

## Discovering...

The first phase of the rollout of GRDF's communicating gas meter in 4 regions in France: a tool that opens up the way to innovative solutions for controlling your gas consumption.

According to the Agency for the Environment and the Control of Energy (ADEME), nearly half of the energy produced in France is consumed by households to cover their domestic needs (heating and hot water in particular). It is moreover an established fact that energy consumption in the residential sector can be cut in half thanks to the adoption of daily eco actions. But in order to control your consumption, you need first of all need to be able to measure it and understand it. This is why the European Union encouraged the Member States to roll out communicating gas meters in a 2009 directive.

Thanks to the daily supply of housing energy consumption data, GRDF's communicating gas meters will help private individuals optimize their energy practices and make savings while at the same time preserving the environment. These objectives will be attained thanks to the involvement of the field players in energy control actions, foremost of which are the regional and local authorities. The advent of the new « Gazpar » meter may moreover open up the way to new initiatives and solutions in the regions, as is testified by the first « Energy Control » experimental phase conducted in the pilot zone in the Saint-Brieuc area (22).



Photo: GRDF / Grégory Brandel.

Co-built under the auspices of the Energy Regulatory Board (CRE), the GRDF's Communicating Gas Meter Project has entered its « rollout pilot » phase in 2016. This phase consists in fitting approximately 150,000 meters, distributed over 4 zones representative of France as a whole (Le Havre; Lyons (4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> districts) and Caluire-et-Cuire; Nanterre, Puteaux and Rueil-Malmaison; 18 towns in the Saint-Brieuc area). The general rollout of 11 million Gazpar meters in France as a whole is planned to take place between 2017 and 2022. The investment required for the realization of this Project, generating moreover direct jobs in France, comes to billion euros.

GRDF wishes to take advantage of the rollout of its « Gazpar » communicating gas meters to achieve greater mobilization of the public and local authorities and property managers in the energy control field. Local consultation meetings have thus been arranged with these players in the four rollout « pilot » regions.

In Brittany, various experiments, conducted in partnership with the Local Energy Agency in Saint-Brieuc, ADEME and the Saint-Brieuc district council, aim to define the conditions for a proper appropriation of the communicating gas meter by the energy consumers. Started with a few consumers, they will gradually concern up to 4,000 housing units during the winter of 2016-2017. Equipped with a radio module, Gazpar enables individuals to take stock of their daily consumption. The meter transmits in fact daily the natural gas consumption data of the home to a “receiver” installed on the roof of a building. This receiver, or « concentrator », then sends the data to the GRDF’s information system. Everyone will eventually be able to access their personal data on a personal secure space on the [grdf.fr](http://grdf.fr) website. In order to help with the rollout of the meter, ADEME has undertaken to mobilize the regional directorates and the energy information spaces in order to conduct local information campaigns. Round tables are also organized to ensure that the service provided meets the consumer expectations.

The experiments conducted in Saint-Brieuc show that collective appropriation can lead to customized innovative solutions. A hackathon (collaborative IT marathon) was for example arranged for the 28 and 29 May 2016, by the « la:matrice », a digital innovation association, with the backing of the local Saint-Brieuc Energy Agency, ADEME and GRDF. For 48h, developers and designers thought up innovative concepts, based on digital data processing, to help consumers appropriate the new data produced by the gas communicating meter and thus act effectively on their consumption. Among the ideas collected: an application for comparing yourself with similar consumption profiles and being advised on eco actions to be adopted, a LED connected object (a bench, for example) located in the town centre whose illumination depended upon the gas consumption of the town, or again an ethical data use project inspired by the management of medical data. The results were then shared with the elected representatives and the citizens to solicit their opinions. They feed the national survey conducted jointly by ADEME and GRDF.

Thanks to the pilot rollout in the 24 towns, GRDF and the Federation of Local Energy and Climate Control Agencies (FLAME) have already seen that the rollout of Gazpar needs to be linked with a pedagogical advisory initiative and that this should be the opportunity for the local players-to define together a new collective energy policy of innovating by pooling together all the local skills.

#### **A partnership between GRDF and FLAME to provide greater support for the regions in terms of energy transition.**

From 6 to 8 July last the National Congress of the Federation of Local Energy and Climate Control Agencies (FLAME) was held in Clermont-Ferrand. On this occasion FLAME and GRDF signed a national partnership agreement drilled down to the local level. The purpose? Pooling together the various skills and expertise to help the elected representatives and the local authorities attain the energy transition objectives. The partnership should promote the sharing of experience, networking and the sharing of knowledge between the Regional Directorates of the GRDF and the local energy and climate control agencies in order to contribute to the improving of the local government policies, while at the same integrating the potential of network infrastructures in the global energy mix

#### **For more information:**

<http://www.grdf.fr/dossiers/gazpar-le-compteur-communicant>

<http://www.federation-flame.org/>

<http://www.ademe.fr/>