nature Chico Mendès Vianney Fouquet, Conservatoire botanique national de Bailleul Xavier Galand, MRES Xavier Puig, CEPS Projectes Socials

Xavier Rodrigues, POUR LA SOLIDARITÉ – PLS Zoé Lepilleur, MRES





This white book has been produced by a consortium of associations within the framework of the European project **Transition Écologique et Développement Durable des Associations** in English « Ecological Transition and Sustainable Development of Associations » **(TEDDA)**:

APES



APES is a network of stakeholders in the solidarity economy in Hauts-de-France, an active contributor to social and ecological economic transitions. The association accompanies the stakeholders in the development of territorial policies and solidarity activities. It strives to contribute to the improvement of practices for over 20 years. www.apes-hdf.org

CEPS Projectes Socials

CEPS Projectes Socials

The mission of CEPS Projectes Socials (Barcelona) is to enable citizens to access the social and cultural capital of their communities by reinforcing the autonomy of people, promoting social cohesion and social inclusion and fighting against discrimination www.asceps.org

Maison des Associations de TOURCOING

La Maison des Associations de Tourcoing (MdA)

A true pillar of local associative life, the MdA (in English: The House of Associations of Tourcoing) is a place of resources, exchanges and meetings at the service of people involved in associative and civic life.

www.mda-tourcoing.fr



ŐLIDARITÉ

La Maison Régionale de l'Environnement et des Solidarités (MRES)

The MRES (In English: The Regional House of the Environment and Solidarity) is a regional associative network of the Hauts-de-France and aims to facilitate the life and the development of activities of associations and runs inter-associative projects (eco-citizen challenges, cycle of knowledge and conference,...).

www.mres-asso.org

Pour La Solidarité – PLS

PLS is an independent European Think and Do Tank, committed to a solidar and sustainable Europe that is committed to defend and consolidate the European social model, a subtle balance between economic development and social justice. www.pourlasolidarite.eu



The project #TEDDAprojet has been funded with the support of the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. Project reference: 2021-1-FR01-KA220-ADU-000035308.

The TEDDA project offers complementary tools to the white book. A gallery of inspiring portraits, educational and fun tools to raise awareness of climate change and the carbon footprint, and a methodological guide are available on **tedda.eu**.

