Sustainable Cities

France
Urbanization in France: main points

- 78% of the population live in cities, 95% in extended urban areas.
- Housing is responsible for 43% of primary energy consumption and 23% of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Housing demand: 500,000 new houses needed every year.
- Leading companies in the field of energy efficiency and smart housing (EDF, Schneider, Legrand…), transportation (Alstom, Transdev, Keolis…), water and waste management (Suez, Veolia…), certification (Bureau Véritas) and many SMEs.
The 2008 « Grenelle » environnemental roundtable

**Buildings**: reduce energy consumption by 38% (2020)
*All new buildings have to be low-energy (HQE label)*
 Acceleration of *energy retrofit for existing stock*
*Obligation to renew public buildings*

**Transportation**:
*Development of public transport networks (1500 km)*
*Public transport corridors.*
*Promotion of soft modes (bike sharing schemes, walking…)*
*Car sharing*
*Development of hybrid and electric rechargeable vehicles*

**Urban planning**:
*New rules to minimize the use of land and resources*
*« Urbanisme de projet » to reduce urban sprawling and promote eco-cities*

*Protect the environment*
*Develop natural spaces*
*Reduce (and monitor) the consumption of natural resources*
*Improve governance and develop social housing*
The « eco-city » label

National label launched in 2008 (after « Grenelle Environnemental roundtable »)

19 conurbations selected in 2009 and 2011

10 million inhabitants – 15% of French population

750 millions EUR of public investment

Various types of projects:
Urban renewal, energy efficiency, renewable energies, biodiversity, urban mobility, environment protection, economic development…
« Eco-city » label : key principles

• Develop cross-policy programs involving the public and private sector:
  • Public and private partnerships to encourage innovation
  • Long-term support and public orders

=> Urban organisation and housing, urban amenities (services and environment), energy and natural resources, transport and mobility

• Develop integrated approaches to take into account different aspects of urban projects:

=> Governance, social diversity, urban design process, environmental interactions, urban management, mobility, local economic development

• Eco-city projects are tailored to cities and their historic, geographic and climatic context
Eco-cities projects put forward **new ways of living and promote innovation**:

- Renewal of urban landscape, new urban forms...
- Greater environmental quality, ecological services, biodiversity
- New urban services related to mobility, energy, water and sanitation, communication...
- Greater resilience: energy, environment, economy

Eco-cities encourage **urban innovation** in technologies, organisations and services

=> « investment for the future » program
An Eco-City: Bordeaux

Preservation and valorization of the historic part of a city

Renewal of the Garonne river banks (previously a motorway)

Implementation of a tramway line on the banks
The « eco-district » initiative

- After Grenelle environmental roundtable: creation of eco-districts in municipalities with significant housing development schemes.

- The process took into account every aspect of sustainable development:
  - Project planning phase (governance, management, localization)
  - Technical aspects and services related to local environment and uses (density, intelligent transportation, solidarity, urban forms, cultural issues…)
  - Economic and regional development (mobility, functional mix, jobs)
  - Conservation of resources and adaptation to climate change (water, biodiversity, energy)

- Objectives:
  - Promote exemplary operations
  - Enable the dissemination of best practices
An Eco-district: La Duchère in Lyon

First built in 1960, far away from the city centre

Social Problems: Impoverishment, Exclusion

Renewal to be completed in 2016
An Eco-district: Forcalquier in Provence

Renovation of an old small town center (old buildings, improvement of energy efficiency)
Label for French technologies
related to sustainable urban development