GREENHOUSE GASES | Emissions



Source: SOeS from Citepa, UNFCCC Inventory (including overseas departments).

Overall, greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 5.6% between 1990 and 2007. Transport emissions increased by 19% and accounted for 27% of the total in 2007. Emissions from the residential-tertiary sector rose by 6%. These increases were offset by reductions in emissions from industry and agriculture. The long-term objective, set in the France's 2005 Energy planning law, is to reduce emissions by 2050 by a factor of 4 in relation to 1990 levels. The EU27 is committed to reducing emissions by 20% by 2020.

ENERGY *Energy from renewables*



Source: SOeS (overseas departments included for electricity, excluded for

Primary energy from renewables reaches 18 mtoe in 2007. It is for two-thirds from thermal processes, derived from biomass: wood, waste, biofuels and biogas. Electricity from renewables accounts for the remaining one-third, with 88% from hydropower, 6% from biomass and 6% from wind, the latter increasing rapidly.

EXPENDITURE *Environmental protection*



In 2006, total expenditure for environmental protection amounted to €36.2 billion, 2% of GDP. Financing was shared equally between businesses, the public sector and households. Two-thirds of the expenditure was for wastewater and waste management.

OPINION | French people's concerns

Which two environmental issues are you most concerned about?



1st response 2nd response **Total of responses (1+2)**

Source: Insee, monthly household survey, April 2008.

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AIR | Urban air pollution



Source: SOeS, from BDQA data (including overseas departments)

Air quality in France's cities has seen an overall improvement since 2000, with lowering levels of 4 pollutants. A reduction in SO₂ levels has made a major contribution to this improvement. Conversely, ozone (O₃) concentrations remain above their 2000 level. NO₂ concentrations have reduced slightly, especially in urban areas with more than 1 million inhabitants. No significant trend has been observed for PM₁₀ particles. The worsening situation observed in 2003 can be attributed to unusual weather conditions.

WATER | *Nitrates in rivers*

Percentage of measurement points per quality category* 50% 45%



Source: agences de l'Eau (mainland France).

Nitrates in the environment originate from agricultural use of fertilisers and, to a lesser extent, from wastewater treatment plants. The nitrate quality of French water courses has been steadily declining since the early 1970s. However, the deterioration seems to have slown down these last few years. Only a quarter of the measurement points was found to be 'good' or 'high'. The proportion of points with 'poor' or 'bad' quality is around 40%.

* Quality categories in mg/l of NO₃: High (<2), Good (between 2 and 10), Moderate (between 10 and 25), Poor (between 25 and 50), Bad (>50). **BIODIVERSITY** | Common birds



Source : Muséum national d'histoire naturelle (mainland France)

Common bird populations have been declining in France since 1989: the overall trend for the 65 species monitored is -18%. This is explained by declines amongst farmland species (-28%), sensitive to degradation of their habitats, urban species (-27%) and woodland birds (-18%). Generalists are adapting better and are increasing (+10%). The same trends are observed for the rest of Europe. The goal set by Europe and France is to halt loss of biodiversity by 2010.

LAND COVER

Changes in land cover patterns, 2000-2006



Source: EU-SOeS, CORINE Land Cover 2006 (mainland France).

In 2006 artificial surfaces occupied 5% of French territory. Industrial estates and business parks, discontinuous urban fabric and transport infrastructure have all increased since 1990, taking up large amounts of land and fragmenting environments. This spread has mainly affected farmland, which covered 60% of the land surface in 2006. Forests and other natural areas covered 34% of the territory, water bodies 1%.

RESOURCES | *Material consumption*



Source: SOeS (including overseas departments).

Material intensity has reduced by 23% since 1990 in France, reflecting lower demand for materials in generating a same added value. However, the amount of materials consumed has not reduced in 16 years, despite technological progress. Moreover, increased imports of materials and products mean that other resources, not accounted for here, are also used abroad.

* DMC: weight of fossil fuels, mineral and agricultural products extracted from national territory or imported in the form of raw materials or finished products, minus exports. ** Chain volume GDP, base year = 2000.

WASTE | Municipal waste

Waste collected by municipalities

p: provisional data. Source: Ademe - SOeS, 2008 (including overseas departments).

In 2006, French municipalities collected 34 million tonnes of waste, against 28 million tonnes in 1995. Bulky items and green waste increased by a factor of three between 1995 and 2006. The weight of packaging collected from the kerbside or brought to drop-off centres doubled. The amount of 'mixed wastes' collected remained stable. Current priorities are to reduce amounts of waste generated and to develop recycling.

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