

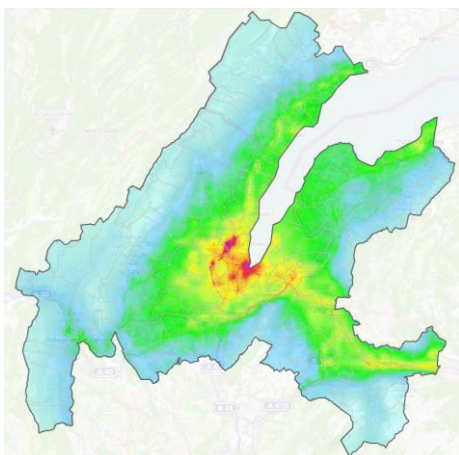


DISCOVERING ...

Programme of Cross-Border Actions for the quality of the Air of Greater Geneva (PACT'Air)

#Cross-borderCooperation #AirQuality #EnergyTransition

With almost 1 million inhabitants in the cross-border area of Greater Geneva, the improving of the quality of the air constitutes a big health challenge, as well as being greatly desired by the populations. This finding is widely shared between France and the Swiss Confederation. As the actions of the people living on one side of the border have repercussions on the quality of the air breathed by the those living on the other side, it is consequently essential to have a shared vision, common tools and coordinated management of the quality of the air at the level of the Franco-Swiss area that is Greater Geneva.



G²AME map example

Already initiated with the [G²AME - Greater Geneva Air Model Emissions](#) – project which enabled the creation of an innovative modelling and diagnostic tool for the quality of the air in the Greater Geneva area, the Franco-Swiss cross-border partnership is continuing in the context of the Interreg V programme (2014-2020), with the PACT'Air project: Programme of Cross-Border Actions for the quality of the Air in the Greater Geneva area, over the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.

Undertaken by the French Geneva Metropolitan Pole (French leader) in cooperation with ATMO Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, the French State (DREAL, DDT 74 and DDT 01), the Regional Health Agency (ARS), the Departments of Ain, Haute-Savoie and the

Cantons of Geneva (Swiss leader) and Vaud, this initiative plans to establish a programme of coordinated actions to cut down the discharge of air pollutants with 3 objectives: bring all the

players together around a public health issue, develop an air protection strategy coordinated at the cross-border conurbation level and get the notion of a « common air basin » adopted, irrespective of the borders and administrative limits.

Up to now, there was no joint programme of actions to improve the quality of the air in the France-Vaud-Geneva conurbation, despite the fact that on either side of the border solutions have been implemented locally. A long and meticulous process bringing together Swiss and French specialists has enabled an action plan to be produced to improve the quality of the air, comprising 14 actions, split up into 33 sub-actions.

These actions follow the following principles:

- **Cross-border actions:** these may involve common actions (such as the harmonisation of the schemes for the management and triggering of alert procedures), or actions making use of schemes already in force on either side of the border (such as the application of the French Crit'air disc scheme in Geneva or the implementation on the French side of the Geneva heating appliance checks – two particularly symbolic actions),
- **actions in the event of pollution peaks** (such as free public transport) **and permanent actions** (in the town planning, mobility, worksite management sectors etc...),

- **proactive actions** (corporate travel plans, promotion of vehicle fleet renewal, communication actions...) **and forthcoming regulatory actions** (traffic restrictions, stack emission standards in the event of pollution peaks...).
- **sector-based actions** attacking all sources of pollution and therefore covering the fields of transport and mobility, residential sector and economic activities.
 - For transport and mobility, the actions proposed aim to promote alternative solutions to solo car driving (experimenting of lanes dedicated to carpooling at customs posts, promotion of travel plans of Swiss employers, mobilization of the mobility organizing authorities (AOM), to move towards a restricted traffic zone involving the use of Crit'Air windscreen discs in Switzerland)
 - For the residential sector, the actions presented propose to act on « the way of life » (fight against the use of wood for additional heating, burning in the open air and « the way of doing things » (town planning, air quality standards)
 - For the economic sector, the actions concern work sites (construction and public works), and, for example, the site of the airport.
- **actions that concern and involve all the players** – public authorities, local authorities, citizens, in the economic and agricultural world.

At the same time the partners wish to equip themselves with a tool for forecasting and managing pollution peaks, based on the system used for G²AME. It will enable the authorities to have data at their disposal to assess and predict the quality of the air over the short term (at D and D+1). A veritable decision aid tool for starting pollution reduction actions on either side of the border, it will enable common actions to be implemented in order to reduce the levels during the first hours and days of the activation of a pollution episode management scheme and even to anticipate them in order to prevent such episodes. Lastly, aware of the fact that the success of a cross-border action plan depends upon the appropriation of the issues involved by all the local players, the partners are rolling out considerable means for local communication with in particular the production of an animated presentation intended for the elected representatives and technicians in the Greater Geneva area, the development of a smartphone application to inform the citizens about the quality of the air or again the rolling out of interactive exposure (EXP'AIR) in all the Greater Geneva secondary schools .

**For more information about the subject, go to
the Greater Geneva website:**

<http://www.grand-geneve.org/enjeux-strategie/air-climat-energie>

[Back to the European Energy Transition Conference website](#)