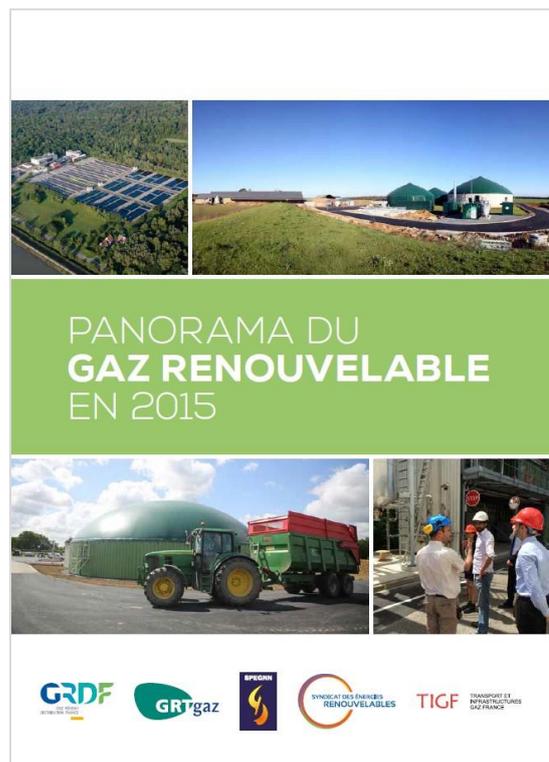


*Read, seen and heard...*

**FOCUS:**

**First edition of an annual panorama of the renewable gas sector in France.**

In 2015 renewable gas set itself a goal for the first time. In point of fact the Energy Transition for Green Growth Act (LTECV) sets the consumption of renewable gas for 2030 at 10 %. The recent development of the sector and the recent positive experience feedback from the first injection sites prove that biomethane is an energy with a big potential that has a fully deserved place in the renewable energy mix. In 2015, with 17 injection sites located in France, renewable gas has become a reality. In all, 82 GWh of biomethane have been injected into the French gas networks, i.e. a 160 % increase over 2014. To testify to this, the Renewable Energy Union (SER) and the gas distribution network operators - GRDF, GRTgaz, SPEGNN and TIGF – are publishing the first annual Panorama of renewable gas: an assessment of this sector in the full throes of growth with a big development potential for 2015. In addition to the information it contains which is intended to encourage the regional and local players to commit themselves to the development of this sector, the document conveys for the first time the collective commitment of the players to promoting renewable gas and, more specifically, biomethane. Also, on account of the permanent expansion of the sector (To date the network has 24 injection sites, i.e. already 7 more than in 2015), the partners intend to update this panorama regularly for annual publication.



For more information: <http://www.grdf.fr/actualites/panorama-gaz-renouvelable>

## IN BRIEF



### **Humanity has been living on credit since 8 August.**

According to the Global Footprint Network, on 8 August we exhausted this year's capacity of the earth's ecosystem to supply us with drinking water, air of good quality, stocks of food and non-renewable natural resources such as energy and raw materials. Whereas the earth's capacity was greater than mankind's demand at the beginning of the 1960's, the trend was reversed in 1971. Set at 1 November in the 1980's, then

at 24 August at the beginning of this century, the exhaustion date is advancing all time. If mankind carries on in this way, *Global Footprint* informs us that it will be brought forward to the end of June by 2030...Today, we need 1.6 terrestrial ecosystems to cover man's needs. (Source: *GreenIT.fr* - <http://bit.ly/2coLC0q>)



### **The Government is facilitating experiments with autonomous vehicles on the open road.**

Through an order published on 3 August 2016, the Government has set up an authorisation scheme for driving on public roads dedicated to the experimenting of autonomous vehicles, in order to provide a framework for the first tests conducted on the open road while "ensuring the safety of all the users and

providing where applicable, an appropriate scheme of liability", specifies article 37 of the Energy Transition Act. Prior authorization must be "granted by the Transport Minister following the opinion of the Interior Minister, where applicable after the opinions of the Highways Department, the competent authority in terms of the traffic police and the authority organizing the transport concerned". A Council of State decree will specify the conditions of issue of this authorization and the terms and conditions of its implementation. (Source: *Mobilicites.com* - <http://bit.ly/2aXIn2f> )



### **Renewable energies: the procedure for competitive dialogue is set by decree**

The decree setting the framework for the competitive tendering procedure for electricity production installations was published in the Official Journal on 19 August. This new procedure will be applied in particular to the selection of the applicants for the installation of wind farms in the Channel off Dunkirk (Nord) following the tender procedure launched by Ségolène Royal in April last. After drawing up a short-list based initially on

the technical and financial capacities of the applicants, the Government will organize a dialogue phase with the bidders selected in order to define with them the conditions which their bids must comply with. At the end of this phase, the final specifications will be drawn up and the

applicants invited to submit their bids. The following will be taken into account: price, technical value of the project, environmental performance, energy efficiency, innovative nature of the project and supply security, but also the profitability of the project and the existence of participative investment. The successful bidders will then be designated by the Minister. (Source: *Actu-environnement.com* - <http://bit.ly/2cGhJco>)



### **Self-consumption of renewable energy: the tender procedure has been launched**

On 3 August last the Ministry of the Environment launched a renewable energy « self-consumption » tender procedure for a volume of 40 MW. Highly awaited, this tender procedure covers all the renewable energy production technologies (solar, hydro-electrical, windmills, etc.) and installations between 100 and 500 kW. The total volume allocated is 40 MW (i.e. 100 to 400 successful bidder projects). It targets the consumers in the industrial, tertiary and agricultural sectors, and the shopping centres. The successful bidders will have the possibility of consuming the self-produced energy or of selling it to a third party and also receiving a premium. The value of the premium will be proportional to the share of self-consumed electricity and will take into account the suitability of the facility for optimum integration in the grid system (Source: *Actu-environnement.com* - <http://bit.ly/2axpOD3>)



### **Housing units heated free of charge thanks to the servers: a reality in Paris**

Free and Paris Habitat have announced the coming delivery of 150 social housing units heated thanks to Free's datacenter DC4 located at 58 boulevard Lefebvre. These apartments, located 200 metres from the datacenter, in a building on the avenue Albert-Bartholomé (Paris, 15<sup>th</sup> district) will be reserved for people awaiting social housing. According to the estimates of Paris Habitat, the tenants could save 500 euros on their costs, by reducing their heating and hot water bills by 80 % and 50 % respectively. Other projects could quickly see the light of day in the capital such as the heating for the Butte aux Cailles (13<sup>th</sup> district) swimming pool thanks to the servers of the start-up Stimergy (Source: *Numerama.com* - <http://bit.ly/2bObYbm>)



## The United States and China ratify the Paris Agreement

September marked a major advance in the worldwide fight against global warming and climate change. The USA and China have in fact officially ratified the Paris Agreement and are consequently committed to lowering their greenhouse gas emissions. With a total of 20 % of the greenhouse gas emissions for China and 18% for the USA, the 2 countries are today the biggest emitters on the planet. Ségolène Royale – Minister of the Environment and International Climate Relations, considers that this is a decisive step towards creating a positive dynamic and bringing along Canada, Australia or India with it. In December, at the Paris Climate conference, 195 countries gave a commitment to limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The agreement will come into force once 55 countries representing at least 55% of the global emissions have ratified it. (Source: *Lemond.fr* - <http://bit.ly/2bSAAyG> )