

Launch Event of “www.maproprieennergie.fr”

Together with the French NGO Energie Partagée, the governmental agency ADEME and the renewable electricity supplier Enercoop, the Heinrich Böll Foundation presented on 29 May 2015 in Paris an online comic called “ma propre energie”, which has been designed by the French comic-strip artist Audrey Collomb. Energie Partagée is a NGO which is committed to help local communities develop and finance renewable energy projects. In order to bring the energy transition issue to a broader public, Energie Partagée worked with ADEME, Enercoop and the Heinrich Böll Foundation on this online comic, which describes the big steps of the energy history in France and aims at motivating citizens to take an active part in the development of a sustainable and local energy system. The comic is thought as a pedagogic tool, to help the public understand the path which led to a highly centralised energy system in France, heavily dependent on nuclear energy. It also shows that alternative models have been developed successfully in the last years and that local renewable energy projects are worth investing in. The title “ma propre énergie” is a pun playing with the double meaning of “propre”, which can either mean “clean” or “my own”. The comic is available on the website www.maproprieennergie.fr and anyone is welcome to spread the illustrations further.

The launch event was hosted at the “Maison des Acteurs du Paris Durable” and after a welcome by Christel Sauvage, President of Energie Partagée, two political roundtables shed some more light on the recent developments of energy transition in France and Europe.



The first one addressed the role of local political instances in the energy transition, and the second debated the current French law proposal on energy transition (“loi de transition énergétique”), currently under final discussion in the two chambers, and its influence on the involvement of citizens into energy politics.

The first roundtable welcomed Damien Siess, Deputy Director of the Direction for Generation and Sustainable Energy of the ADEME, Corinne Rufet, Vice-President of the Île-de-France Region, and Raphaël Claustre, Director of the Network CLER. It was moderated by Arno Foulon of Energie Partagée. The ADEME is the national agency for Environment and Energy, under guidance of the Ministry of Ecology. As a public administration, they have been working closely with NGOs and local assemblies on renewable energy development. Corinne Rufet is a member of the French Green Party. She was elected member of the regional assembly of Île-de-France for the first time in 2004 and was nominated its Vice-President for Environment, Agriculture and Energy in 2013. Île-de-France Region is the political assembly in charge of Paris and its close surrounding. As a member of this assembly, she has a privileged position to report on the role of local actors in the energy transition. The CLER (Réseau pour la transition énergétique) is a network of NGOs, companies and administrations, which helps to coordinate the development of a sustainable energy system. All the panellists insisted on the importance of local involvement in energy politics. In countries like France with a highly centralised model, the energy governance would benefit from a broader empowerment of sub-national governance structures. Thanks to reforms over the past decades, local politicians and administrations have become more and more important actors of territorial planning and therefore, gained influence on local energy models. Political willingness at city-, county-, and region-level can be a strong support for the planned energy transition. Local assemblies should assist renewable energy projects based on citizen initiatives and crowdfunding models through legal and technical means.





The second roundtable focused on the “loi de transition énergétique” and welcomed Daniel Delalande, Adviser to the Director of the General Directorate for Energy, Denis Baupin, Vice President of the Assemblée Nationale, and Kathrin Glastra, Deputy Director at Climate & Energy Programme, Heinrich Böll Foundation European Union. The discussion was moderated by Anne Bringault of the Réseau Action Climat. Daniel Delalande is part of the team that prepared the bill inside the Ministry for Ecology and he presented the overall government strategy, as well as technical aspects. Denis Baupin is co-rapporteur of the text in the Lower house of the French Parliament, the Assemblée Nationale, and delivered insights of the political process to the audience. From an insider’s point of view, he described the tensions on controversial paragraphs and amendments. To him, the law, in its current state, is the result of a compromise between different political forces and must not be seen as an end, but as a first step towards a sustainable energy system.

Kathrin Glastra added the European context to the French discussion and brought in perspectives on the evolution of European energy policies, particularly the Energy Union. She also provided many examples of the growing share of renewable energy cooperatives in the European landscape.

Even if some uncertainties remain on the final shape of the “loi de transition énergétique”, overall the panellists were optimistic that the new framework will be a first important step to encourage a stronger involvement of citizens into the energy system and a larger deployment of renewable energy.