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**Renewable Energy Regions**  
5<sup>th</sup> Newsletter

# NEWS

July 2021

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RegEnergy Midterm Conference

# Renewable Energy Regions

## Creating Partnerships for Renewable Energy

On 20 May 2021 the Midterm Conference of the RegEnergy project was successfully hosted by Climate Alliance as an online event.

Project partners, municipalities, non-profit organisations, regional authorities, energy agencies and cooperatives, renewable energy providers, consultancies, policy and science joined the conference.

Tarek Al-Wazir, Hessian Minister of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing and Thomas Brose, Executive Director of Climate Alliance opened the conference, highlighted the importance of sustainable energy supply and set the theme for the event.

In the Roundtable discussion, Albert Vendrell Roca, member of the Barcelona Provincial Council, Oliver Arendt from the HAW Hamburg, Stefan Drexelmeier, Head of the Energiewende Oberland in Bavaria and Susanne Supper, Cluster Manager of the Green Energy Lab in Vienna, shared their experiences on the field of work of renewable energy partnerships. Led by the moderator Stefanie Weiner (INFRASTRUKTUR & UMWELT) they discussed questions such as how to make urban-rural partnerships cooperate, how to solve institutional obstacles and what are the dos and don'ts when it comes to urban-rural partnerships in renewable energy supply. The experts stressed the value of a humble and trustful collaboration on eye-level between small and big energy suppliers in order to combine knowledge, manpower and money with the actual energy potential. They emphasized the necessity to make the energy market accessible for small companies for a better distribution and to create a stakeholder involvement respecting the diversity of challenges in rural areas, such as climate change and land use.





RegEnergy Midterm Conference

# Renewable Energy Regions

In the workshop session “Overcoming the barriers preventing cooperation for renewable energy” good-practice examples from Germany, France and Belgium offered deeper insight into main aspects of renewable energy partnerships: Regional transformation processes, contracts between urban and rural administrative units and energy communities.

Jenny-Claire Keilmann and Marcus Andreas from Climate Alliance presented the project Transform-R to the audience. It aims to foster the energy transition in German and emerges from the 100 % renewable regions project’s network. The project offers support in the energy transition on regional level and identifies needs and potentials. The survey conducted for this purpose shows that a higher ambition for transition should be constituted in a top down manner to give orientation while strategies should be developed on a bottom up principle.

Sylvie Mingant from Brest Métropole and Alexandre Guirinec from from the local energy agency ALECOB show-cased the urban rural partnership between Brest Métropole and Pays COB. The partnership for example realised a territorial climate and energy plan and is currently developing wind farms. The energy capacity is supposed to double on behalf of the projects the partnership undertakes.

Tom Schaecken from the Innovation Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development in Belgium presented the INTERREG VB-project ECCO (energy community cooperative). The project aims to accelerate the growth of local Energy Community Co-Operatives. Its success in plenty of municipalities is based on impactful communication and the involvement of citizens as stakeholders in the transition process. Therefore the project developed the game “a powerful village” as an effective tool to bring all parties of the process together for inclusive planning.

During the Poster Slam the RegEnergy partners presented their organisational and technological challenges and solutions:

- Edgar Bazing from Climate Alliance presented the Region-N project which provides an exchange platform and campaigns for best practice as well as implementation aids targeting municipalities, districts and public oriented service providers to address energy transition topics.





- Alexandre Guirinec from ALECOB gave an overview on how know-how and financing are shared between the urbanised and rural areas in the project between Brest Métropole and the Pays COB
- Dan Turner from Plymouth City Council presented the Ernesettle Private Wire, which aims to supply the South West Water treatment works from a solar PV array.
- Paddy Phelan from 3cea presented methods in energy generation and distribution for a sustainable energy supply.
- Yorick Schigt gave insights in Waterstromen's project to create a biogas network between a waste water treatment plant and a paper factory.
- Michael Murphy from Ormonde Upgrading Limited reported that the planned upgrading facility is currently at an advanced stage of construction so that the commission can be given in a few weeks and the region will be supplied with decarbonised energy.
- Marc Vermeeren developer of the Green Energy Park shared that Flux50 is approaching two activities in the park which are the engagement, collection and modelling of production profiles as well as the building of a heating data centre with waste heat.
- Geoffrey Orlando explained the feasibility study and the pilot project that simulates the synergies between electric mobility and photovoltaic Planair carried out.
- Sean Lyons gave an overview on the self-sustainable communities which Waterford was focussing on recently.

You can find more information about the conference here.

Would you like to know more about the RegEnergy Midterm Conference?

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## Innovative Contract Between City & Countryside

### Brest Métropole and the Country of Central West Brittany (France)

In 2015, France launched an experimental scheme to promote inter-municipal cooperation, called 'city-countryside reciprocity contracts'. The aim is to close the gap between urban and rural areas by promoting win-win partnerships in areas such as the environment and energy transition, or the economic development.

The Brest metropolitan area and the country of Central West Brittany represent the first urban-rural partnership to have officially signed a contract in 2016, defining joint workflows for economic development, culture, health, energy and the environment.



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**Brest Métropole (214,000 inhabitants) is marked by the presence of managerial staff and a high youth index offers services. It can offer equipment and engineering.**

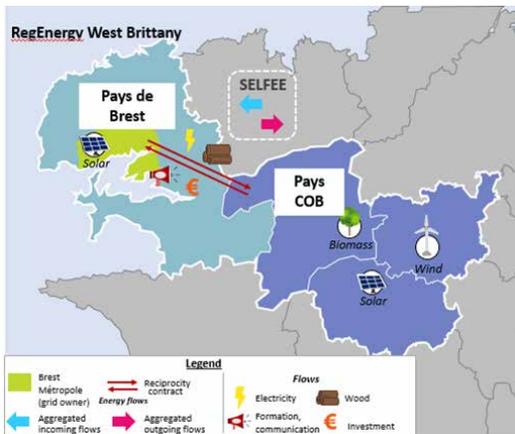
**The Central West Brittany (81,000 inhabitants) is marked by the presence of farmers and workers within an overall ageing population and is mainly oriented towards production and processing. It has a preserved nature and environment.**



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## Reciprocity contract

Brest Métropole (BM) and the country of Central West Brittany (COB) are part of a reciprocity contract allowing them to establish a new form of inter-municipal collaboration and to overcome the institutional and administrative barriers.



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|                         | Brest Métropole | Pays COB |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| High Energy consumption | ✓               | ~        |
| RE potential            | ~               | ✓        |

### ← Reciprocity agreement →

|             |   |                         |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| Investments | → | Technical engineering   |
| Know-how    | → | Communication/awareness |

|                    |   |                  |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Purchase of energy | ← | RE projects      |
| Feedbacks          | ← | Experimentations |

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## Actions

In this framework, different actions on renewable energies and heating were developed due to an effective communication and exchange of technical know-how. The partnership realised together with the local governance an energy plan, is supporting the wood industry to reduce the use of fossil fuels, raises awareness for renewable energy sources with a solar cadastre and is currently developing additional wind farms.

### Energy plan and local governance

The purpose of this territorial project is to develop a local strategy to address the global climate challenge. It defines objectives, an action program and coordinates the involvement of all actors.



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### *Energy Plan*

Brest Métropole has voted its Territorial Plan for climate, air and energy for the period 2019-2025. This document extends the first climate plan of 2012 and stresses out the implementation of the local energy transition policy. As part of its action plan, the City of Brest and Brest Métropole are involved in reducing the area's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

On the Central West Brittany side, the Community of communes "Roi Morvan Communauté" also elaborated its Territorial Plan for climate, air and energy in collaboration with the local energy agency of Central West Brittany, ALECOB, and with the support of the local energy agency of the Brest country, Ener'gence. The ALECOB also accompanied the Community of communes "Roi Morvan Communauté" in applying to the call for projects "Energy Planning", which goal it to apply the roadmap towards energy autonomy and to reflect on the creation of an investment company for renewable energy projects (as realized in the Kreiz Breizh's Community of communes).

### *Citizen mobilization*

Brest Métropole supports the citizen energy community of its territory, Ecoop, and has made the roofs of public buildings available for the installation of photovoltaic panels. The Central West Brittany has been involved in the creation of a citizen energy community in its territory.



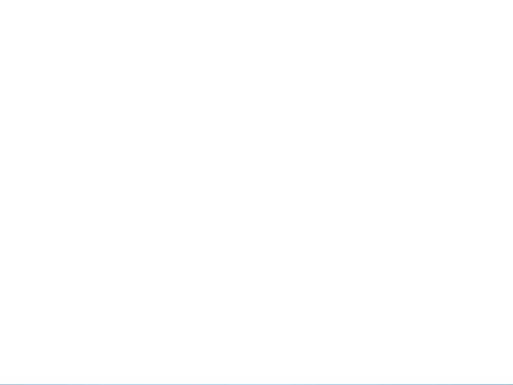
Climate plan - Consultation workshop (COB)  
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### **Development of wood industry**

Brest Métropole is developing projects on wood-fired heating and heating networks, fuelled by wood from the forestry sector in COB. This reduces COB's dependence on fuel oil, increases the demand for wood and is structuring the wood industry.

BM is developing a new 4.5 km heating network project supplied by a 1.8 MW wood-fired boiler room coupled with thermal storage (120 m<sup>3</sup>) with a gas backup. The network will serve a dozen sites in the Brest Iroise Technopole, mainly research establishments (IFREMER) and engineering schools, laboratories and offices.

If the service provider for the construction of the boiler room has been selected, the realization of the project still depends on obtaining



Brest Métropole - Wood boiler room and Pays COB - local wood industry  
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ADEME (Agence de la Transition Écologique - Ecological Transition Agency) subsidies and whether the Technopole sites substitute their gas boiler room with a substation fed by the network.

### **Massification of solar energy**

The RegEnergy project provides investment support for projects in urban area and engineering support in rural area. A communication strategy has also been implemented around a solar cadastre.

#### *Investment support*

In Brest Métropole, photovoltaic projects can benefit from investment support for site preparation, i.e. studies and work to reinforce the framework or connection to the network. Thanks to this support, Brest commissioned a solar power plant for the Foch gymnasium (99 kWp) at the end of 2020 and one for the aquarium Océanopolis (380 kWp) at the beginning of 2021. The municipal technical centre has recently been equipped with a self-consumption installation (69 kWp) which will compensate for the deployment of electric vehicles and achieve energy savings at the site level.

#### *Engineering support*

In Central West Brittany, a project adviser has been hired to help photovoltaic projects to emerge. The project advisor supports the various actors, e.g. local authorities, farmers, individuals, etc. in elaborating feasibility studies or applying for subsidy. Several projects are currently supported such as a swimming pool (99 kWp), a gymnasium (30 kWp) or a school (25 kWp), some of which integrate an innovative character such as collective self-consumption or bifacial panels.

#### *Awareness and communication*

A solar cadastre has been set up in Brest Métropole. With free access, it allows people to identify the sunshine potential of their roof and to deduce the interest of installing solar panels. Brest Métropole has shared its know-how in order to replicate the same tool in the COB region.



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### Development of wind farms

There is a strong potential for wind energy and ongoing projects in the Community of Communes of Kreiz Breizh (CCKB).

Brest Métropole directly supports the municipalities in taking part into the governance of wind farms by taking a financial stake and by encouraging citizen financing.

The RegEnergy project has contributed to build the capacities of the CCKB on the theme of energy. The CCKB, under its transferred competence,

- informs and accompanies the communes concerned by a wind energy project on their communal territory.
- is involved in public inquiries to give an opinion on these projects
- continues its exchanges with the developers of projects to finalize the partnerships

This territorial structuring began with the creation of a project company “Energies Renouvelables du Kreiz Breizh” whose capital is currently held at 100% by the local authorities and which will, in time, be open to citizens as well as certain partners (energy syndicate, energy suppliers, etc...). A citizen mobilization process was recently launched. This company will serve as a legal vehicle for the territory to establish partnerships with private developers of RE projects.

Would you like to know more about the reciprocity contract?

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## Events

March 2021

Climate Alliance

### **Region-N - a network to accelerate the local energy transition gains momentum**

In March 2021, 22 participants met via ZOOM for the 4th Region-N network meeting. They adopted the mission "100% Renewable Energy by 2030" and agreed that the network will now focus on developing network offers. This will be done in 2 working groups:

- Campaign WG: they are working on a campaign with the aim of promoting solar energy from the roof for electricity, mobility and heat among SMEs.
- WG Expert Forums: they see themselves as an expert advisory board for Region-N; the first product is a list of "network contacts and competences" to improve the transfer of knowledge

In May the first Region-N newsletter was published in German. It contains interviews with 2 climate protection managers on the different challenges in climate protection between the city and the surrounding area. The newsletter can be downloaded [here](#).

For more information, please visit the [Region-N website](#).

Would you like to know more about Region-N?  
**Edgar Bazing**  
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Graphic: Inga-Lill Kuhne, Ecolearn

**Region-N is aimed at actors from the municipal administration and from associations and non-profit enterprises. The aim is to create synergies between the two groups.**



© by Ormonde Upgrading Limited

If you would like to know more about the biogas upgrade, please contact OUL at:

# Ormonde Upgrading Limited

[upgrading@ormondeorganics.ie](mailto:upgrading@ormondeorganics.ie)

For any queries on the project please contact Dewi:

Dewi Dimyati-Vliexs

# 3cea

[dewi@3cea.ie](mailto:dewi@3cea.ie)

## News

April 2021

### Ormonde Upgrading Limited **Biogas Upgrader Arrived**

Delivery of biogas upgrader for installation at Ormonde Upgrading Limited's ("OUL") facility occurred in April. The upgrader enables increased production of renewable biogas at the facility and will allow OUL to upgrade renewable biogas to biomethane with the renewable biomethane being made available to RE partners. The upgrader is to be commissioned in June.



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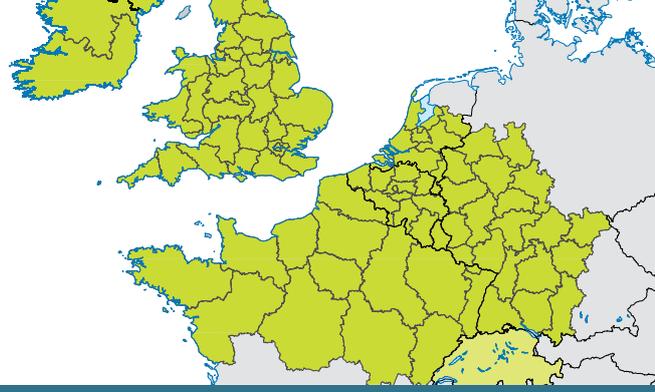
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### 3 Counties Energy Agency **Gas Heating Boilers for Two Local Authorities**

The Irish partner of 3cea, Ormonde Organics, are now producing biomethane. 3cea have agreed to provide gas heating boilers, to two Local Authorities in Wexford and Kilkenny. The procurement is underway and they hope to have plants operational soon. Work is also ongoing to develop contract frameworks for the supply of biomethane to regional energy users

For more information, see 3ceas' videos on RegEnergy and biogas:





# Facts & Figures

## The Partnership

Climate Alliance (Lead Partner, DE)  
Brest Métropole (FR)  
Flux 50 (BE)  
Plymouth City Council (UK)  
Waterstromen Etten BV (NL)  
3 Counties Energy Agency (IE)  
Planair (CH)  
Waterford Institute of Technology (IE)  
Ormonde Upgrading Limited (IE)

## Upcoming Events

*7<sup>TH</sup> WORKING GROUP MEETING*  
20 – 22 October 2021  
3 Counties Energy Agency / Ormonde  
Upgrading Limited  
Ireland

*FINAL CONFERENCE*  
17 - 19 May 2022  
Brest Métropole, France

## Project Facts

Duration:  
October 2018 – September 2022

Funding:  
€11.08 million total project funding  
€6.1 million funded via ERDF

## Contact

### Climate Alliance

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