

BEST PRACTICE



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Active citizenship for energy self-sufficiency

Nerac, France – 7 085 inhabitants

PV – renovation – community energy

The city of Nerac is acting on multiple fronts to become a Positive Energy Territory and reach energy self-sufficiency by 2050.



Credits: Andreas Gückhorn

Project in a Nutshell

The city joined the Positive Energy Territories project in 2018 (TEPOS - coordinated by the French association for an energy transition - CLER and supported also by the EU Intelligent Energy Europe programme). In the framework of this project, the city of Nerac launched different actions in the field of renewable energy, but also in mobility and building renovation. An information office was set up in the municipality, acting like a one-stop-shop for any question related to home renovation. Citizens can also benefit from a free energy audit of their home. In October 2018, the city also launched a solar registry, to help citizens, business and farmers to find out the solar potential of their properties. The city is also cooperating with a local energy cooperative – the first in the Lot-et-Garonne Department. The ADEME (French Agency for the environment and energy management) will give one euro for each euro invested in the cooperative. The profits generated by the sale of electricity will be reinvested into the local economy.

Impact & Next steps

Already in the first months of implementation, the project has been quite successful in raising the interest of the citizens. Many of them expressed their support for the actions planned by the Municipality. The information office received a lot of requests and some companies and cities in the area started to reflect about mobility options such as car-sharing, when public transport is not available. Thanks to the public local energy cooperative the Municipality hopes to increase renewable energy installations in their territory. Through TEPOS, the city is currently investigating the possibility of deploying other renewable energy installations than solar.

Replicability: Challenges & Success Factors

The city is aware that not all citizens could invest in renewables installation or sustainable mobility. That is why they are suggesting different actions that everyone could take, no matter their financial situation, in order to reduce energy consumption. The Municipality is reflecting with the citizens, pushing for a long term vision when it comes to investment in renewables.



They are also thinking about offering financial help to support the switch to renewable energy and currently provide information on the cheapest credit options available to foster energy efficiency and energy saving.

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