GREENHOUSE GASES | *Emissions*

Aggregated emissions of six greenhouse gases
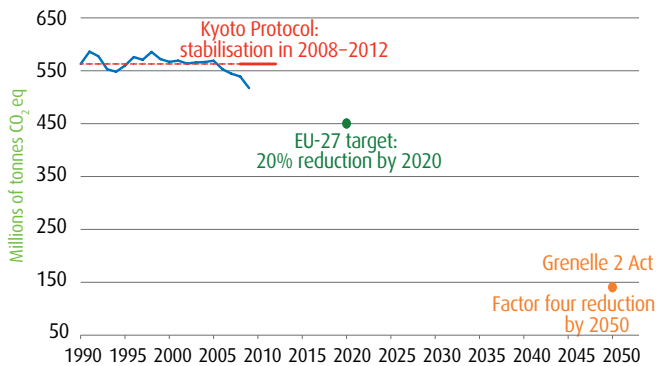

- Kyoto Protocol: stabilisation in 2008–2012
- EU-27 target: 20% reduction by 2020
- Grenelle 2 Act
- Factor four reduction by 2050

Y-axis: Millions of tonnes CO_2 eq

Overall, greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 8.1% between 1990 and 2009. They dropped more between 2007 and 2009 as between 1990 and 2007 as a result, notably, of the economic crisis. Emissions from transport rose by 12%, those from the residential and services sector by 9%. These increases were offset by reductions in the industrial, energy and agricultural sectors (-38%, -14% and -11% respectively). The long-term objective is to reduce emissions by a factor of four in relation to 1990 levels by 2050 (Grenelle 2 Act).

ENERGY | *Renewable energy*

Proportion of renewable energy in final energy consumption

Target 23%
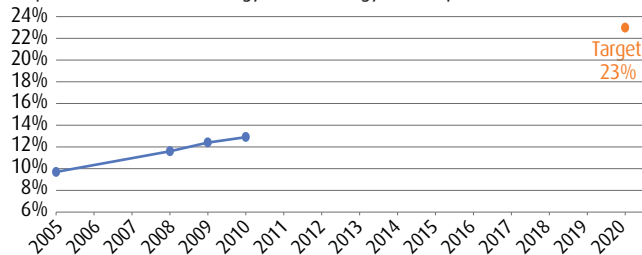
Note: calculations according to the method indicated by Directive 2009/28/EC.

In 2010, renewable energy accounted for 12.9% of final energy consumption in France, against 9.7% in 2005. The target set by the European directive is for 23% by 2020. Progress observed between 2005 and 2009 results primarily from the development of wind power and heat pumps, and from increased use of biofuels. In 2010, growth in renewable energy slowed, whereas final energy consumption increased under the combined effect of a recovery in economic activity and a colder year.
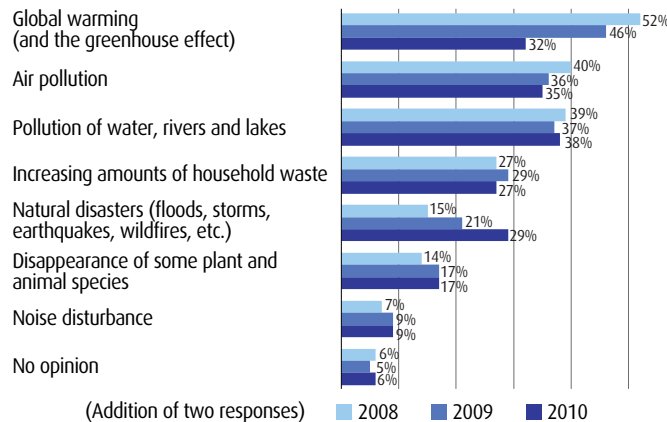
ECONOMY | *Environmental employment*

Environmental employment
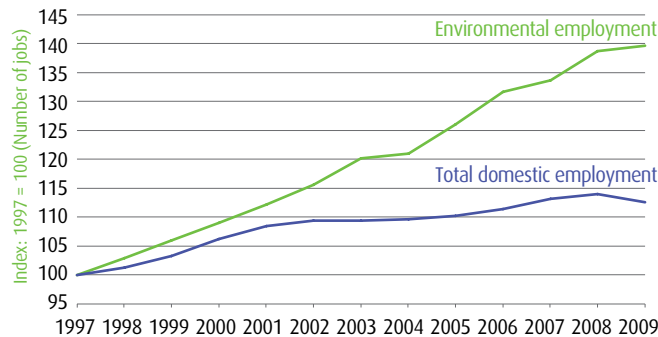
Total domestic employment

Y-axis: Index: 1997 = 100 (Number of jobs)

Environmental employment grew by 0.7% in 2009, whereas total domestic employment saw a reduction of 1.2%. Environmental employment accounted for 1.7% of total domestic employment in 2009, accounting for 427,100 full time equivalent jobs, of which 305,500 were in companies' green activities.

OPINION | *French people's concerns*

In your opinion, which two of the following environmental problems are greatest cause for concern?

	2008	2009	2010
Global warming (and the greenhouse effect)	52%	46%	32%
Air pollution	40%	36%	35%
Pollution of water, rivers and lakes	39%	37%	38%
Increasing amounts of household waste	27%	29%	27%
Natural disasters (floods, storms, earthquakes, wildfires, etc.)	15%	21%	29%
Disappearance of some plant and animal species	14%	17%	17%
Noise disturbance	7%	9%	9%
No opinion	6%	5%	6%

(Addition of two responses)

Commissariat général au développement durable
Service de l'observation et des statistiques
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CHROMATIQUES ÉDITIONS

Repères

10 key environmental indicators for France
2011 Edition

June 2011

Ressources, territoires, habitats et logement
Développement durable
Énergies et climat
Prévention des risques
Infrastructures, transports et mer

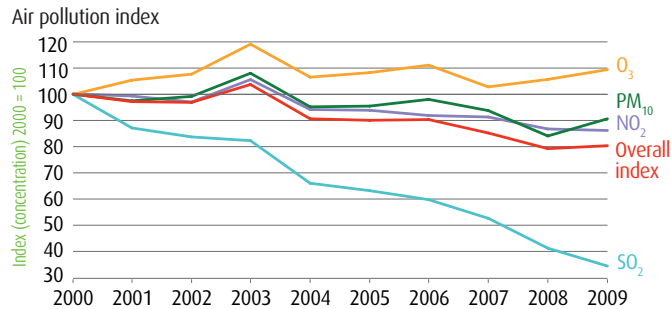Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable, des Transports et du Logement

Présent pour l'avenir

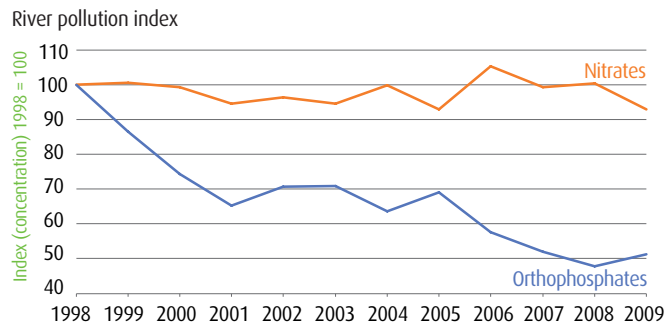Service de l'observation et des statistiques

AIR | *Air pollution in the urban environment*

Air pollution index

Index (concentration) 2000 = 100

O₃, PM₁₀, NO₂, Overall index, SO₂

Years: 2000–2009

Source: SOeS, from BDQA, Ademe data, March 2010 (metropolitan France, not including Corsica).

Based on the measurement of four pollutants, the quality of the air in France's urban areas improved between 2000 and 2009. Reduction in SO_2 concentrations was a major contributing factor to this. NO_2 levels decreased slightly. Those of PM_{10} particles decreased a little towards the end of the period, but are highly dependent on meteorological conditions. Conversely, ozone (O_3) levels increased, remaining above their 2000 level. The drop in air quality observed for 2003 was mainly attributable to unusual weather conditions in the month of August.

BIODIVERSITY | *Common birds*

Population abundance index

Index (1989 = 100)

Generalists, Forest species, Built-up area species, Farmland species

Years: 1989–2010

Source: Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, 2010 (metropolitan France).

The numbers of the different groups of birds studied reduced during the 1990s. Specialist species appear to have stabilised over the past decade, and notably at a low level for farmland birds. Generalist species adapt better and are increasing strongly. The homogenisation of populations that would result from this development, should it be confirmed, will be a threat to avian fauna diversity.

RESSOURCES | *Consumption of materials*

Index (1990 = 100)

Materials consumed*, Materials consumed* per inhabitant, Materials consumed* per inhabitant/GDP** (material intensity)

Years: 1990–2008

Source: SOeS, 2011 (including overseas departments)..

Material intensity has reduced by 22% since 1990, indicating a lower requirement of materials for a same quantity of value added. However, in spite of this progress, the quantity of materials consumed has not decreased, as a result of greater production driven by growing demand. Material consumption per inhabitant remains stable, at around 14 tonnes/inhabitant.

* Apparent domestic material consumption: weight of fossil fuels, minerals and agricultural and forestry produce extracted within national territory or imported in the form of raw materials or finished products and after deduction of exports.
** By volume, chained prices, baseline = 2000.

WATER | *River pollution*

River pollution index

Index (concentration) 1998 = 100

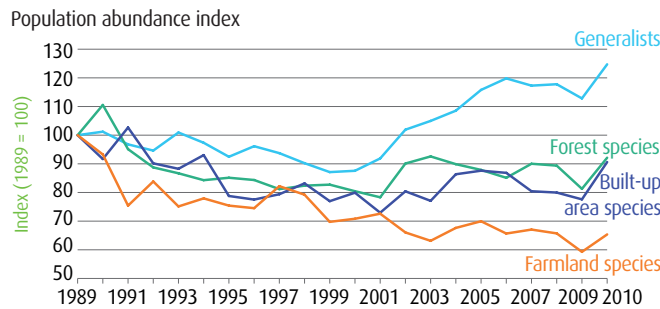Nitrates, Orthophosphates

Years: 1998–2009

Note: 2008 and 2009 data are provisional.
Source: water agencies, processed SOeS, 2011.

Orthophosphate concentrations in rivers reduced, overall, by half between 1998 and 2009, as a result of better water treatment and of a significant drop in the use of fertilisers containing phosphates. The, moderate, reduction in nitrogen fertilisers had no effect on nitrate levels, which remained stable. Over and above the long-term trends, variations in rainfall could also explain the annual changes, as in 2009.
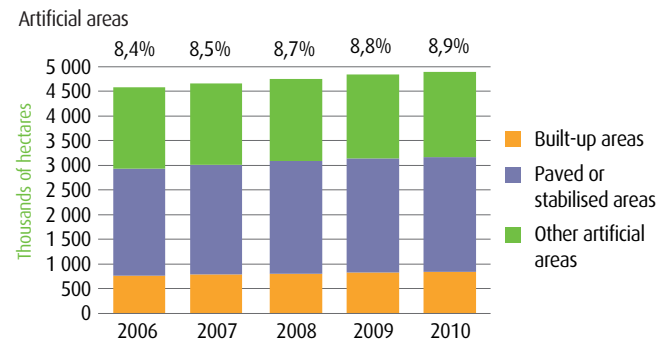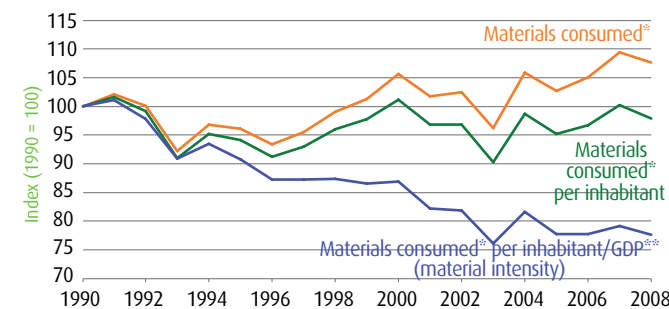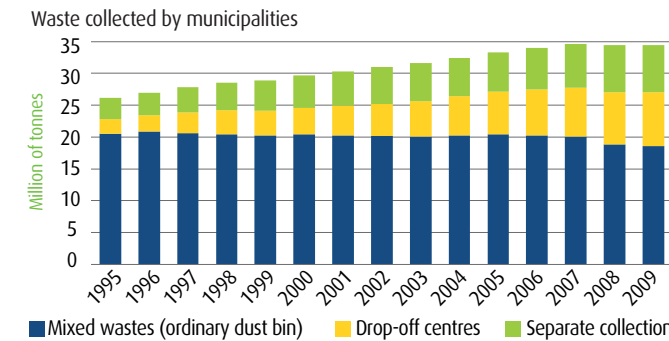
REGIONS | *Land cover*

Artificial areas

8,4% 8,5% 8,7% 8,8% 8,9%

Thousands of hectares

Built-up areas, Paved or stabilised areas, Other artificial areas

Years: 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

Source: SSP, Teruti-Lucas survey, series revised in 2010 (metropolitan France)..

Artificial areas occupied 4.9 million hectares in France in 2010, i.e. around 9% of the metropolitan area. Half of these are paved or stabilised surfaces (roads, parking areas) the sealing of which has adverse effects, for the water cycle in particular. Artificial areas increased by around 260,000 ha between 2006 and 2009, mainly to the detriment of agricultural land, but also of semi-natural areas.

WASTE | *Municipal waste*

Waste collected by municipalities

Million of tonnes

Mixed wastes (ordinary dust bin), Drop-off centres, Separate collection

Years: 1995–2009

Source: Ademe – SOeS, 2011 (including overseas departments)..

In 2009, the waste collected by municipalities in France amounted to 34.5 million tonnes, against 26 million in 1995, i.e. 539 kg per inhabitant. Between 1995 and 2009, the quantities of bulky objects and green wastes transiting drop-off waste centres quadrupled and the weight of packaging from selective collection doubled. The target set at the Grenelle Environment Forum is for recycling of 35% of municipal waste (materials and organic) by 2012 and 45% by 2015. In 2009, the recycling rate was 34%.