

MULHOUSE-SUD-ALSACE TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH A TERRITORIAL CLIMATE PLAN



MULHOUSE-SUD-ALSACE (France)

Summary

In 2004 France developed a **Climate Plan** in order to reduce the greenhouse gas emission on national level.

A Climate Plan is an action plan that tightens and accelerates measures to cut emissions in all sectors: energy consumption, urbanism, transports, waste, agriculture, forestry and biodiversity. It aims to achieve and possibly even exceed beyond its Kyoto protocol emission objectives in order to tackle climate change in the long term.

As one of the first cities, the **Greater Mulhouse (CAMSA: Communauté d'Agglomération Mulhouse Sud Alsace)** realized a **Territorial Climate Plan**. Such a plan is set up by local authorities (by regions, departments or municipalities) as a voluntary framework and is part of the local Agenda 21. Its objectives are to group together and identify more easily the policies regarding energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission cuts in order to devise a set of measures for all sectors of the economy and daily life. In the Territorial Climate Plan of Mulhouse great importance has been attached to participatory democracy.

Short presentation of Mulhouse-Sud-Alsace

Mulhouse-Sud-Alsace is a city and commune in Eastern France with a privileged geographic location on the border of Switzerland and Germany. It is the largest city of the Haut-Rhin department, with 271,000 inhabitants in the metropolitan area and after Strasbourg the second largest in the Alsace region.

Mulhouse-Sud-Alsace has direct links to the main European cities: located along the Frankfurt-Milan axis (respectively 340 and 350 km away), at an equal distance from Genes, Paris and Brussels and about 100 kms from Strasbourg and Zurich.



Sustainable energy development approach

The main objectives of Mulhouse's Climate Plan :

According to the **Kyoto protocol**:

CO₂ cut of 20,000 tonnes per year by 2012 which means a reduction of 2% per year

How Mulhouse-Sud-Alsace started:

As one of the first in Alsace, the CAMSA developed an Agenda 21 in 2003. Three years later the elaboration of the Climate Plan began and was finalized 18 months later.

A **Steering Committee** made up of **elected representatives and delegates** from different sectors, such as environment, energy, sustainable development and communication, is in charge of:

- follow up of the Climate Plan
- organisation: defining working tracks
- methodology: identification of implementation instruments
- consultation and dialogue: organisation of forums
- management and monitoring
- search for partners, partners meetings
- communication

A greenhouse gas emissions monitoring has been realized by the Association for monitoring of the atmospheric pollution. Furthermore several forums for representatives, partners, associations and the general public took place.

In 2007 an **advisory Council**, was founded in order to coproduce the Climate Plan. The Council is composed of **40 citizens' representatives**, local associations, technicians and elected representatives, all in all about 100 members who meet frequently.

It assures the participatory democracy by encouraging the exchange between all persons concerned, especially the citizens, and by canvassing further partners. The citizens' propositions are discussed and concrete measures to reduce CO₂ emissions are developed. The advisory Council is also responsible for the implementation, the project monitoring and the evaluation of the Climate Plan.



Photo: Signing of the Climate Plan

After the approval of the Climate Plan in July 2007 by the agglomeration council, its action plan was published by the end of the year.

Current situation in Mulhouse-Sud-Alsace:

On 18th December 2008, the mayor of Mulhouse-Sud-Alsace Jo Spiegel signed up the Covenant of Mayors, committing his city to go beyond the objectives of the EU energy policy in terms of CO₂ saving through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use.

The Mulhouse's Climate Plan is a long term project that needs monitoring and continuous amelioration. Therefore several instruments were adopted:

- **Dashboard, a computer-based information system (extranet/intranet)**, open to all members as a management tool to observe the progress of the Climate Plan
- **Climate Plan monitoring centre** concentrates, centralizes and links together all data on the dashboard in order to open them to different target groups
- **Logo and certification of the Climate Plan actions** in order to :



- Identify, align and structure the actions carried out
- Advance the development of each partner's program of action
- Encourage and support present and future partners by providing Mulhouse's Climate Plan logo

- **In 2008 166 actions were fixed in the action plan** in five fields:
 - Sustainable purchasing and consumption: Sustainable energy use, waste reduction (waste separation, composters, ...), reduction of resource consumption (lighting,..), support of consumption of biological, local and fair trade products, ...
 - Urban planning for future generations: Integration of the consequences of the climate change, carbon sinks, green spaces, ...
 - Housing development: Retrofitting (insulation), sustainable energy use, high performance buildings, ...
 - Sustainable transport: Public transport and shipping, footpaths, cycle tracks; speed limit on motor-ways, ...
 - Informing and awareness raising: Newspapers, TV, events, conferences, internet, education system,...

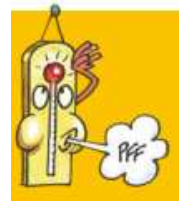
Main achievements

It is not the 166 actions that ensure the added value of the Mulhouse's Climate Plan. It is rather:

- Dimension of the **network** and close **collaboration** between all the 74 partners
- Inclusion of the **citizens' interest**
- Measures to involve the citizens and to **raise awareness**

In this regard Mulhouse's Climate Plan is very exemplary:

An **information week end** was organized in 2008. A pavilion in the city centre as well as a route with different information stations, received the **3,500** visitors. Further attractions were an exhibition about the Climate Plan, as well as a little test to find out if the visitor is a "Clima'ctor" and a **leaflet**.



This leaflet is a short presentation of ecological gestures that everybody can easily apply or avoid in everyday life to fight greenhouse gases. The Mulhousian graphic artist JOAN illustrated the leaflet in an attractive manner.

(<http://www.agglo-mulhouse.fr/medias/developpement-durable-plan-climat/plan-climat/livre-bleu.pdf>)

At the same occasion the "**Climatebox**" has been successfully introduced to the citizens as a first step to become an "ecocitizen". The box contains:



- A water saving tap insert: reduces tap flow to 6,5 litres per minute instead of 11
- A water saving shower head: reduces shower flow to 8 litres per minute instead of 15
- 3 low-energy light bulbs
- An alcohol thermometer (without mercury)
- A trash bag for waste separation...

Adopting these simple instruments reduces considerably water and electricity bills (up to 90 € per year) and helps to fight against climate change (by cutting up to 110 kg of CO₂ emissions).

Furthermore a **weblog** (www.agglo-mulhouse.fr/objectif-climat/) and an **e-mail contact** (objectif-climat@agglo-mulhouse.fr) have been set up where the citizens can discuss the Climate Plan and participate actively in its development by proposing concrete actions.

Suggestions for other municipalities

The first and most important preliminary step to take in the development of a Climate Plan is the **organisation**. To implement a Climate Plan, **all local authorities** have to be involved. The interest of some unique elected representatives is not enough. A commission can be established, that brings together the local players and interested persons.

9 steps have to be taken:

- Make the decision to develop and adopt a Climate Plan
- Assign an elected representative responsible for the Climate Plan
- Build a working group that elaborates, manages and evaluates this policy
- Quantify the greenhouse gas emissions of the region
- Adapt the results of this study to broader territorial diagnosis
- Define scenarios and objectives
- Elaborate an action plan
- Identify and assign tools to the actions
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation instrument that assures continuous improvement.

MODEL Partner responsible for this case study

Energie-Cités

Energie-Cités is the association of European local authorities for the promotion of local sustainable energy policies. This network represents more than 1000 towns and cities in 26 countries. Energie-Cités builds European projects for helping its different members. Its main objectives are:

- to develop initiatives through exchange of experiences, the transfer of know how and the organisation of joint projects,
- to allow partners to benefit from shared expertise in local energy strategies,
- to strengthen its partners' role and skills in the sphere of energy efficiency, in the promotion of renewable and decentralized energy sources and in protection of the environment,
- to influence the policies and proposals made by the European Union institutions in the fields of energy, environmental protection and urban policy.



Visit the web page: www.energie-cites.eu

Further information

Contact person: Claire WOLFF
Position: Vice Chairwoman in charge of sustainable development
Organisation: Greater Mulhouse
Address: 2 rue Pierre et Marie Curie, BP 90019, 68948 Mulhouse Cedex 9
Tel.: +33 3 89 33 79 94
Fax: +33 3 89 33 79 88
E-mail: claire.wolff@agglo-mulhouse.fr
Web: <http://www.agglo-mulhouse.fr/>



This case study was prepared by Energie-Cités as a part of the MODEL project which is supported by the European Commission (DG TREN – EACI Agency) under the IEE Programme as well as by ADEME, the French Energy Management Agency.

The sole responsibility for the content of this shining example lies with the authors. It does not represent the opinion of the Community. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

MODEL website: www.energymodel.eu

© 2009 MODEL

Project Coordinator



Official partner



With the support of:



and

