



REMPART
TOGETHER FOR HERITAGE



WHITE PAPER

Acting for the climate and the
biodiversity on heritage sites

REMPART

Position statement for the REMPART organisation at 1st October 2022



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INTRODUCTION

Do you help run an association in the REMPART network, are you a volunteer, a project leader or a donor? In this guide to good practice, the REMPART associations develop solutions, activities and practical toolkits to help you understand climate change and act every day for sustainable development. To be effective in this area, our actions, like those that we take directly at our heritage sites, must be collective. It is our responsibility to achieve these ambitions together. This document was produced by REMPART's "Heritage and ecological transition" working party, drawing on the survey of network members in 2020 and feedback from their members. It summarises the state of our thinking at the time of publication on 1st October 2022, and attempts the ambitious feat of reconciling sometimes contradictory goals.

The concepts of 'sustainable development', 'climate change' and, more recently the 'ecological transition' address different realities but are all expressions of growing concern about the planet, biodiversity and the exhaustion of natural resources.

Because the latter term seems broader in scope, and also because it is the term widely adopted by the institutions and other bodies we work with at both the national and local levels, we will refer in this document to the concept of 'ecological transition'. We take this to mean the shift to a new economic and social model, a sustainable model of growth that changes our ways of consuming, producing, working and living together to meet the major environmental challenges of climate change, resource scarcity, accelerated biodiversity loss and growing environmental health risks.

As sustainable development remains the essential underpinning of the ecological transition, we have been careful to make reference to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in our proposals for good practice. Each of these seeks, in its own area, to meet one or more of the SDGs. Being able to identify the goals, and thus act within this internationally accepted frame of reference, will strengthen our process. This also ensures cohesion between our work and that of other initiatives, notably those of the local authorities in our members' regions.





REMPART, ITS MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND ITS SITES ARE COMMITTED TO THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

A BRIEF HISTORY

1966

As early as 1966, REMPART's constitution recognised the importance of the cultural and natural dimensions of our heritage. Making reference to this constitution, the charity confirmed in the charter adopted in 1979 that it was committed to "working for our built and natural heritage, which is our shared store of beauty". This was the driving force behind our creation and remains a fundamental aspect of our work.

1992

In 1992, at the Earth Summit, the Rio Declaration set out a definition of sustainable development that put the emphasis on the link between development and the environment. This built on the Brundtland Report of 1987, which stated that development must respond to present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to respond to their own needs, adding that such development must be economically viable, socially equitable and respectful of the environment.

2014

In line with these principles, on 8 June 2014, at its General Meeting hosted by the Château de Calmont d'Olt association in Espalion, REMPART adopted the "REMPART, heritage and sustainable development" document setting out its overall approach. This text confirmed the view that heritage must be considered as a resource to be protected so that it can be passed on to future generations, in the same way as natural and energy resources: heritage is the seedbed in which we root education in citizenship, an essential requirement for sustainable development.

2015

The Paris Agreement, signed at COP21 in 2015, was the first global treaty on the climate. It set the target of limiting average global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It placed considerable emphasis on the notion of adapting to climate change. Climate change creates constraints and risks, but the adaptation required is also a driver of change and innovation. Acting at all levels and on all scales is now a key determinant for collectively meeting this commitment. This historic agreement inspired the process in which REMPART is now engaged.

2020

In 2020, following its AGM, REMPART set up the Climate working group to review current practice within the movement. This review revealed engagement in many areas and a strong desire to act. REMPART published its White Paper on good practice in heritage, and organised discussions on the topic: an ecological transition conference with Andrew Potts, co-ordinator of the Climate Heritage Network, and the REMPART Round Table at the International Heritage Fair on the theme of "Working for the ecological transition and biodiversity". REMPART was also invited to participate in a film on the re-use of materials in its heritage assets, to be shown at COP26 in Glasgow.

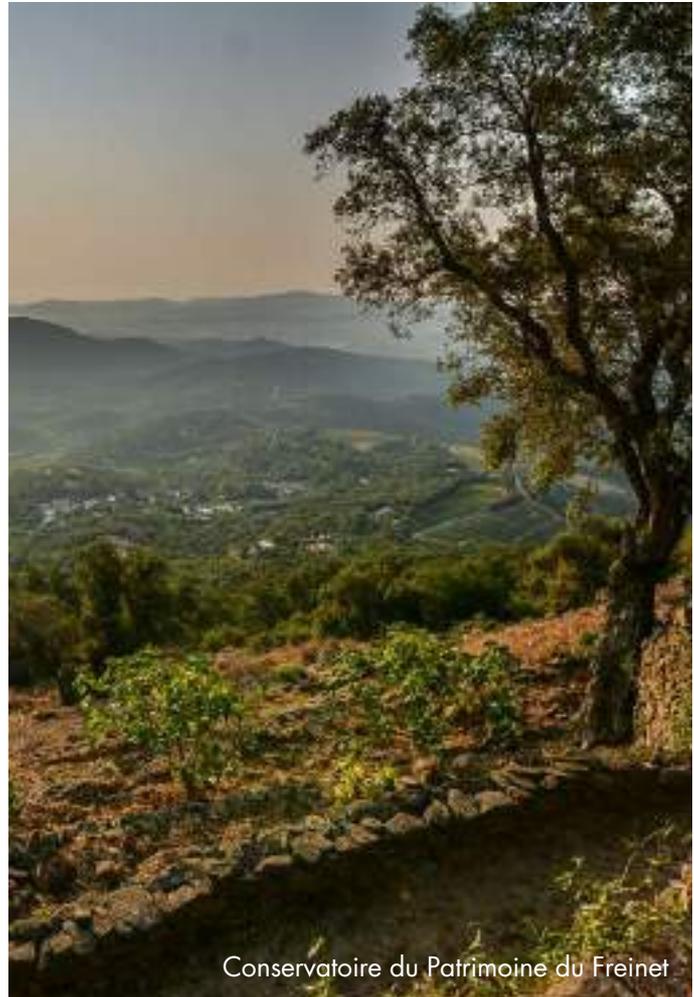
2022

2022 saw the creation and introduction of tools to build awareness of environmental issues amongst volunteers on REMPART projects across all associations: a poster and an educational board game, "The Climate Hunt".



Thus, as a union of associations involved in both general education and the protection of our heritage, REMPART

- recognises that climate change is a real threat throughout the world for people and their heritage;
- considers that the economies in which we act and our individual and collective behaviour carry responsibilities;
- recognises that with changes affecting our cultural and natural heritage and the sites managed by our members, neither our regions nor our heritage are immune to the ongoing changes;
- considers that these changes are affecting the society in which our associations operate, and that the local scale is the most appropriate scale for our action;
- affirms that the charitable framework is necessary in the development of citizens' ability to take action and that our heritage is a platform for education and adaptation to ongoing changes.



Conservatoire du Patrimoine du Freinet

REMPART has joined the global climate action through the Climate Heritage Network, which already included the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

Heritage offers pathways to resilience, and the charitable activities that we undertake to protect it already incorporate practice that helps tackle climate change. We are nevertheless aware of the need to do more at our own scale, to become fully engaged in the ecological transition.



REMPART'S FIVE CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

1

Provide its users with educational resources on projects and heritage sites that face climate challenges.

Promulgate within its network guidance on the best or least impactful practice in the activities undertaken, preferred travel options, use of natural resources, consumption and catering.

2

3

Strengthen the network's capacity through training in climate issues and exploring synergy with environmental education and nature conservation charities.

Monitor the effects of climate change on sites in its network, document adaptation measures taken on a site-by-site basis, and share the information gathered.

4

5

Take account of these effects in the restoration of sites managed by member associations.



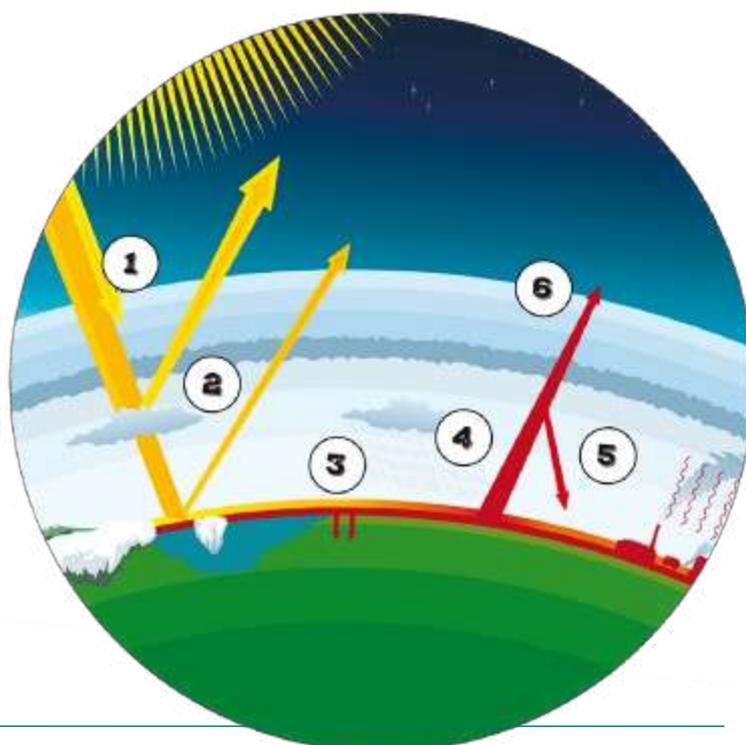


CLIMATE CHANGE IS GLOBAL CHANGE

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

The term 'climate change' refers to the changes in climate characteristics in a given place, over time; this may be warming or cooling. Air pollution as the result of human activity has a significant effect on the climate in the sense of global warming. This phenomenon is causing significant damage: rising sea levels, growing numbers of extreme climate events (droughts, floods, storms, etc.), destabilisation of forests, threats to water resources, challenges in agriculture, desertification, biodiversity loss, more widespread tropical diseases and so on.

Greenhouse gases play an important natural role in climate regulation. Without them, the average temperature on earth would be -18°C rather than $+15^{\circ}\text{C}$, with the result that life would perhaps not be possible. Such gases are naturally scarce in the atmosphere, but their concentrations have increased significantly as the result of human activity. For example, CO_2 concentration has increased by 30% over the last century. Thus human activity has disrupted the balance of the earth's climate, which will have consequences for our way of life.



1. Solar radiation passes through upper layers of the atmosphere
2. Part of the radiation is reflected by the atmosphere and the earth's surface
3. Solar energy is absorbed by the earth's surface
4. This is converted into heat (infrared radiation) which is re-emitted towards space
5. Part of the infrared radiation is absorbed and re-emitted by greenhouse gas molecules. The lower atmosphere and surface of the earth warm up
6. The rest of the infrared radiation passes through the atmosphere and into outer space



The Climate Change Expert Group (CCXG) has warned that climate change will bring:

- disruption to the water cycle;
- increased frequency and intensity of climate-related natural catastrophes (drought, floods, storms, hurricanes);
- threat of land and habitat loss in certain coastal areas, particularly in river deltas, mangrove swamps, coral reefs, with disastrous consequences for local populations.

Moreover, a warming climate could:

- cause a resurgence in malaria and the spread of infectious diseases such as salmonella and cholera;
- accelerate biodiversity loss, with the disappearance of animal and plant species.

IN SUMMARY

- The world is warming due to higher concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- The greenhouse effect is a natural phenomenon. But emissions of greenhouse gases from human activity are amplifying this phenomenon and causing a rise in temperatures.



Does climate change have any positive effects?

NO!

One might be tempted to seek reasons to welcome higher temperatures, such as longer summers, milder winters or the ability to grow certain crops in areas where it would have been impossible to do so in the past. But we shouldn't deceive ourselves; the speed of change creates far more constraints than benefits. For example, any energy savings from warmer winters will be offset by additional cooling requirements created by hotter summers. The strain put on agriculture and our watercourses by repeated droughts will far outweigh the benefits of possible new crops. Some areas may become semi-arid!



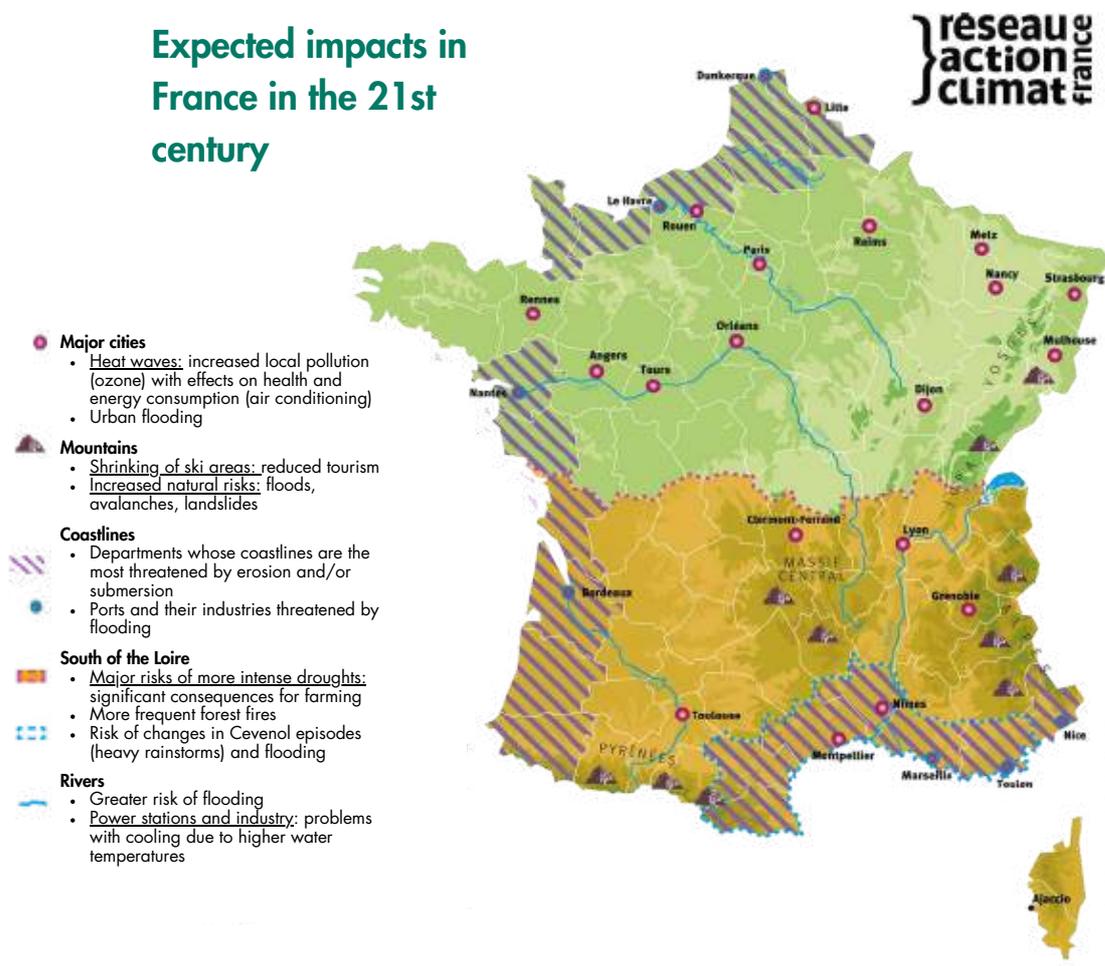
CLIMATE CHANGE IN FRANCE

OVERALL DATA (Source: MÉTÉO-FRANCE)

In mainland France in the near future (2021 to 2050):

- An increase in average temperatures of between 0.6 and 1.3°C (and more than this in the south-east in the summer).
- Increase in the number of heatwave days in summer, particularly in the south-eastern quarter of the country.
- A reduction in the number of unusually cold days in winter throughout mainland France, particularly in the north-east of the country.

Expected impacts in France in the 21st century



Under these scenarios for the 21st century, the expected effects of climate change in France are multiple, and some of them are already being seen.

- Coastal erosion and impact on coastal
- Growing pollution levels and smog in large areas, cities,
- Melting glaciers,
- Disappearance of certain species and spread of others,
- Rising water levels,
- Storms,
- Drought.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR HERITAGE

Understanding the effects of climate change on our heritage in temperate regions has long been the role of specialists. Even today, identifying the impacts of on-going changes is not easy, given that evidence of change differs from region to region. Mountainous and coastal areas are seeing the most rapid and visible changes, whilst in France a large central zone, from Lyon to the Ile-de-France, appears less badly affected. An analysis of the scenarios available throws light on the effects on our heritage, which REMPART sites will not escape. The climate-related factors affecting heritage are: the increase in global temperatures, precipitation and atmospheric humidity, rising sea levels, the combination of climate change and air pollution both outdoors and indoors.



Moulin de Cantecort



Cimetière du Père Lachaise

Heritage is subject to two types of change. First, we can identify 'slow onset' events. By this we mean long-term phenomena that are gradual, causing little harm in the short term but which can have longer-term consequences: the erosion of limestone and marble facades, blackening of stone surfaces, chemical washing of ancient windows, metal corrosion, salt crystallisation in porous walls, growth in the populations of insect, fungal and plant pests, and so on. Secondly, we can consider 'rapid onset' events. These can be short-lived, acute, intense, recurrent, damaging and uncontrollable. Examples include storms, hurricanes, typhoons, extreme snow or rainfall, hail, flash floods, landslides, drought, heatwaves, cold snaps and wildfires.



In response, a report published in April 2020, “Le patrimoine culturel français face au changement climatique mondial” (French cultural heritage in the face of global climate change) was produced by an expert group convened on the occasion of COP 21. This report identifies climate-related factors, their impact, and the strategies to be considered for adaptation, remediation and resilience. In conclusion it proposes a French strategy of adaptation to the impacts of climate change on heritage assets that incorporates research, the economy and conservation.

Action for heritage within the framework of climate change must be global, as must all responses to climate change. Over and above the prospects outlined, the report showed us that future changes remain relatively unknown to people working in the heritage sector, hence the importance of incorporating this information in our conversations with the public authorities and architects who oversee the restoration of our sites.



Château de Sanzay



NETWORK REVIEW 2020

In 2020 a review was carried out in the REMPART network to assess member associations' perceptions of climate change, in general terms, with reference to their sites and activities. The review addressed the issues in their material, environmental, social and economic dimensions. It interviewed a panel representative of the country's geography (plains, coasts, mountains, hills, in the north, south, east and west) and considered all types of heritage looked after by REMPART member associations: those where significant changes are perceived to have already taken place and those where no specific changes have been identified; associations active on a regional level as well as those working more locally; associations consisting solely of volunteers and those with permanent staff.

The analysis of these interviews provided the basis for the recommendations set out below, and for the creation of the programme proposed. This reflects the trends seen on a national scale and the concerns that they raise.

Observed phenomena	Possible effects	Impact on activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher temperatures Heat waves Longer dry periods More intense precipitation More frequent and stronger storms General warming of the climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature rises increasing likelihood of forest fires Temperature rises increasing likelihood of drought Longer periods of drought, affecting ground movement Increase in landslides, avalanches, rockfalls and subsidence due to extreme precipitation Increase in water penetration into load-bearing structures More intense precipitation, increasing likelihood of flooding Coastal effects from storms, increasing likelihood of coastal erosion Increasing rarity of frost days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays to programme Length of project work period Need to refocus work Impact on group and leisure activities Impact on mortar curing Effect of heat on participants and health risks Change in working hours Increased focus on risks such as fire or flood.
		Impacts on sites
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased fire risk around sites Changes to landscape Drying out of moats or changes in their level Weakening of masonry exposed to the elements Deterioration in water quality Freeze-thaw cycle during wetter periods – water penetration of structures Landslides and gulying Roof coverings ill-adapted to heavy rain



BEST PRACTICE IN THE REMPART NETWORK

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Mitigating climate change and adapting to it are two essential routes to reducing the risks that it creates. An activity that contributes to mitigating climate change is one that contributes to the stabilisation of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that prevents dangerous man-made disruption to climate systems.

This covers activities which allow:

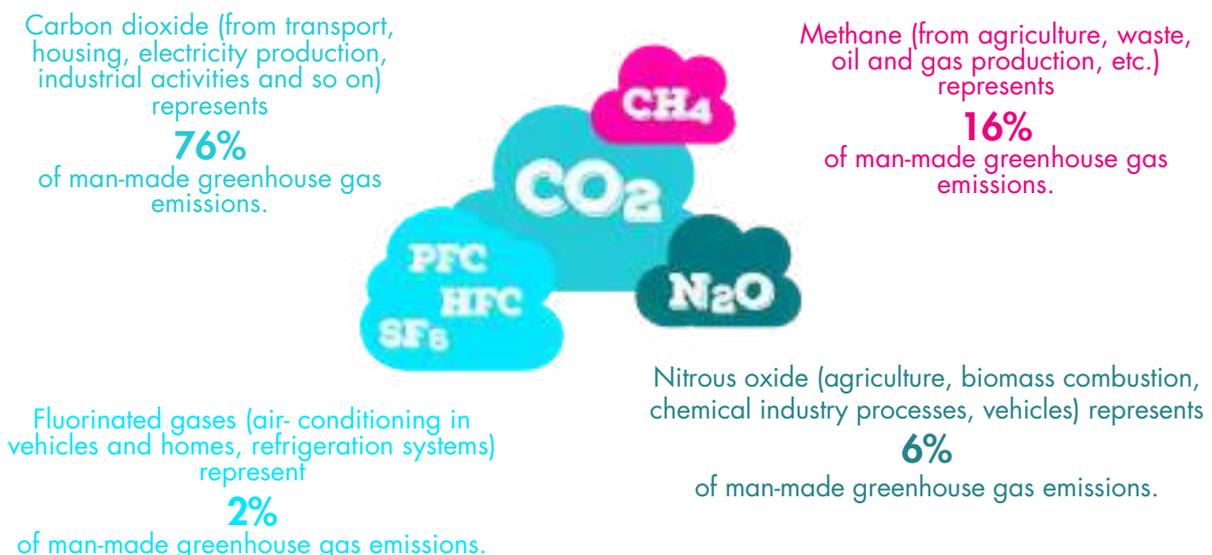
- a reduction or limitation in greenhouse gas emissions;
- the protection or enhancement of 'carbon sinks' such as forests and soil.

In France, nearly 80% of greenhouse gas emissions are linked to fossil fuel use.

An action contributes to adapting to climate change when it helps limit the negative effects of climate change. Such actions may affect:

- our organisational structures;
- the localisation of our activities;
- the techniques we use.

Thus, some of the actions suggested in this guide are intended to mitigate climate change, others to adapt to it.



Percentage in Gt of CO₂e/year, 2010

Illustration source: Réseau Action Climat, climate change educational kit, 2015 edition, p18



ACTING WITHIN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

In many respects, acting to mitigate climate change or adapt to it means acting for sustainable development in general. These two necessities invite us to adopt complementary behaviours which are made all the more virtuous when they are considered together. Consulting the full list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ helps us understand that REMPART's social and heritage impacts respond to several of them such as SDG 5, Gender Equality, and SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities. However, in this guide we have made the choice to concentrate on goals with a particular influence on the quality of our environment and on-going changes in our climate. With this in mind, we have adopted the following list.

The Sustainable Development Goals addressed in this White Paper



¹ In September 2015, 193 United Nations member states defined seventeen goals to be met by 2030: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



GOOD PRACTICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To help explain the good practice targeting the ecological transition identified in the network or applicable to REMPART, we propose a presentation under eight main thematic headings. These categories cover the action areas for REMPART, at all levels of its organisation, from member association to the National Delegation, via restoration and sharing of heritage assets to the regional unions.

Limiting consumption to help save the planet is now a necessity, and taking a more abstemious approach is often less restrictive than it might appear. We believe that the choice of resource sobriety does not mean renouncing everything, but is a means of preserving the essential. It implies a chain of individual actions which allows everyone to find a place in the overall organisation that is useful, coherent and adds value.

Testimonies and the ensuing sharing of experience are the expression of the real pleasure that this frugal approach can bring.

THE EIGHT THEMES FOR REMPART'S PRACTICAL DATA SHEETS





TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL

PRACTICAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION DATA SHEET N° 1

TO START

For REMPART, encouraging travel to heritage assets and project sites is our raison d'être. Each year, our associations welcome thousands of people for residential stays, which often involve travel arrangements. This mobility at all levels requires transport, which is one of the main sources of carbon emissions. How can we reconcile limiting travel and REMPART's activities?



Develop and encourage car sharing

Car sharing means sharing a vehicle to make the same journey. This requires transport to be organised and contact to be established with at least one other person: there are many internet platforms that allow travellers to get in touch with each other. REMPART encourages volunteers planning to travel to site by car to car share. With the agreement of potential drivers, inform participants in an activity that car sharing might be possible. Travelling in pairs halves CO2 emissions!

Using public or shared transport

Rather than using private cars, one can prefer the use of public transport, such as trains and buses, as much as possible. One can also look at travel in the context of length of stay, and thus consider spending several weeks in the region or country of the project.

Relocate discovery and leisure activities during residential stays

Our regions are full of resources: walks, swimming spots, vineyards, nature reserves, heritage sites, artisans and farmers. All these create possibilities for visits and meetings during a residential stay, which can be thought about differently, without using motorised transport. If the sea is more than 80km from your site, is there not an alternative bathing spot that will meet your group's needs?

Prefer walking and soft mobility

The health crisis of recent times has increased awareness of the possibilities accessible in the immediate environs of our sites; some by foot, more often by bicycle. Equipping the association with a stock of new or second-hand bikes to offer volunteers a choice of visits during their stay also represents savings on the rental or purchase of a vehicle, fuel and maintenance. Outside project periods, the stock of bikes can be shared with other associations or loaned out by a local council.





Offset transport-related emissions

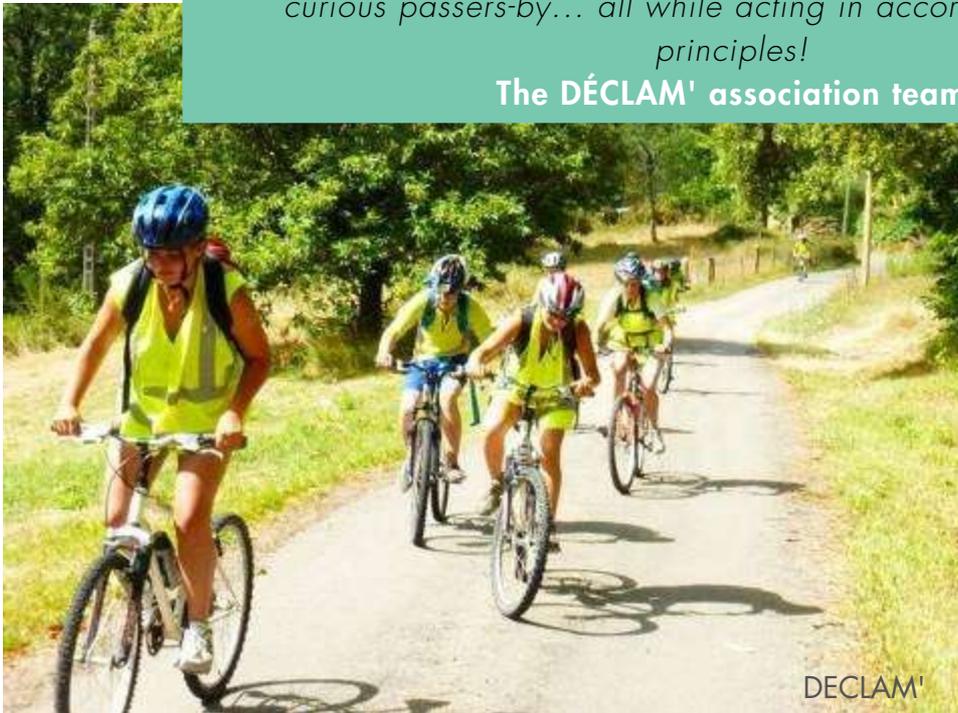
Before considering carbon offsetting, REMPART associations of course recommend avoiding and reducing emissions, in accordance with the principle of “avoid-reduce-offset”. There are many on-line carbon offsetting platforms to choose from. They allow carbon footprints to be calculated and offset through re-forestation, agro-forestry and social action projects.



Saddle up!

We love to wander, set off with no plan, travel the country roads with our volunteers... we had the novel idea of incorporating the environmental impact in our approach project transport. And we decided that we had to do something. But could we give up on these discoveries, on the hand-wrought landscapes unfurling before us? No way! This was when we remembered the travelling project we had in 2015 and decided to dust off our bikes. We contacted the local Sports Office to get enough bikes for all our volunteers, and set off to rediscover the hidden corners of the hills around our sites. This allowed us to create even more links with our neighbours, curious passers-by... all while acting in accordance with our principles!

The DÉCLAM' association team



Options for offsetting carbon emissions

www.apc-paris.com/compensation-carbone





ENERGY

PRACTICAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION DATA SHEET N° 2

TO START

The use of a variety of energy sources is essential for REMPART's activities. Moving people around, feeding a group, lighting and heating associations' premises, putting on events – all of this requires energy, which comes mainly from fossil sources (oil, natural gas, coal) the large-scale combustion of which is responsible for climate change. But for REMPART energy is also collective energy, and particularly the energy we become aware of through the experience of manual work – where often the only energy called on is that of our bodies. Wanting to limit or reduce the impact of our organisation on climate change means thinking about our relationship with energy.



Use solar power for showers

Outdoor accommodation is increasingly used to host groups of volunteers for projects. Thus the use of solar showers, possible in most regions over the summer, helps demonstrate the effectiveness of solar energy and, depending on the models used (individual or multiple use), offers substantial water savings.

Using the lessons of manual work to help understand the value of energy

By encouraging manual work through the restoration of our heritage, REMPART promotes muscle power! Our gestures and movements, the movements we make (walking, running, cycling, etc.) and manual work all use muscle energy. Very often, on a project site, forming a chain to pile stones by hand, preparing mortar with a spade, or fetching water are all actions which are not carried out by machines operating with another form of energy. This provides opportunities for a general discussion about just what energy is.



Village de Périllos



Protecting energy-producing heritage assets

REMPART associations sometimes look after heritage assets that supply energy to transform agricultural products or for industry, such as windmills and watermills. These assets represent a way in to educational activities about energy.

Choosing suppliers of green energy

For the buildings occupied by REMPART associations, choosing an energy supplier is a way of acting in favour of the energy transition. Renewable energy sources have the advantage of being inexhaustible and not producing carbon dioxide. According to Greenpeace, the three 'truly green' suppliers are Energie d'ici, Enercoop and Ilek. However, by combining different energy sources (the energy mix), several other companies such as Ekwateur, Mint, Mega, Plüm, Vattenfall and Planète Oui supply 100% renewable energy. The use of low-consumption lightbulbs can be a first step in this direction.

Greenpeace energy comparison site
www.greenpeace.fr



Not illuminating our sites at night

For the obvious reason of reducing energy consumption but also to protect the night sky and nocturnal biodiversity, REMPART's associations recommend not illuminating sites at night. If the decision on illumination is not the direct responsibility of the association, but of a local authority site owner for example, associations can highlight the energy savings to the local authorities to eliminate or limit site illumination.



Fort Cézon



CONSUMPTION AND FOOD

PRACTICAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION DATA SHEET N° 3

TO START

As a result of their varied activities, REMPART associations consume a significant quantity of goods and food. By concentrating on particular products or goods rather than others, they make consumption decisions which should not be viewed just from an economic point of view. Preferring a particular local producer to source fruit, like choosing an energy supplier, is a commitment to sustainable development and climate action.



Consuming local, seasonal and, where possible, organic produce

80% of REMPART associations operate in rural settings. Supplying project sites with locally-produced fruit and vegetables is often possible. This approach helps support the rural economy, reduces food miles and creates new supportive relationships. Very often, local supply does not cost more, the main difficulty lying in whether or not there are sufficient fruit and vegetable growers in the local area. Charities can also have their own vegetable or herb gardens.



A new model of consumption

For a number of years now, the REMPART Île-de-France group has been investing in finding more responsibly sourced food for volunteers on its projects.

First by involving Gilles Daveau, a specialist in organic and alternative cookery, in training our project workers to encourage food practice focused on local, seasonal and unprocessed products.

Secondly, by promoting vegetarian cuisine and cooking with a wider range of protein sources. To complement this practice, we have also introduced pick-your-own access to fields in order to reduce food miles. We encourage project leaders to involve volunteers in gathering food and adjusting menus to what is available, in order to produce a consumption model that is greener, cheaper and fairer.

**Angéline Martin, Regional Delegate,
REMPART Île-de-France**



Jumeauville



Reducing meat consumption during residential stays

The agro-food industry is a source of deforestation, a significant consumer of water and a major factor in climate change. Meat consumption represents roughly half of greenhouse gas emissions from our food. The production of a kilo of beef is responsible for 18kg of greenhouse gases, whilst that of a kilo of lentils results in 0.2kg! Yet the two are roughly equivalent in terms of protein content, at 22g per 100g for beef and 25g per 100g for lentils.

Eliminating waste at every level and maximising recycling of waste from our activities

In the spirit of the anti-waste and circular economy act (10 February 2020), REMPART associations contribute to the shared effort to eliminate food waste, addressing excess consumption and excess packaging, and sorting waste, particularly from project sites, on a massive scale. Aware of logistical difficulties that such a rigorous approach creates, notably when sorted waste is collected from remote sites, they identify upstream collection sites, and involve volunteers in sorting operations. Consuming only what is necessary and making use of leftovers are also part of the practice that the associations encourage for a frugal approach to our collective life.



Village de Périllos





WATER, RESOURCE AND USAGE

PRACTICAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION DATA SHEET N° 4

TO START

Precious and essential, water is both a resource and an environment. How many REMPART heritage sites are built close to a river or a spring, or have the facilities to store the water needed for human activity in the event of shortage? Access to this resource and its protection are global challenges that REMPART member associations are in a position to address at the local level.



Ensure widespread use of eco-friendly detergents for all activities

Protecting water resources, also means eliminating pollution. REMPART associations call for exclusive use of eco-friendly detergents in all activities. It is possible to produce solid soaps in a simple way, or to use everyday products, like white vinegar for some cleaning tasks. Lastly, making eco-friendly detergents is something anyone can do; some REMPART associations already offer this activity to volunteers during projects, why not try it? To limit water pollution from detergent use, REMPART associations recommend trusting labelling schemes and invite volunteers to bring eco-friendly toiletries with them to project sites.



Awareness-building workshops

For two years now we have been experimenting with a charitable soap-making project at La Colporteuse. We organise workshops for cold production of soap from local and natural materials. As well as an opportunity to discuss our daily cleaning habits, the workshops produce healthy soaps which leave no trace in the environment: perfect for use on site, in our solar showers, or on the road during a camping trip with young people. We want to pay attention to the educational aspects of the activity, which must not come from a place of judgement: this is why we try to find fun ways of reaching out to all participants.

Lolita Favreau, project leader, beekeeping and soap-making, Association La Colporteuse, Château de Sanzay (79)



Château de Sanzay



Controlling water use

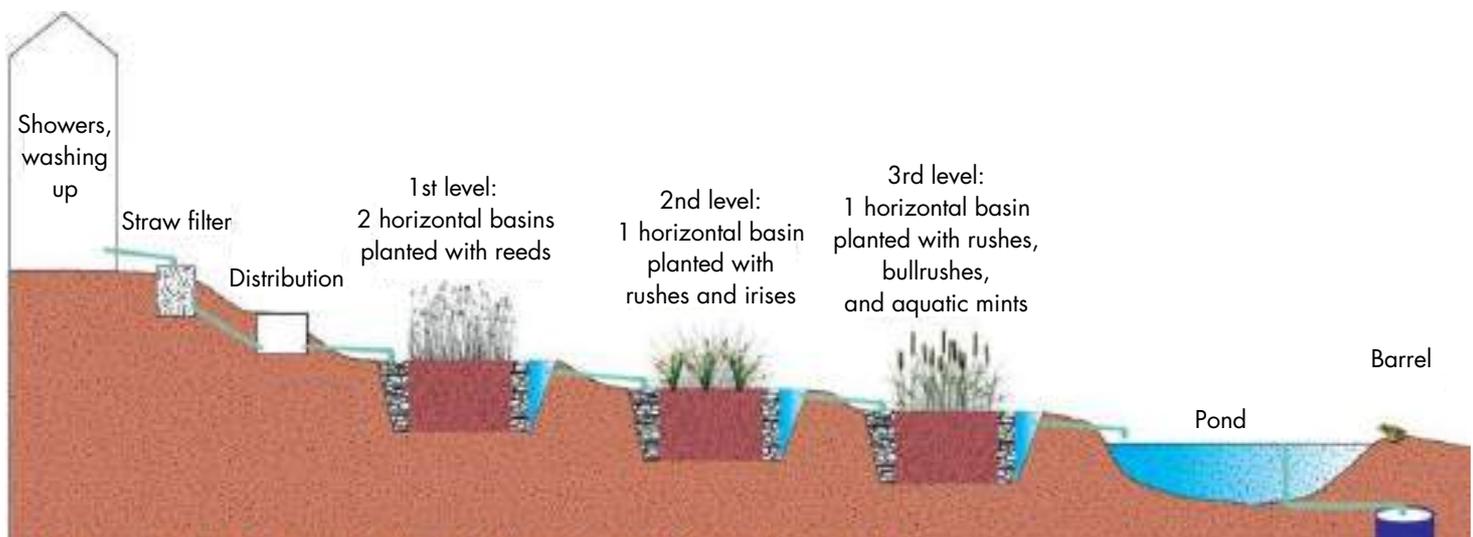
Water is an essential resource that we use every day on sites and in hosting groups. To limit consumption and protect this resource, a few simple measures can be adopted in our hosting sites. Showers can be fitted with timers, and taps can be fitted with push buttons. Posters asking visitors not to run the water when cleaning their teeth or washing up after meals can be put in place by REMPART associations.



The importance of the sewage system

At Périllos, there is no running water and no nearby river. When we arrived there was no sewage system either. So to host our first volunteers at the site, we had to get organised. Water is brought from the nearest village in tanker lorries. Scarce as it is, and all the more precious because of it, we have had to adopt good habits to be economical in its use: introduction of composting toilets, foot-pump showers and re-use of all types of water (water from washing and cooking in the garden, water from the reed-bed sewage system in mortar). Now we have roofs we are working on a rainwater recovery system, but our frugal habits must remain the same. To treat grey water, a series of beds at different levels planted with suitable species ensures a very good result.

**Estelle Dedebant, Chairman,
Association Terre de Pierres, Périllos**



Reed bed wastewater treatment, cross section



Expanding rainwater storage to match the site's needs

Making mortar, wetting a wall before pointing it, cleaning site tools – all of this requires water, in greater or lesser quantities but on a daily basis. Depending on the specific nature of the site, installing rainwater storage helps save drinking water or extraction from the natural environment.

Developing the use of composting toilets

Where it is possible, particularly where there is a suitable plot for composting, the installation of composting toilets, even temporarily, can be appropriate in the site context. Composting toilets (which do not use water) have three main purposes: saving water, avoiding pollution of drinking water which then needs to be retreated, and helping nature by fertilising the soil and replacing our excrement in its natural cycle. The removal of the requirements associated with water use, both supply and evacuation, enables toilet facilities to be installed in places where the use of flush toilets would be impossible.



Composting toilets,

a new step in the creation of an eco-site

La Colporteuse is involved in a review of the resources needed for its activities with the aim of becoming an eco-site. Against this background, we see composting toilets as a tool for raising awareness of water use, particularly for drinking water. They are already in use in the Château's campsite; and are being considered to replace some of the indoor toilets. The goal for 2022: to have composting toilets on all our sites! Cleanliness and ambiance are essential to make these facilities accessible to the greatest number of people, and this requires a highly rigorous approach to maintenance and housekeeping. We are setting up emptying schedules, with waste carried by wheelbarrow to compost heaps in containers. Their operation must be well thought through and easy for everyone. These experiments have also led to the team adopting a process of responsibility in water use; we have become well aware that in our daily lives it can be both difficult and time-consuming to change our habits.

Lolita Favreau, project leader, beekeeping and soap-making, Association La Colporteuse, Château de Sanzay



Château de Sanzay



VISITORS AND MEDIATION

PRACTICAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION DATA SHEET N° 5

TO START

For REMPART, the notion of public welcome covers all activities in which individuals or groups share organised time in the pursuit of the missions of our associations' aims: making heritage everyone's concern. This may therefore include training activities and volunteer site work, but also site visits, academic visits or opening locations for cultural events.



Château de la Chapelle-Gauthier

Putting sites' landscape and climate stories at the forefront

Every REMPART site tells a story of environment and climate, a history of resource use in the surroundings and of adaptation. On a larger geographical scale, heritage sites tell us of a globalisation that dates much further back than is often thought. In medieval carpentry structures in Scotland we can find wood that came from forests in Poland! Closer to home, perhaps a boggy area close to a castle has been drained to provide useable land, a stream deviated to feed a moat, or a forest cleared or planted. Rural buildings, for example, can provide an excellent basis for information about local resource use and adaptation to the region's climate. The slope of a roof, the orientation of openings, the materials used all tell of a landscape that may well have been to the one we can see today. REMPART's associations will share this history as it helps us to understand mankind's impact on its environment.



Providing education in the environment and sustainable development

Project sites represent a break from the everyday for participants. Because they involve a change of habits in a new environment for everyone, they represent an opportunity to take a fresh look at the environment. Time spent outdoors working on the project also encourages us to observe the rhythm of nature, the stars in the sky, and the flora and fauna around the site. REMPART associations believe that project sites provide a good framework for the setting aside of specific times for education in sustainable development and the environment.

Inform, explain and train through hosting and events

Project and residential sites clearly display the health and environmental recommendations in force within the network. A copy of this document is also made available to project leaders and participants. The induction session at the beginning of a project or residential stay will, where necessary, set out any site-specific environmental precautions. Beforehand, REMPART training prepares our project leaders to act responsibly in relation to the environment.



Education for sustainable citizenship

For several years now we have been introducing an environmentally responsible approach in some of our projects. This reflects our commitment to the interaction between people and their environment. For example, on the La Trave site in Préchac, we work from an approach of immersion in and integration with our region: local supply, solar showers, energy savings, de-connection, composting toilets and composting. We run a naturalist visit to the Ciron, a local river considered as the "Noah's Ark of biodiversity" by INRA and Natura 2000 registered, where environmental issues have a direct impact on the local economy. Volunteer heritage projects provide a good framework for education in sustainable citizenship!

Laurent Madaune, Head of the EVS project and educational coordinator, Association Adichats, Environmentally Responsible Projects



Anticipating changes in the times when projects can host volunteers

The warming of the climate can be seen as an opportunity to extend the project season over the course of the year, making outdoor activities in November and February possible more often in more places. It is also an opportunity to promote more camping, which is less costly and enhances contact with nature. At the same time, summers, which will be hotter and longer more often – a phenomenon becoming more widespread across the country – will generate health risks for volunteers (fatigue, dehydration, more biting insects). Charities will ensure that they can anticipate the opportunities as well as the difficulties created by changing climate conditions (adapting work stations, working hours or water supply for instance).

Eliminating plastic use

Plastic is a source of considerable pollution, both in its use (disposal into the natural environments, health effects) and in its production, which produces large quantities of greenhouse gases. In the spirit of the Anti- Waste and Circular Economy Act of 10 February 2020, REMPART associations will eliminate single-use plastics in their purchases (disposable cutlery and crockery, bottles, food containers, lids, stirrers, etc.) and encourage the use of alternatives (re-usable packaging, bulk loose purchasing, returnable packaging). Organising “zero-plastic” sites, events and celebrations is possible!

Monitor the sustainability and ethical sourcing of articles for sale in on-site stores.

Our associations open their sites to the public. Often the ticket office is also a gift shop, offering souvenirs which create a revenue stream for the project. We will ensure the elimination of articles made from oil derivatives and will focus on locally-made items, manufactured from natural or recycled materials and ethically produced.





BUILT HERITAGE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PRACTICAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION DATA SHEET N° 6

TO START

For REMPART, the notion of the built environment covers not only the heritage sites where our associations are active but also the locations and infrastructure that make these activities possible (association premises, accommodation or training



BUILT HERITAGE

Developing a culture built on ethical sourcing and recycling of site materials

For restoration activities, sites make use of large quantities of natural resources such as sand or wood. This consumption can be reduced by recycling: recycling of mortar, or re-use by sourcing beams, for example, from demolition sites. Where the purchase of virgin wood is necessary, REMPART associations will favour the sourcing of French timber from local, sustainably managed forests. There are various certification schemes that guarantee the nature of the forestry operation and the origin of wood. The issues relating to sand, the world's second most utilised resource after water, are often overlooked but are nevertheless crucial. It is a resource that regenerates only over a timescale of hundreds of thousands of years, but is also essential for the heritage restoration sector. Sand from local quarries or gravel pits will clearly have less of an impact than the use of sea sand.



Certifications « bois » de l'ONF

<https://www.onf.fr/onf/connaitre-lonf/+/49::lonf-deux-certifications-de-gestion-durable-et-une-politique-environnementale.html>

Measuring and taking account of changes as a result of climate change

The effects of climate change on heritage sites are still relatively poorly understood by those working in and managing the heritage sector. REMPART's associations will seek to integrate this information in their dialogue with public authorities and architects who oversee the restoration of our sites.



Les remparts de La Charité



Re-using materials and raw materials

Re-using materials has a dominant role at Périllos. This was taken into account from the very beginning of the project. During the clearing of the site and demolition, materials were sorted to assist in their re-use. We made several different piles of stones (small, medium and large), cornerstones, arch stones, those dressed to be used as an outside face, 'potato'-shaped stones, flat stones and so on. All will find their use in future rebuilding. Even shards of tiles or terracotta roof tiles can be used: to build a bread oven, make "Roman concrete" or level a rutted muddy path. Old mortar and other aggregates are sieved, with the sand recovered providing an excellent addition to aggregates in local colours. Once trimmed, wooden beams in poor condition can make excellent lintels. Once we fully integrate this notion of re-use and recycling into our processes, the possibilities are endless. This limits the impacts of extraction and transport and, by re-using the materials of the past, craft traditions are respected all the more. Nothing is left over, except a bit of hardcore that can be used to fill holes, and a few odds and ends of wood – perfect for barbecuing our local produce.

**Florent Bastaroli, member,
Association Terre de Pierres, Périllos**



Village de Périllos

Adapting sites for visitors

The increased frequency of heat waves will force associations to review their facilities for welcoming visitors to their sites. Some covered or underground monuments are particularly popular in the summer, offering tourists cool spaces to escape the heat. However, the vast majority of REMPART sites are exposed to the sun for much of the day. Installing awnings for shade, shady resting places (such as copses of trees in keeping with the site) or any other effective and reversible solution to tackling heat look increasingly like necessary adaptations that associations can review site by site.



OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE USED IN OUR ACTIVITIES

Monitoring energy efficiency of association premises and accommodation facilities

Whether premises are used year-round to run the association or occupied temporarily to accommodate groups, particular attention needs to be paid to energy efficiency. The diversification of association activities and the extension of restoration activities across a season running, in some cases, from February to November makes it likely that our infrastructure will see more use particularly during periods when facilities will need to be heated. Financial support for the energy modernisation of buildings may be available in certain areas. REMPART associations will monitor the insulation of their premises in accordance with building standards, and could conduct thermal assessment of their infrastructure as an initial step. Governments at region, département or inter-commune level are drawing on national and European financing to offer support programmes for buildings' energy transition.



Village médiéval de Peyruse-Le-Roc



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

PRACTICAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION DATA SHEET N° 7

TO START

Many sites run by REMPART associations are located in natural settings of exceptional quality with high levels of biodiversity. A site might include a protected area, a forest or wetlands. Alternatively it might be part of a larger area such as a nature reserve or a regional natural park. Whether or not they are covered by additional protections, the immediate natural surroundings of REMPART sites must be treated with the same care and



Understand and protect the biodiversity of our sites

In order better to understand the biodiversity of our sites and continue to work in favour of our heritage whilst causing the least possible disturbance, REMPART associations work with naturalist networks such as local groups from the LPO (ornithology charity), and offer nature audit internships to students on ecology courses. Our sites host a large number of animal and plant species, some of which are protected, which may find shelter on the edges of our sites, in walls, roofs or trees. Many species find the features of their natural environment replicated in buildings. Birds can nest there, bats find roosts to hibernate or can use loft spaces and cellars to breed in the summer. Insects such as bumblebees and solitary bees can nest in cracks in walls.



Château de Gombervaux



Historic site... and biodiversity haven

The Gombervaux site is not just the ruins of a medieval castle; it also boasts a wealth of flora and fauna, in particular thanks to the waters of its moat. Respecting biodiversity, education and aesthetics are principles incorporated into every one of our actions on this site. However, protecting biodiversity remains our main concern. To this end, we have conducted two wildlife surveys, first in 2002 by the LPO and then in 2016 by LOANA (diurnal and nocturnal birds, fish, amphibians, bats, insects), with the latter attempting a comparative study which however proved to be too complex to be relevant at this stage, due to a lack of scientists. Which species have disappeared? Which have colonised the site? To move forward, we have recently started a partnership with the University of Lorraine. Biodiversity also includes plant life: this is why Jean-Claude E., our botanist, who teaches at the University, has carried out a comprehensive plant survey, allowing us to protect rare species and monitor all plants over the long term.

Christian Laurent, Chairman of Association Gombervaux



Preserving aquatic environments

Water-filled moats, streams, marshes, canals and other wet areas on our sites provide habitats for biodiversity. In order to protect these habitats, associations have banned the use of polluting detergents in all their activities; ensure that they do not wash site tools in rivers or other bodies of water, in accordance with the law; and as far as possible, protect the banks of aquatic habitats and avoid trampling. REMPART associations may incorporate local reviews on green and blue networks in order to ensure ecological continuity between water courses and wet areas, and can involve environmentalists to assist with monitoring of the natural environment where they have not already done so.

Taking account of natural risks (flood, fire)

Natural events only become risks if they represent a threat to assets or populations (such as floods, landslides, forest fires). Some of our sites are located beside rivers, deep in the heart of forests or on cliffs. Whilst all these locations determined the sites' original selection for our monuments, they now represent vulnerabilities to be understood and considered in our activities. REMPART associations will take account of these risks, so as not to increase them, by consulting Natural Risk Prevention Plans (Plans de Prévention des Risques Naturels – PPRN) and Forest Fire Risk Prevention Plans (Plans de Prévention des Risques incendie de forêt – PPRif) which are available from Regional Environment, Development and Housing teams.



Ensuring that landscaping actions favour biodiversity and move towards differentiated management

In dialogue with their natural environment, REMPART sites are places which people visit for relaxation and leisure, and which may feature copses, ornamental trees or parks. For new planting, or the renovation of visitor spaces, REMPART associations will ensure a variety of species is planted, favouring those which are nectar-rich, produce berries and, more generally, are well-adapted to the region. REMPART associations can also be guided by the principles of differentiated management of natural spaces, which can be summarised as "maintain as much as necessary, but as little as possible". Differentiated management focuses on use of space, provides an alternative to intensive horticultural management and has been adopted by a growing number of local authorities and other owners of open spaces.



More details on differentiated management
<https://www.adalia.be/la-gestion-differenciee>



Implement gentler management techniques on site

Often relatively inaccessible for machinery, and in some cases even for manual labour, the green spaces of REMPART sites are subject to careful choices of management approaches so as to minimise impact on the site and its biodiversity. As a first step, the associations proscribe the use of chemical herbicides on their sites. Similarly, some green space around monuments may not be cut until late in the season to keep the soil cool over summer, allow flowers to mature and attract insects and birds. Where intervention is absolutely necessary, associations can use gentler approaches that offer many advantages. Inviting a local goat or sheep farmer to let their animals graze can be a cheap, swift and effective solution. Looking beyond the immediate surroundings of our monuments, maintenance of nearby woods sometimes requires that some trees are felled. Increasingly, felled wood is removed using 'soft' means such as dragging by horses, which respect the forest floor.



Eco-pasture at Château de Montagu

Since the spring of 2021, we have grazed Ouessant sheep in the castle's moat. This allows us to maintain the area in a natural way, avoiding repeated cutting with machines. Introduced on the castle estate in conjunction with the St Antoine horticultural college and a local farmer, the process is part of a training module to teach students about eco-grazing. Quite apart from the time and energy savings, the pasture is more natural than when it was machine-mowed, and we avoid the problem of removing cuttings. It just remains for us to cut the long grass alongside the moat, something we will perhaps also be able to avoid in future by introducing goats. Another advantage of this approach is that it attracts younger visitors. We also have to share the moat for craft discovery activities: the sheep are very inquisitive, and seem particularly interested in stone masonry! The young people from the college look after the sheep, which saves us from the burden of extra work.

**Patrick Bourgueil, Chairman, Association
Historique de Marcoussis**



Château de Marcoussis



Leaving space for wild or rewilded places

At each of the sites we are responsible for, REMPART associations are calling for space to be left for nature to take its course. An approach of this kind saves not only money but also volunteer time. Our guide to good ecological practice must not become just a 'catalogue of actions' that can be undertaken. We must also think of places where a lack of action could leave more space for nature to follow its own path spontaneously. We can, for instance, choose to stop removing cuttings to a dump but instead leave them in place in the form of a woodpile that will slowly rot down, offering shelter to many animals in the process.

Processing or removing unavoidable green waste in accordance with the regulations

In some cases the removal or processing of green waste generated by site maintenance is inevitable. It can be used as mulch or for on-site composting where its is biodegradable, using a chipper if need be. Green waste may also be taken for disposal in accordance with local authority rules (to a waste processing or recycling centre). However, burning such waste in the open air or in a garden incinerator is not allowed. This said, special waivers may exist in the local area where REMPART is active: if there is no facility for disposing of or recycling green waste, if there is a requirement for brush clearing or an active forest fire prevention plan. REMPART's associations will act for the best, in the interests of the site and its environment and in accordance with the regulations.



Château de Ranrouët



Adapting species choice to climate change and encouraging tree planting

Some associations are seeking to protect plant species within conservation orchards or arboretums: they are at the forefront of observing the effects of climate change on plant life, noting those species that prove more resilience. Such knowledge deserves to be shared. The attention paid to trees is valid across the REMPART movement. Trees capture CO₂ and the cool that they generate helps control our environment. Wherever possible, associations favour planting species suited to a changing climate. Similarly, in their projects, associations retain any existing trees that do not affect the integrity of the site. Before any action in a protected environment (listed sites, special protection areas, etc.) the applicable regulations will be consulted.



Creating a conservancy orchard in Miremer

Hardiness, disease resistance and above all drought tolerance were the main criteria when we chose to plant fig trees, in 2006 and 2008, on the terraces of the conservancy orchard. However, between 2012 and 2014 the 138 trees started to suffer from summer droughts, a phenomenon that led to the death of around fifteen trees each year, forcing us to replant, with the new trees similarly vulnerable to the vagaries of the climate. This is why we are introducing a watering system across the whole site. To achieve this we have concentrated on harvesting rainwater from the roof of the chapel at the top of the Miremer plateau. We hope that this eco-friendly solution will allow us to protect the 42 varieties of fig tree and even to produce fruit for sale in local villages.

Laurent BOUDINOT, administrator, Conservatoire du Patrimoine de La Garde-Freinet



RESOURCES FOR ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

PRACTICAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION DATA SHEET N° 8

TO START

REMPART associations' engagement comes through the use of technical resources and action in an environment where other organisations also operate. The resources chosen to bring life to our charitable activities, the choices made in our governance and the ability to work with others are all positive factors in sustainable development and climate action.



CHARITABLE STRUCTURES AND GOVERNANCE

Training network members in the challenges of the ecological transition

We are not all experts in the ecological transition! Even without being an expert, it is possible to learn more about and become more aware of the challenges involved. REMPART's regional unions promote closer ties with those working with the environment, and particularly the GRAINE network (Groupement Régional d'Animation et d'Information sur la Nature et l'Environnement). They may offer their volunteers training sessions drawing on the expertise of naturalists. Wherever possible, REMPART associations appoint an ecological transition contact from their board, their employees or their volunteers. This person will monitor developments in this area and ensure that the ecological transition is factored in to new projects as they are brought forward.

Including ecological transition ambitions in our objectives

Confirming ecological transition ambitions within the REMPART network means including these objectives in our charitable purpose. This will come through a widespread increase in awareness throughout the movement, which REMPART associations will be in a position to measure. Thus, the REMPART membership process will invite candidate associations to set out their contribution to the ecological transition. Similarly, post-project and post-activity reports will include a dedicated section, as will the volunteer satisfaction survey.





**Reviewing and structuring
our activities together**

Since 2015 we have focused our activities on the restoration of the old mill. However, our name, "Réaménagement de l'Environnement & Sauvegarde du Patrimoine" (RESP), reminds us that we are perhaps lagging in the second aspect of our activity, restoring and protecting our natural heritage. We became particularly aware of this when applying for European Heritage Days accreditation, when we were asked to link our values and sustainable development – calling into question our association's position relative to the sustainable development goals. So now we have begun an organised and structured review of our everyday activities, to guide and fine-tune our approach, whilst ensuring that we do not put significant constraints on the full flourishing of our members and volunteers during summer projects. We need to take a snapshot of our current practice, then determine our sustainable development goals and finally put procedures in place to try to meet these goals.

**Patrick Ricard, Chairman, RESP
Moulin de Cantecort**



Moulin de Cantecort



COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNANCE

Use ethical services

REMPART associations are economic entities that make use of a variety of service providers over the course of the year. As with the choice of consumables and suppliers for project activities, they must ensure that products and services chosen are ethically provided. Products made in France to high environmental and social standards will be preferred. Similarly, choices of banking and insurance services may be guided by ethical criteria.

Eco-citizen guide from Amis de la Terre



For banks:

<https://www.amisdelaterre.org/choisis-ta-banque-le-guide-eco-citoyen-des-amis-de-la-terre/>

For insurance:

<https://www.amisdelaterre.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/sco-recard-2018-report-final-web-version.pdf>



Mediolanum archaeological site

Promote good digital behaviour

We all make use of digital communication, albeit to an extent that varies from one association to the next. Digital resources have increased our ability to publicise our actions, which is a positive. However, the contribution of the digital sector to greenhouse gas emissions is increasing year on year, as is energy consumption from the use and storage of data. We can reduce the impact of our digital activities by favouring reconditioned or second-hand equipment or devices that can be repaired. Similarly, data can be sorted and filed locally, with obsolete data deleted, to limit on-line storage. Only sending and keeping essential emails can also help limit energy consumption. Whilst maintaining their ability to communicate, REMPART associations will adopt good digital behaviour.



20 eco-actions to take for responsible digital use
<https://www.apc-paris.com/actualite/20-eco-gestes-a-adopter-pour-numerique-responsable>



POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR MANAGING OUR SITES AND THE CONDUCTING OUR ACTIVITIES

Working with organisations in the environment, sustainable development and nature conservation

Depending on the nature of their sites, associations interact with managers of natural areas (sensitive natural sites, Natura 2000 area, regional and national natural parks, nature reserves, listed sites) and environmental protection charities (e.g. LPO, France Nature Environnement, GRAINE). These professional or activist networks provide REMPART with useful expertise. REMPART associations encourage any dialogue and partnership to promote the ecological transition on their sites.

Working with public bodies at all levels

Whether in the form of sustainable development programmes or climate plans adopted by local authorities (regions, départements, groups of communes or individual communes) or national commitments from decentralised government services (DREAL, DRAC and DRAJES), the ecological transition concept has inspired public authorities. REMPART associations listen to their plans and, as far as possible, interact with decision-makers to explain their actions in this area. In the same spirit, and again wherever possible, REMPART associations join the regional economic, social and environmental councils (CESER), whose consultative forums represent the region's lifeblood.

Cultivating our openness to the world and drawing inspiration from international partners

Because the REMPART movement acts locally for our heritage but throughout the world thanks to its partners' projects, its ecological ambitions must be shared and draw inspiration from success achieved elsewhere. Charities might, for example, feed off experiments in managing natural spaces in Portugal, find inspiration in hybrid projects combining eco-building and heritage in Romania, or learn from any exemplary action anywhere in the world. Similarly, inspiration and sharing are made possible through the international networks REMPART belongs to such as CCVIS, INTO, ICOMOS and the Climate Heritage Network.





APPENDICES

STATEMENT OF OVERALL DIRECTION

REMPART, HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

In 1992, at the Earth Summit, the Rio Declaration set out a definition of sustainable development that put the emphasis on the link between development and the environment. This built on the Brundtland Report of 1987, which stated that development must respond to present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to respond to their own needs, by adding that such development must be economically viable, socially equitable and respectful of the environment. Within this framework, heritage must be considered as a resource to be protected so that it can be passed on to future generations, in the same way as natural and energy resources; it is therefore legitimate to question the links between REMPART, our heritage and the notion of sustainable development. Heritage is the seedbed in which we root education in citizenship, an essential requirement for sustainable development.

Our action and the three pillars of sustainable development

1. Economic development

Heritage contributes to revitalising regions and thus to their economic development. REMPART's actions for heritage are also factors in local development: -through direct effects on the local economy; purchases of materials and food, use of craftsmen, etc. -through the maintenance and direct and indirect creation of jobs. -through the generation of wealth: development and repurposing of heritage assets to develop educational, cultural and tourist activities, or the construction of housing and accommodation. -through innovative activities or experiments in the Social and Socially Responsible Economy.

2. Environmental and energy issues

Heritage is a source of inspiration when it comes to energy issues: -Traditional expertise in ancient building techniques, which take account of factors like the climate, the landscape and the orientation of a building, and use natural or recycled materials with low environmental impact, all creates a benchmark for environmentally responsible architecture and construction. -Heritage and the techniques we use and teach call for the use and re-use of local materials, reducing the carbon footprint of their transport in particular.

3. Social

Our heritage itself, but also the life of the association and of the volunteer projects that REMPART runs, create social connections and contribute to answering society's needs in areas such as education, community, and tackling exclusion and discrimination. As a general educational movement, REMPART is committed to improving awareness of more frugal and co-operative ways of life that are more respectful of the environment and of resources.

Lastly, culture – and particularly heritage – is increasingly seen as the fourth pillar of sustainable development.



Heritage offers a double economic and social opportunity, to create both an economic resource that can not be relocated and a broad-based tourism offering accessible to the greatest number of people. In some rural areas, the sites for which REMPART is responsible represent the focal point of cultural activity and a platform for responsible development.

REMPART projects and sustainable development

Projects involving heritage volunteers, as run by REMPART member associations, form part of a sustainable development, education and public awareness building process on these topics, fully involving associations and team leaders.

REMPART sites, whether they represent built or natural heritage, are committed to developing eco-responsible techniques that respect the environment: -Materials recovery, sieving and re-use of old mortar, use of local materials drawing on short supply chains.

- Use of manual and traditional methods, requiring little energy use. -Manual or mechanical, but not chemical, grass-cutting and brush clearing.
- Rainwater collection systems, particularly for use in mortar.
- Waste management, shredding of green waste, composting, etc.

Similarly, the daily routine of volunteer sites is organised to respect the environment and as part of the sustainable development process:

- Food from local, seasonal products,
- Promotion of short distribution chains,
- Waste sorting and recycling,
- Energy savings and responsible water management,
- Responsible management of travel, and use of transport solutions suited to needs.

Clearly, REMPART's volunteer projects not only help protect and maintain heritage sites, but also form part of an educational process, offering citizenship education and forging social links.

Heritage protection and sustainable development are sometimes contradictory

For REMPART, as for many other heritage protection bodies, the energy transition and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through reduced energy consumption renewable energy generation, cannot come at the detriment of heritage.

For example, insulation of an ancient building from the outside is not desirable if one wishes to protect the appearance of façades. Roof-mounted solar panels cannot be installed without a thorough review of their integration with the ancient building.

The same is true of wind power, which must not be constructed to the detriment of landscapes which are also a resource to be protected for future generations. This tension between protection of our heritage and consideration of the environment in the framework of sustainable development does not prevent REMPART from supporting both aspects, whilst remaining aware that this may at times lead to difficult choices or compromises.

For all that, REMPART, as a stakeholder in sustainable development, will consistently promote debate and democratic decision-making on this topic.



APPENDICES

SOME IMAGES TO HELP UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Climate change interacts with many crucial issues such as health, food and access to water

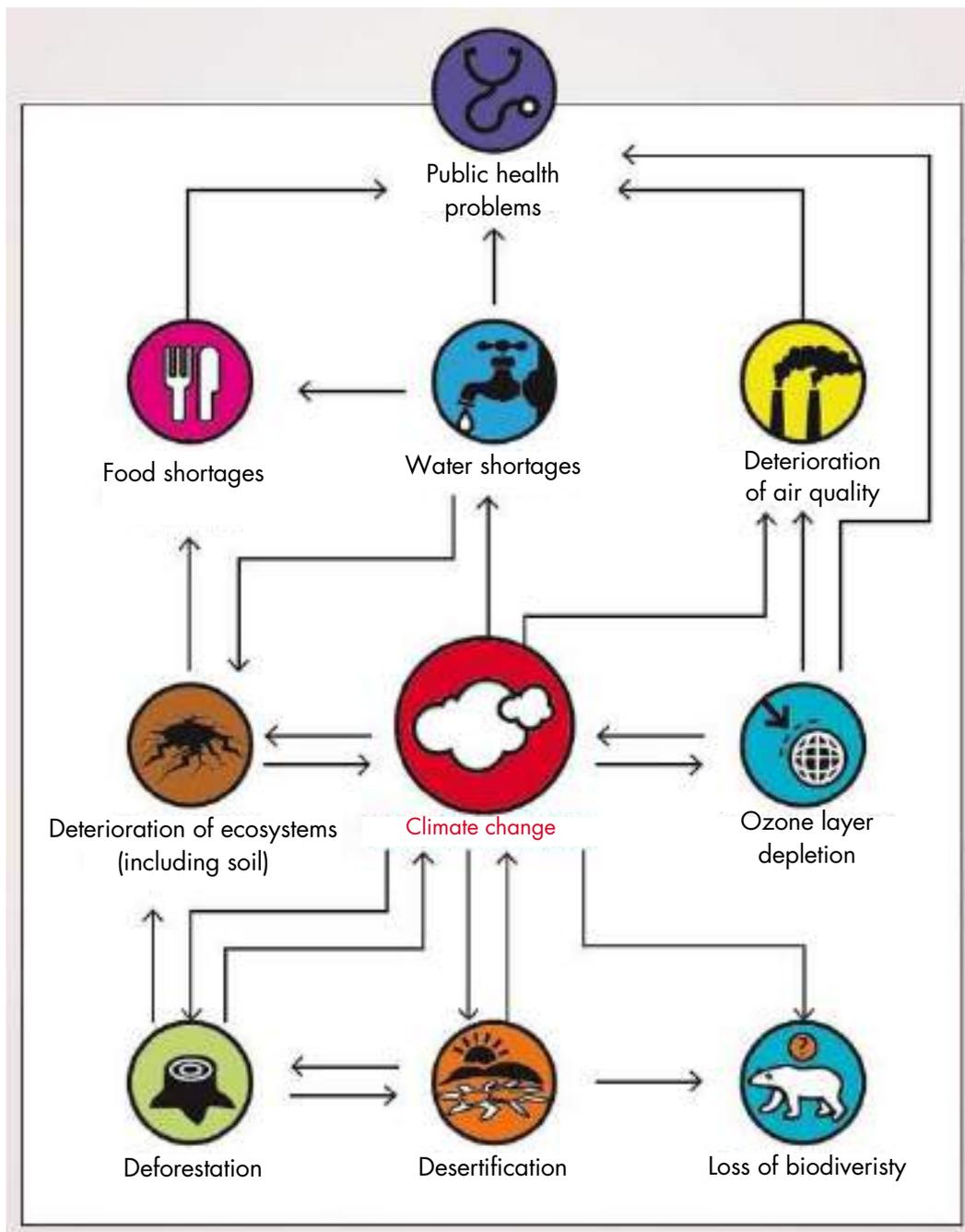
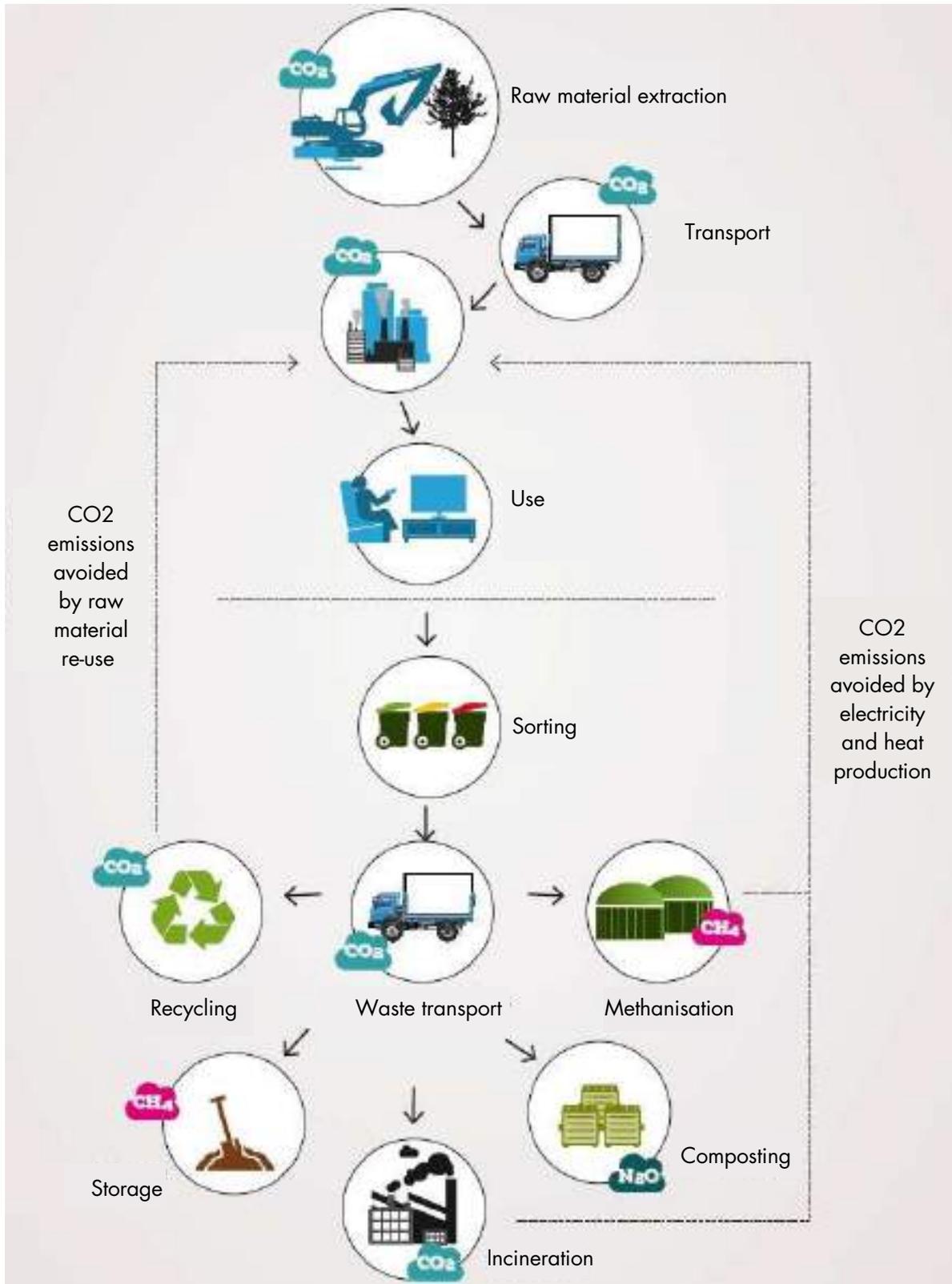


Illustration source: Réseau Action Climat, climate change education kit, 2015 edition, p24



Consumption: Our purchases and the related waste are a source of greenhouse gas emissions





The built environment: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the home

Heat loss due to poor insulation:

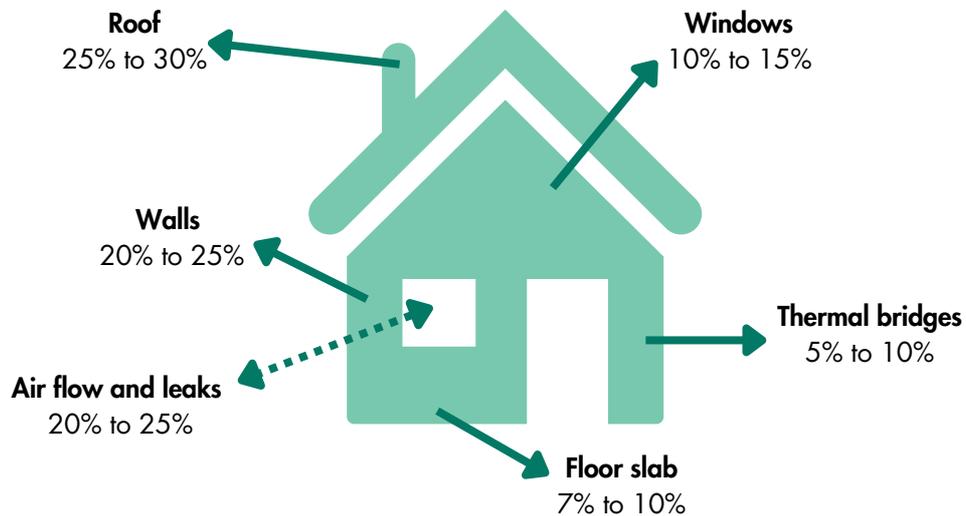


Illustration source: Réseau Action Climat, climate change education kit, 2015 edition, p74

Digital

Making our digital equipment last longer is the most efficient gesture we can make to reduce its impact. Increasing the useful life of a tablet or a computer from 2 to 4 years halves its environmental footprint

Device	Energy consumption
Smartphone	2 to 7 kWh/year
Tablet	5 to 15 kWh/year
Screen	20 to 100 kWh/year
Laptop	30 to 100 kWh/year
Desktop	120 to 150 kWh/year
Internet & TV box	150 to 300 kWh/year

Illustration source: ADEME, The hidden side of digital: Reducing the environmental impact of digital devices, <https://librairie.ademe.fr/consommer-autrement/4098-face-cachee-du-numerique-9791029716904.html>



FURTHER INFORMATION

In addition to the links included in the text, this is a selection of resources and events that can help inspire our actions.

ON-LINE RESOURCES

ADEME – French Agency for Ecological Transition

ADEME is a public body under the responsibility of the Minister for the Ecological Transition and Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation. Its website hosts a rich library of media resources covering all aspects of the ecological transition.

Website - The French Agency for Ecological Transition (ademe.fr)

Climate Heritage Network

International climate network of heritage organisations, of which REMPART is a member. The Climate Heritage Network is a voluntary mutual support network addressing the environmental questions of tackling climate change and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, comprising governmental and quasi-governmental organisations, NGOs, site management agencies, universities, companies and other organisations with links to the arts, culture and heritage.

<http://climateheritage.org/>

International Council on Monuments and Sites – ICOMOS

ICOMOS is an international organisation that works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage sites. Its Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCHWG) is responsible for considering the relationship between cultural heritage and climate change.

Home - International Council on Monuments and Sites (icomos.org)

GRAINE Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Regional Environmental Education Network, with which REMPART worked to draw up its climate action plan.

<https://www.graine-nouvelle-aquitaine.fr/>

France Nature Environnement

The French federation of nature and environment associations has a particularly rich “education space”; their educational resources are available to all

<https://fne.asso.fr/espace-education>

FRENE

French environmental and nature education network created in 1983. This charity, formerly known as Réseau Ecole et Nature, is recognised for its work in nature protection and youth education. FRENE is recognised as being of public benefit and promotes community solidarity between those working for sustainable development.

FRENE - Le Réseau National d'EEDD

Réseau Action Climat

Réseau Action Climat is a French federation of national and local associations acting against the causes of climate change on an international and local level.

<https://reseauactionclimat.org>

Planète Healthy

An internet platform for sharing solutions to climate issues and the changes required in our societies.

<https://planetehealthy.com/>

We act for good

An app that shares tips for wasting less, recycling more and being more environmentally responsible in our day-to-day lives.

<https://weactforgood.com/app-telecharger/>



EVENTS

MARCH

18/03 – World Recycling Day
<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/journee-mondiale-du-recyclage-2021>

20/03 – Cyber World Clean'up day
<https://cyberworldcleanupday.fr/>

Late March – Alternative to Pesticides Week
<https://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/>

21/03 – International Forests and Trees Day
<https://www.un.org/fr/observances/forests-and-trees-day>

22/03 – World Water Day
<https://www.un.org/fr/observances/water-day>

APRIL

22/04 - Earth Day
<https://www.un.org/fr/observances/earth-day>

MAY

19/05 - International Day for Biological Diversity
<https://www.un.org/fr/observance>

Fête de la nature - France
<http://fetedelanature.com>

JUNE

First weekend in June - National Open Gardens Day, France
<https://rendezvousauxjardins.culture.gouv.fr/>

05/06 - World Environment Day
<https://www.un.org/fr/observances/environnement-day>

18/06 - Sustainable Gastronomy Day
<https://www.un.org/fr/observances/sustainable-gastronomy-day>

Last weekend in June - Journées du Patrimoine de Pays et des Moulins
<https://www.patrimoinedepays-moulins.org/>

SEPTEMBER

Third weekend in September – European Heritage Days
<https://journeesdupatrimoine.culture.gouv.fr>

European Sustainable Development Week
<https://esdw.eu/>

OCTOBER

Mid-October – Night Day
<http://jourdela nuit.fr>

NOVEMBER

European Waste Reduction Week
<https://www.ademe.fr/ca-suffit-le-gachis>

DECEMBER

08/12 – World Climate Day
<https://uicn.fr/events/journee-mondiale-climat/>
<https://reseauactionclimat.org/>



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TOGETHER FOR HERITAGE

**Together, let's make our associations exemplars
in the ecological transition**



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This document was edited thanks to the SCORE projet (a Horizon 2020 EU programme)

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