

SUMMARY OF THE 2015 PARIS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

This fifth Sustainable Development Report provides an overview of the actions carried out by the City of Paris in its territory and within its services in 2014, the trends in 2015, and the perspectives for 2016. It presents the priority objectives for preparing Paris for the challenges of the 21st century: adapting to climate change, reducing pollution, the involvement of local stakeholders, solidarity with those who are most vulnerable and committing to a circular economy.



FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPT THE CITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE



In December 2015, Paris will host [COP21](#). The City will give voice to cities and regions from around the world. While the negotiations are between States, many of the practical levers for action, such as transport, housing, and urban planning, are in the hands of local authorities.

On 26 March 2015, Paris invited representatives from some 30 major European cities to a meeting in Paris. They committed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 and prepared to pool cities' public procurement contracts to encourage industry to invest in clean and sustainable technologies that respect the environment, for example by offering non-diesel goods vehicles.

The City's commitment to the climate has been expressed in its [Climate and Energy Plan](#) adopted in 2007. The Plan, revised in 2012, sets ambitious objectives: a 25% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and in energy consumption between 2004 and 2020. In addition, 25% of the territory's energy consumption will be supplied by renewable or recovered energy sources in 2020.

HOW DOES THE CITY PLAN TO REACH THESE OBJECTIVES?

In order to reduce the energy consumption of buildings, the City is using its facilities and 230,000 social housing units as catalysts for more sustainable practices. For construction and renovation, the City requires social housing providers to comply with environmental specifications in which the City has included criteria related to the Climate and Energy Action Plan, from limiting water consumption, to ensuring residents' health and comfort. The City also supports the thermal renovation of private housing through large-scale operations.

In terms of energy supply, all municipal buildings and public lighting will be provided by **100% renewable electricity** starting in 2016. At the same time, the City of Paris is trying out new potential sources of sustainable energy, such as recovering energy from sewage, grey water and the non-drinking water network.

The City will also support **companies** in the energy transition. It financially supports innovative companies and enhances pioneering companies with the [Paris Climate Action Charter](#). The 31 participating companies committed to prevent the emission of 500,000 tons of CO₂ per year in Paris. In 2015, it opened a platform for advising shopkeepers, Paris Commerce Energie.



The Olivier de Serres school (15th) is the first municipal building labelled low consumption (BBC) – © City of de Paris - DPA

In addition to reducing its carbon footprint, the City is preparing the territory to adapt to climate change. Paris is indeed a robust city for facing these changes, but it must remain vigilant regarding the risks of heat waves, floods and challenges to water supply. To face these challenges, the City defined its **Adaptation Strategy** in September 2015, with actions that will be progressively developed.



IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF PARIS



In order to provide its 2,3 million residents with a high-quality environment, the City actively limits the emission of pollutants from road traffic, as well as noise pollution, and coordinates the many actions promoting health.

Road traffic has been reduced by 25% in 10 years through new modes of transport.

The tram has been extended and alternative mobility services (self-service bicycle and car rentals) have been developed. Developments have been made to improve the flow of traffic (bus lanes, 30 km/h zones, transforming the banks of the Seine into pedestrian areas). The **Paris Administration's Travel Plan**, in application since 2011, has allowed the optimisation of the city's fleet of vehicles and trips. At the City's initiative, 90 private and public stakeholders in the commodity sector have committed to the new **Sustainable Urban Logistics Charter** for reducing the use of diesel.

In 2015, Paris adopted new objectives that are even more ambitious through the **Atmospheric Pollution Action Plan** to fight pollution related to road traffic. By 2020, the most polluting vehicles will be banned. By the end of 2015, the municipal fleet will no longer include any diesel-powered sedans or compact city cars and 2/3 of utility vehicles and heavy goods vehicles will no longer run on diesel. A set of concrete measures are also in place to assist users in adopting mobility solutions that are less polluting.



Bercy garden, Paris (12^e) – © J.-B. Gurliat

Decreased use of individual vehicles is also achieved through the development of non-motorised traffic. In 2015 the City adopted the **Bicycle Action Plan** in order to increase the share of this means of transport from 5% to 15% in 2020. The length of cycle paths will increase from 700 to 1,400 kilometres and a "Bicycle Express Network" will be implemented beginning in 2016.

A variety of actions will also be taken to reduce noise, which is the number one nuisance that residents complain of. Therefore, an **Environmental Noise Prevention Plan** provides for the creation of new 30 km/h zones and the installation of noise-reducing surfaces on segments of the roadway where the largest number of homes are located.

In addition to these measures, Paris is one of the first cities to launch its **Environmental Health Plan**, elaborated in 2015. The plan will be based on 8 priorities (outdoor air quality, indoor environment, the fight against noise pollution, asbestos, lead, soil pollution, extreme climate phenomena and chemical substances).



PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY IN PARIS: GREEN AND BLUE NETWORKS



The presence of nature in the city contributes to improving the living environment and well-being of city dwellers, providing networks of walking paths, and areas that are cool and peaceful. Paris is home to healthy biodiversity featuring some 778 wild plant species and 1,300 animal species that have been identified. Paris has contributed to maintaining ecological continuity corridors that are both terrestrial (green networks) or aquatic (blue networks), specifically through the actions of the **Biodiversity Plan** adopted in 2011.

Reinforcing these networks is essential in helping biodiversity withstand pollution and climate change better. For this reason, Paris has launched the drafting of a new Biodiversity Plan for 2016. At the same time, the City has set ambitious objectives for adding green spaces through to 2020: **100 hectares of green roofs and walls will be installed** (one third of which will be used for urban agriculture), **30 hectares of additional green spaces** will be opened to the public and **20,000 new trees** will be planted.

In June 2014, the City created a new tool for Parisians for greening public spaces: the **"Green Space Permit"**. This authorisation is given free of charge.

Since 2002, shared gardens have been flourishing in Paris. Today in 2015, there are over 111 gardens, representing nearly 5 hectares. This non-commercial urban agriculture is participative and promotes ecological gardening. Vegetable gardens have also been installed in all schools.

In order to facilitate the development of new agricultural projects within the local economy and short food circuits, the City has developed an adapted strategy aimed at identifying the major development projects, and the buildings and areas that could potentially host these projects. Parisians are invited to participate in conferences (over 2,000 participants in 2015) and in training courses organised by the Paris Farm or the Maison du Jardinage gardening centre (12th).

The City also promotes **ecological and global management of water in a spirit of solidarity**. Climate change leads to risks of more frequent and heavy rainfall. In order to avoid overburdening the water treatment network, water must soak into the ground where it falls or be stored. Installations dedicated to this purpose are included development operations that are currently underway. The City is also researching alternative techniques, such as the domestic or agricultural use of water stored on roofs. Finally, the new **Strategic plan for the use of the Paris non-drinking water network** is aimed at particular in renovating this network, promoting its expansion and establishing its long-term sustainability.



Workshops at Paris Farm, Bois de Vincennes (12th) – © SCEV

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FULFILMENT OF OTHERS THROUGH CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Parisians' involvement in municipal policy is of vital democratic importance, representing a pledge to guarantee social cohesion.

Residents can now weigh in on large-scale initiatives through the **participatory budget**. For 2015, this bud-

get amounts to 37 million for projects related to the entire City and 38 million for projects in the arrondissements. On the “Madame la Maire, I’ve got an idea” website, Parisians propose their ideas for the project of the future Greater Paris Metropolitan Area and the project for improving seven major Parisian squares.

Civic involvement also takes place through not-for-profit associations. Paris is home to 60,000 **not-for-profit associations** with over 550,000 volunteers. The City has relationships with many of these associations, particularly through the 20 **Maisons des Associations** (Association Centres). The Participants in a Sustainable Paris Plan (Acteurs du Paris durable), featuring a website and centre (Maison des Acteurs [4th]), promotes pioneer Parisians who are committed to sustainable development.



The “**Reinvent Paris**” call for proposals concerns 23 sites. The city wishes to carry out an urban innovation experiment of unprecedented scope:

- Designing smart buildings.
- Innovation in energy efficiency, revegetation, zero waste...
- Innovation in occupying new spaces: basements, rooftops...

REINFORCING SOCIAL COHESION AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN TERRITORIES AND BETWEEN GENERATIONS

Part of envisioning a City that is fairer and more united includes supporting those who are most vulnerable. In Paris, 3 to 5,000 people live in the street. In order to respond to their needs (rights, health, and housing), ensure they receive better services and promote their social integration, institutional stakeholders and field workers have drafted the **Parisian Pact against large-scale exclusion** (2015-2020). In addition, the 2013-2014 period was marked by the arrival of **foreign isolated minors**. France Terre d’Asile (France Land of Asylum

association) handled initial contacts and shelter for these young people, whereas the City created an unaccompanied minors service in order to follow them.

The City is also involved in improving quality of life for the elderly through the **Gerontology Plan**. The plan aims to develop alternative solutions to institutional care, to support caregivers and to provide the elderly with housing that is adapted to their needs.

Paris continues to work to provide disabled people with accessibility to social housing and to adapt public spaces to their needs. “Crossing mats” have been tested, for example, to help visually impaired people cross more easily at crosswalks.



Intergenerational garden – © J-P. Viguié

The solidarity measures also include improving **housing offerings** for households with very low income through the MULTILOC’ plan, created in March 2015. The City provides financial aid for renovating property, and for paying rent and energy bills. Households in financial difficulty can also benefit from The Solidarity Fund for Housing in Paris and from the Paris Energy Families service, which helps to combat fuel poverty.

Finally, **the social solidarity economy** is a vital area for social and occupational integration. The City of Paris finances over 80 organisations that work towards integration through economic activity and through social entrepreneurship, while also providing financial solidarity assistance. It contributed, for example, to the creation of the new “LUTESS” Real Estate Centre (19th), which serves the organisations in this sector.



PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE METHODS OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION AND SUSTAINING CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Cities must invent solutions that allow them to move from a throw-away society to a sustainable society. Paris is strongly committed to this economical paradigm shift.

For many years, the Municipality has pursued a sustainable procurement policy for products, services and public works. This policy will be further detailed in the future **Socially and ecologically-responsible public procurement scheme**.

The successful sustainable food programme introduced in 2010 is an illustration of this policy. The new **Sustainable Food Plan** requires that the composition of meals includes 50% of seasonal, organic products and approved products by 2020. Today, this objective is met by meals served in childcare centres.

On a larger scale, in March 2015 Paris launched, along with other stakeholders and 20 local authorities, the **General Assembly on the Circular Economy of Greater Paris**. 65 recommendations were detailed in a **White Paper**. These recommendations are related to food supply, sustainable design, industrial ecology and the reduction of waste.

On this subject of waste reduction, which is a priority for the City of Paris, recycling increased by 11% in 2014 on the previous year. In order to pursue and enhance these actions, the City has committed to a **“zero waste”** trajectory and is targeting new areas, such as **food waste**.

At the same time, the City is also promoting **reusing** waste, for example through the Co-Recyclage Project, which provides the opportunity to give and take objects, such as sofas, for free.

Parisians can give their clothes a second life by placing them in any of the 242 deposit containers located in the public space. They will be turned into wiping cloths or recycled as insulation, for example. Through the installation of these containers, the percentage of textiles in waste bins decreased by 43%.

Six waste sorting centres contribute to re-using waste by recovering donated objects that are repaired and sold. These centres also raise awareness among residents and organise festive district events on themes of prevention and reuse.

For waste that cannot be reused, **recycling and energy recovery** solutions remain. Waste that is of animal or plant origin represents the majority of household waste. However, it can be fermented to produce renewable energy and quality compost. In 2014, Paris launched the sorting and separated collection of **organic waste** from two food markets. The operation will gradually be expanded to all markets. The collection of organic waste from administrative restaurants has also begun.

Similar to this last example, the Sustainable Development Report shows again this year that Paris remains a true **laboratory for exploring new policies and technological solutions** in the fight against global warming. The major role that Paris plays in international networks, along with the active involvement of Parisians in developing their City, enables the capital city to enter a new phase in facing the challenges of the 21st century.