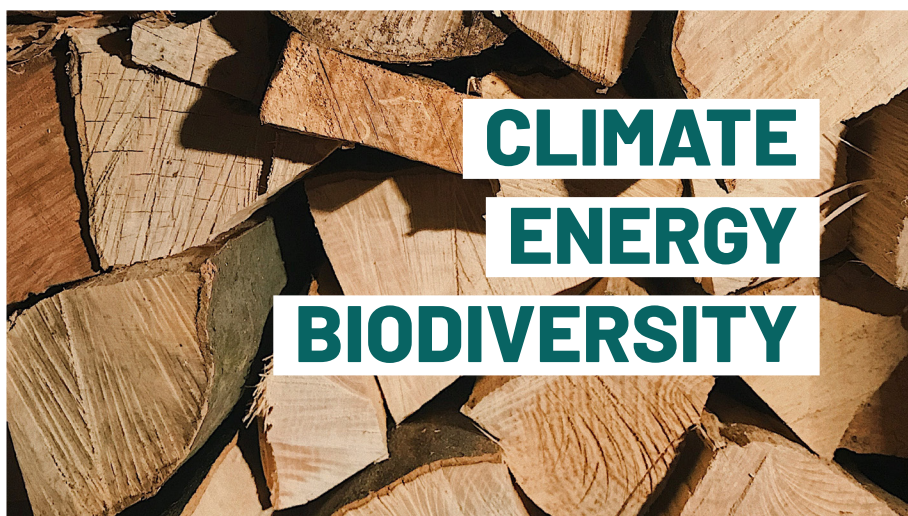


# LEADER & ECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS



**CLIMATE**  
**ENERGY**  
**BIODIVERSITY**

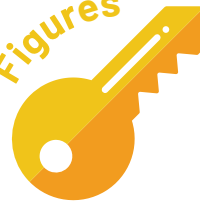


# LEADER AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS

Energy transition, biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change are themes that were already addressed by the LAGs in the previous programming period, but which have gained importance due to the urgent need to act in recent years. They are dealt with either through dedicated operational objectives and on the basis of project eligibility and selection criteria (scales with environmental requirements), or through the lens of operational objectives via other themes such as the circular economy, soft mobility, energy renovation of buildings, etc.

On a national scale, 106 LAGs have integrated one or more objectives dedicated to the energy transition in their local development strategy (LDS), and 52 LAGs deal more specifically with ecology and biodiversity. The actions supported are mainly investments in renewable energies and energy sobriety, or related to raising awareness of the preservation of landscapes and natural areas. Let's find out more!

Figures



**139\***  
**LAGs**  
working on  
this theme



**106 LAGs**  
working on the energy  
transition



**52 LAGs**  
working on  
biodiversity and ecology

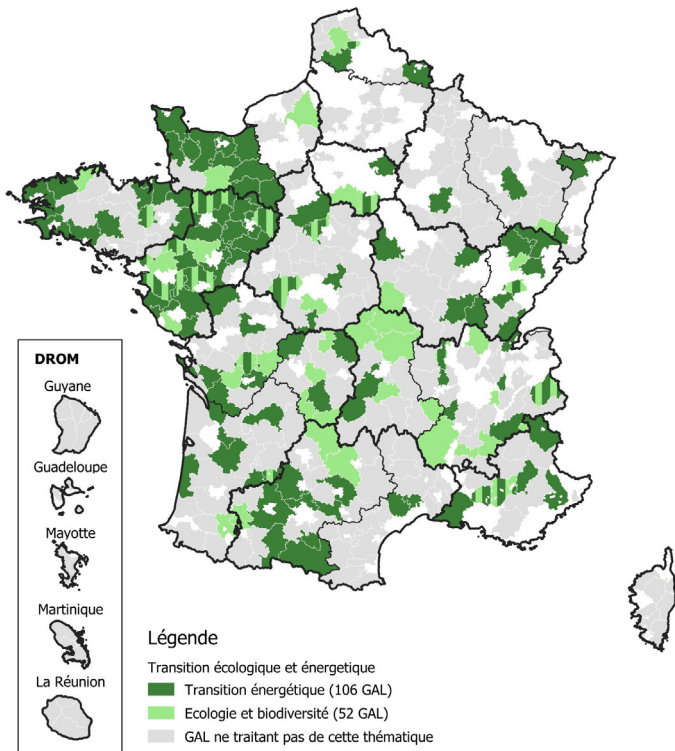
*\*Some LAGs are mobilised simultaneously on both these 2 themes*

**Strategic objectives are defined to mobilise in favour of a positive energy area, namely**

- Encouraging intelligent planning,
- Developing energy autonomy,
- Maintaining the local economy,
- Developing social cohesion,
- Cooperation serving this local development strategy

Based on these five focuses, the stakeholders' desire is to respond to supra-territorial issues of adaptation, combating global warming, and preserving the planet, as well as to local issues of local economic development.

The energy transition focus is a priority in Mayenne and most of the funds are allocated to it, particularly targeting local authorities. Setting an example is a key objective and should contribute to the ambition to become a positive energy area.



## FOCUS In Sud-Mayenne, we are positive!

The Sud Mayenne's local development strategy is based on the ambition of being a positive energy area!

The LAG brings together the Communautés de Communes of the Pays de Château-Gontier, the Pays de Craon and the Pays de Meslay-Grez. It has been developing local development strategies since 1997.

The Sud Mayenne area's priority focuses are based on the Territorial Coherence Scheme (SCOT) of each inter-communal organisation, created around 3 areas of focus, which are available in operational areas: economy/employment/training, environment/mobility/energy transition, local and human solidarity.

The LAG's local development strategy has been drawn up to complement the Sud Mayenne Territorial Climate and Energy Plan (PCAET).



**TO FIND OUT MORE:**

[www.gal-sud-mayenne.com/collectivites/programme-leader-sud-mayenne/](http://www.gal-sud-mayenne.com/collectivites/programme-leader-sud-mayenne/)

## > ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The adaptation approach aims to limit the impacts of climate change and the associated damage to socio-economic activities and nature. Public adaptation policies aim to anticipate the expected impacts of climate change, to limit their possible damage by intervening in the factors that control their impact and to take advantage of potential opportunities to reverse the trend. There are many possibilities for adaptation, but in order to reduce vulnerability to future climate change, it is necessary to broaden the range of possible approaches.



“LEADER has made it possible to improve the project's visibility, particularly with the general public, but above all to connect the participating producers, some of whom have in turn been able to benefit from LEADER grants!”

### Sheep grazing in a grain crop system, a winning partnership in Sud Seine et Marne

Since September 2019, sheep farmers and grain farmers have been working hand-in-hand within the Sud Seine-et-Marne LAG in Ile de France.

The non-profit organisation Agrof'ile is experimenting with a grazing project in a grain crop system. Over three years, the organisation will monitor the effect of grazing in a grain crop system during the winter, on winter cover and crops.

The study will focus on soil fertility, crop yields and the condition of the herd.



#### THE GOAL

The aim is to create a network of farmers who are already innovating through their agricultural practices (soil preservation, return to livestock farming, reduction of inputs) with a view to encouraging co-learning, according to the principles of collaborative research. Ultimately, the project also aims to revitalise the livestock sector in the Paris basin, which is experiencing a decline in livestock numbers. The initial results are very encouraging and the producers are very satisfied. The project has aroused strong interest among farmers and institutions alike.



#### A PARTNERSHIP-BASED PROJECT

with the Sud Seine-et-Marne LAG, the RNP Gâtinais français, l'ACTA\*, l'INRA\*, Les Champs des Possibles, the CIIRPO\* and the Institut de l'Elevage\*\*.



#### PROJECT BUDGET €71,473

- EAFRD contribution: € 22,342
- Other public contributions: ADEME: € 49,131



#### TO FIND OUT MORE:

- Gâtinais français LAG (Ile de France)
- Lise IA-LAURENT: [Lia-laurent@parc-gatinais-francais.fr](mailto:Lia-laurent@parc-gatinais-francais.fr)
- [www.parc-gatinais-francais.fr](http://www.parc-gatinais-francais.fr)

\*ACTA: Agricultural technical coordination association. INRA: French National Institute for Agricultural Research. CIIRPO: Interregional Centre for Information and Research in Sheep Production. \*\* Livestock-breeders'Institute



## > ENERGY TRANSITION

In France, energy transition is the term used to designate the transformation of the energy system. More concretely, the expression is used to designate all the changes undertaken to reduce the environmental impact of the production, distribution and consumption of energy (electricity, gas, etc.). It aims to prepare for the post-oil era and to establish a robust and sustainable energy model in the face of energy supply issues, price trends, resource depletion and environmental protection requirements. These changes respond to European commitments and are enshrined in the French Energy Transition Law for Green Growth, enacted in 2015.

“The added value of LEADER lies in the move towards a green economy advocated and financed by Europe, which is totally in line with the project!”



### In Saint-Romain-le-Noble,

#### heat is shared!

In 2017, the municipality of Saint-Romain-le-Noble, in the area of the Pays de l'Agenais LAG, wanted to give priority to renewable energy by installing a wood-energy heating network.



#### THE GOAL

Connecting all the municipal buildings in the centre of the village to the heating network: the town hall, nursery and primary schools, canteen, village hall, rental accommodation, community hall. The Saint-Romain-Le-Noble project is part of the local energy and environmental transition and the development of local resources.

Initially, the municipality used wood chips as fuel, derived from by-products of the Lot-et-Garonne forestry industry. It also uses waste wood from roadside pruning and the maintenance of riparian forests and local woodland.

Ultimately, the project aims to create a local economic sector (pooling of machines and platforms, use of local wood waste, sharing of a methodology, etc.). It is already expanding since other towns and villages in the Agenais region have adopted the same approach.



#### A PARTNERSHIP-BASED PROJECT

with Territoire d'Énergie Lot-et-Garonne.



#### PROJECT BUDGET €179,968

- ➔ EAFRD contribution: € 122,396
- ➔ Other public contributions:  
Nouvelle-Aquitaine region: € 57,572



#### TO FIND OUT MORE:

- > Pays de l'Agenais LAG (Nouvelle-Aquitaine)
- > Valérie LECOMTE: leader.agenais@agglo-agen.fr
- > www.pays-agenais.fr



## > PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY

Biological diversity – or biodiversity – is the term used to describe all forms of life on earth and their natural characteristics. It includes the diversity within each species, between species and between ecosystems. While France's National Biodiversity Observatory (ONB) confirms, in its 2016 report, the exceptional richness of France's natural heritage, it nevertheless considers the evolution of French biodiversity is worrying, in terms of the evolution of species, the state of habitats and natural environments, pollution and the progression of invasive alien species.

The international scientific community estimates that half of the living species we know could disappear within a century, given the current rate of extinction (100 to 1000 times higher than the natural rate of extinction). The rate of extinction is caused by human activities. To mitigate this trend, we need to step up our efforts to understand, prevent and combat the loss of biodiversity.



“This project takes up a dual challenge: both social and environmental, requiring the involvement of local partnerships. LEADER has clearly made it possible to support an innovative, experimental operation requiring the involvement of local partnerships!”

### In the Val d'Allier, we produce and distribute local wild flowers free of charge!

“Semez des fleurs sauvages locales” (Sow local wild flowers) is the name of the operation launched by the Val d'Allier in 2019!



#### THE GOAL

To produce and distribute local wild flower seeds in the Val d'Allier LAG area to grow flowers at the foot of the walls. More broadly, to preserve and develop the presence of local flora, to combine the protection of the environment, biodiversity and heritage with an aesthetic and social dimension, by involving an ESAT\* and by mobilising the population in managing and enhancing the area. This project also aims to raise awareness among the general public and local authorities of the ban on phytosanitary products, considering the contamination of watercourses, particularly the Allier and its tributaries.



\*ESAT: Vocational rehabilitation centre.



#### THE PROJECT IN FIGURES

- 13 kilos of seeds produced
- 5,000 bags offered for distribution
- A group of workers from the ESAT des Cardamines trained and able to double production in 2020



#### PROJECT BUDGET €65,696

- EAFRD contribution: € 34,054



#### TO FIND OUT MORE:

> Val d'Allier du Grand Clermont LAG  
(Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)  
> Jean-Denis FAURE: leader@  
legrandclermont.fr  
> www.legrandclermont.com





# IN EUROPE: INSPIRING INITIATIVES



In Austria, the Wipptal Region is running a project to raise awareness on bee protection. There are about **700 species of wild bees** throughout Austria, of which about 400 are represented in the Tyrol. **This diversity is under threat.**

Due to the intensification of agriculture and increasing land consumption, small landscape structures and species-rich flower meadows are becoming scarce and the nesting and feeding resources of wild bees are considerably decreasing.

Wild bees have played an underestimated role as pollinators of wild and useful plants, providing an enormous service to nature (preserving biodiversity) and to humans (safeguarding agricultural yields). Also, between 2016 and 2018, the project **"Blooming and Humming Wipptal"** aimed to counter the threat to wild bees, mainly by raising awareness, but also by improving the wild bees' habitat.

As part of this educational initiative, a school programme specifically focused on wild bees was developed and implemented in Wipptal schools in collaboration with nature educators. Through events, information activities were used to highlight the importance of wild bees and the link to natural and diverse habitats and to encourage the creation of nesting or feeding structures for wild bees at home.

The establishment of nesting aids with the participation of regional carpenters and the Lebenshilfe, an organisation for people with intellectual disabilities, served to improve the wild bees' habitat in the Wipptal. The project is scientifically supported, which also promotes our understanding of the lifestyle and presence of wild bees in the Wipptal.



## PROJECT BUDGET

**€77,315**

➤ EAFRD contribution:  
€ 49,482

➤ Other public contributions:  
€ 12,370

➤ Private contributions: € 15,463



### TO FIND OUT MORE:

> [www.natopia.at/bluehendes-und-summendes-wipptal](http://www.natopia.at/bluehendes-und-summendes-wipptal)

> [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/project/attachments/gp\\_at\\_floweringhumming.pdf](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/project/attachments/gp_at_floweringhumming.pdf)

## Culture in Brabant Hesbaye LAG (Belgium)

One of this LAG's latest projects is called "Mille feuilles" (A thousand leaves). It both aims at actively protecting and enhancing biodiversity, as well as encouraging dialogue between farmers, citizens, organisations and municipalities on the theme of biodiversity and the environment.

The LAG works with farmers interested in finding the best places to plant shrubs and hedges on their land. It organises and finances planting activities by groups of volunteers (citizens and organisations). The farmers, with the help of the volunteers, undertake to protect and maintain the shrubs. Each year, the LAG organises a dinner to bring the Mille Feuilles community together and strengthen the links between its participants.



### TO FIND OUT MORE:

> <https://culturalite.be/?MillefeuilleS>



## Did you know?

In the framework of the Collective Mobilisation for Rural Development, **the French National Rural Network also supports projects promoting the ecological transition.** For example, the **TransAgriDom** project aims to increase the synergy between areas and stakeholders in agricultural innovation and transfer networks to ensure the agro-ecological transition in French overseas territories. The project is led by the **FNAB**, and its aim is to develop a national network of plots, farms and local authorities in order to promote innovative and effective actions with regard to adaptation to climate change.

To find out more, Go to the Rural Network site: [www.reseaurural.fr/appel-projets-mcdr-2018](http://www.reseaurural.fr/appel-projets-mcdr-2018)



## CRTE, a local area support tool



### CRTE (ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION CONTRACTS), A LOCAL AREA SUPPORT TOOL

In order to accelerate recovery and support the ecological, demographic, digital and economic transitions in local areas, the French Government has proposed a new type of contract for local authorities: Ecological transition contracts.

**A CRTE, WHICH IS SIGNED FOR SIX YEARS, IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF A NEW TYPE OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, WHICH IS BECOMING MAINSTREAM.**

It includes the French state's support measures for local authorities, which have been considerably strengthened by the credits from the recovery plan during the first two years. The CRTE is the presentation of the ambition for local projects: the ecological transition and local cohesion are the backbone of this contract, which relies on the mobilisation of all local stakeholders, both public and private, as everyone is involved in the recovery.

To find out more: <https://agence-cohesion-territoires.gouv.fr/crte>

## LEADER IN BRIEF

### RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

It is:

- › Subregional
- › partnership-based, combining public and private stakeholders
- › The LAG's programming committee decides on the appropriateness of projects to be supported methodically and financially.
- › participative
- › innovative
- › multi-sectoral
- › cooperative

### A EUROPEAN PROCESS

It is part of the European rural development policy financed by the EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) and is implemented in France by the Regions via the RRDP.

Rural areas are organised into **LAGs (Local Action Groups)**. LAGs are selected to implement this approach on the basis of an LDS. LDS (Local Development Strategy).

**LEADER**  
Links between  
development actions  
and the rural economy

**RRDP (Regional rural development programme)**. Broken down into measures, it defines the intervention methods and financing to meet the challenges of rural areas.

**LDS (Local Development Strategy)**. Sets out the themes of intervention to be implemented in the area, defined on the basis of a local study.



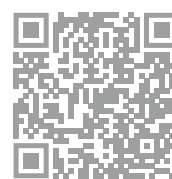
The French Rural Network works to bring together all the stakeholders of the rural world on a national and regional scale. One of its objectives is to facilitate the implementation of projects involving agriculture, forestry, crafts, tourism and the environment.

This collection, dedicated to the LEADER system, aims to share and promote projects and actions carried out by the local areas and their stakeholders, for the benefit of all.



This work was carried out by the National Rural Network (Charlotte GUERET & Christelle MONNERIE - ASP; Hanane ALLALI - MASA). The key data and maps are taken from the [study](#) on "La mesure 19 LEADER des programmes de développement rural régionaux 2014-2020" (Measure 19 LEADER of the regional rural development programmes 2014-2020) carried out in 2019.

These elements were illustrated by examples from LEADER areas thanks to the Local Action Groups and with the participation of the Regional Rural Networks and French Regions.



MORE  
INFO  
on the site

**Sources :** <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr> | <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000031044385> | <https://www.gouvernement.fr/action/la-preservation-de-la-biodiversite> | Combined sources from ADEME/French Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity | ENRD

## Contact

French National Rural Network Unit - LEADER Team

- [leader@reseau-rural.fr](mailto:leader@reseau-rural.fr)

## To find out more

- [www.reseau-rural.fr/territoire-leader](http://www.reseau-rural.fr/territoire-leader)
- [www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr](http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr)
- [www.agriculture.gouv.fr](http://www.agriculture.gouv.fr)
- [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader-clld\\_fr](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader-clld_fr)

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