

## Rely on a regional network to trigger new SDH projects

Subject:	Rely on the positive energy territories network to generate new Solar District Heating plants
Description:	This document describes the measure regarding the positive energy territories network in order to generate new achievements in the region
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### Summary description of the instrument

Region: Region Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Partners involved: RhônAlpEnergie Environnement (RAEE), Regional Council of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (RCARA), Centre à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA) Institut National de l'Énergie Solaire (INES)

Short description of the measure: Rely on the positive energy territories active network (more than 30 territories) to generate a better understanding and knowledge of SDH and initiate new SDH

### Initial situation

General situation: The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region is the third French region in terms of area and has a population of 7.6 million inhabitants. It has the eight-largest economy of any European region. Its capital, Lyon, is the second-largest metropolitan area in France after Paris with 2.2 million inhabitants (2012).

The Regional council launched in 2012, with the French Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME), a call for project named 'Territoires à énergie positive (TEPOS)' ('Positive energy territories', i.e. 100% RES communities) to encourage the territories – including the local authorities, companies, farmers and citizens to produce enough renewable energy to meet their needs by 2050. Since 2012, 30 'positive energy territories' have been selected and supported. The objective is to select at the end around 40 territories, which will cover more than 50% of regional area. One can see on the map below the territories already involved (in blue, with yellow lines) and territories that should join the movement before the end of 2018 (in blue).



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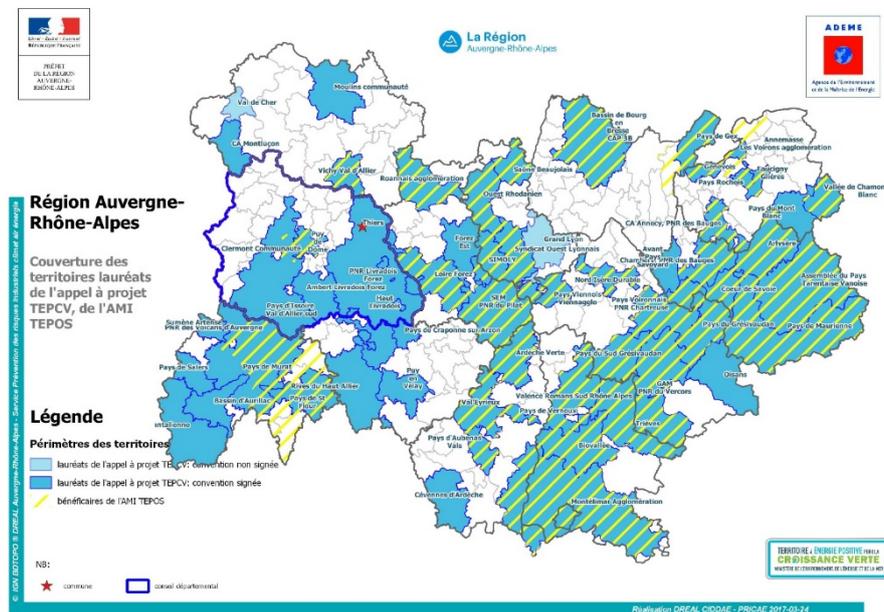


Fig. 1: Tepos territories in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

## Objectives

The aim here is to rely on the positive energy territories active network (more than 30 territories) to generate a better understanding and knowledge of SDH and initiate new SDH in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.

The objective is double:

- good and wide dissemination of relevant information about SDH to local authorities
- new projects developed before the end of 2018 on these territories

## Measures and actions

First we give regular general and specific information about *SDHp2m* developments using different ways:

- A social professional network called [Réseau TERR](#) : every TEPOS territory and also other stakeholders (e.g. associations and policy makers) signed up for this network. We use it to spread information like date and contents of stakeholder group meetings, call for projects, conferences, documents produced.
- The regular TEPOS meetings: 4 times per year we have a regional meeting with all TEPOS territories which is a good opportunity to inform about last *SDHp2m* activities



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Then when a territory has a suitable project or existing DH, we support this local authority to try to develop new SDH: first technical advices, case studies, economic information about prices and incentives, support during development phase.

### Barriers and opportunities

The main barriers are linked with the poor knowledge of local authorities and stakeholders concerning the possibility to develop SDH. We could summarise those barriers as follows:

- The lack of information about this technology for every stakeholder is identified as a strong barrier for the development of solar thermal energy in DH
- Solar thermal solution is thus not sufficiently studied in development phase of DH projects.
- Precise technical and economic data referring to SDH models adapted to the Region are needed.
- The end consumer acceptance has to be developed.

The TEPOS network offers good opportunities to try to overcome those barriers:

- The number of local authorities involved in 100% RES approaches is relevant to spread widely information about SDH (almost 50% of the Region area is covered)
- The regular meetings (4 per year) are good moments for dissemination
- TEPOS territories can be the gateway to reach other stakeholders (DH operators and planners, energy cooperatives and initiatives)
- If TEPOS territories are convinced, we could multiply the number of SDH and consequently the relevance of technical and economic regional data

### Results

The first results of this action are:

- 3 TEPOS territories involved in *SDHp2m* stakeholder group
- Information about the project activities in each regular TEPOS network meeting
- The call for project to realise case studies about SDH found a good echo in TEPOS territories
- Direct contacts between TEPOS territories and *SDHp2m* team about new projects



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### Lessons learned

The first links made with TEPOS territories show great interest for the topic. That is mainly because solar thermal is an essential RES to reach their goal (a share of 100% RES in energy consumption by 2050). The challenge will be to maintain this interest and to be able to assist those local authorities in the implementation of new projects on a technical (case studies) and economic (incentives) point of view with a low gas price.

It is rather efficient to disseminate information about SDH making use of an existing network.

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