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"Climate energy policies, localism and the rise of local initiatives"

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Tours, 7-9 Novembre 2016

"Practical Engagements and the Social-Spatial Dimensions of the Post-Petroleum Future"
CCI, La Halle aux Draps

" French Policy Localism: Surfing on ' Positive Energie Territories' (Tepos)", Energy Policy, March 2015,

Projet « CLIMENCORED », Agence française de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie (ADEME) , (Programme "Mettre l'innovation sur la trajectoire du facteur 4", Convention 11 10 C 0079).

Localis

expériences locales, communautés énergétiques renouvelables, grassroots initiatives, renewable energy communities, territoires à énergie positive, territoires à énergie positive pour la croissance verte ...

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Community Energy in the UK

2011

190 initiatives identified
[354 responses]

Success Factors

Collective of actors (project)

[cohesion, project competences, shared vision, implication]

Partnerships, local / regional / national networking

[local authorities, NGOs, other communities / projects]

Public policies

[financial support, feed-in tariffs]

Failure factors

Project issues

[access to financial support, lack of time / work resource / volunteership / commitment on project level, project issues, lack of expertise]

Lack of support

[indifference / mistrust on local level, instability of public policy, regulatory complexity]

Seyfang G., Park J.L., Smith A.
2013. « A thousand flowers
blooming? An examination of
community energy in the UK,
Energy Policy, 61, 977-989.

« Localism », a debate in the UK

End of 1990's

'Third Way', between market and government,
The « community » as 'the' actor of vibrant society

Local, « localism »

« local trap »

The « local » ... as greener, more democratic, more relevant for climate
energy action ...

Local is a scale as any other, constructed as any other scale
No specific relevance

- Marvin, S., Guy, S., 1997.
Creating myths rather than
sustainability: the transition
- fallacies of the new localism.
Local Environ.: Int. J. Justice
Sustain. 2 (3), 311–318.

« Localism », a debate in the UK

Walker, G., Cass, N., 2007.

Carbon reduction, "the public" and renewable energy: engaging with socio-technical configurations. *Area* 39, 458–469.

Walker, G., Devine-Wright, P.,

2008. Community renewable energy: What should it mean? *Energy Policy* 36, 497–500.

Walker, G., Devine-Wright, P.,

Hunter, S., High, H., Evans, B., 2010. Trust and community: Exploring the meanings, contexts and dynamics of community renewable energy. *Energy Policy*, 38, 2655–2663.

Catney P., MacGregor S.,

Dobson A., Hall S.M., Royston S., Robinson Z., Ormerod M., Ross S., 2013. Big society, little justice? Community renewable energy and the politics of localism. *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability* 19(7), 715-730.

Park Jung J., 2012. Fostering

community energy and equal opportunities between communities, *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability* 17(4), 387-408.

2010 change in government

« Big society » (vs « Big State »)

Neoliberal interpretation of Third Way

Local community, the actor in charge of development (social, political, economic)

Renewable / sustainable energy community

Emergence in energy policy discourse

Buzz word behind financial support

Heterogeneous realm

Change in support (repayable loans, competitive tenders ...)

Reduction (total amount, feed-in tariff)

Equity issues (who gets access to public support? Quid of the most deprived communities ?)

Efficiency issue (relying actors that you do not support enough ?)

One or many communities?

[one or many territories?]

Debate about the notion of community

Content in policy discourse

Role assigned by policy discourse

neoliberal

individuated, capable, competent [competitive]

imperative for economic development

entrepreneurial

building partnerships (public institutions-market actors-civil society)

activist

Community development as a (local, global) resistance to neoliberalism

Geoghan M., Powell F., 2009. Community development and the contested politics of the late modern agora: of, alongside or against neoliberalism? *Community Development Journal* 44(4), 430–447.

Amin A., 2005. Local community on trial. *Economy and Society* 34(4), 612-633.

French Localism ?

Which initiatives ?

[number, content, history, territoriality ...]

Which « local » is called on ?

[neolibéral, entrepreneurial, activist ...]

Called for which role ?

[leading, innovating, resolving issues [acceptability], disseminating technologies / leading local projects ...]

Decentralisation & liberalisation ?

[beyond French historical energy centralism...]

French

expériences locales, communautés énergétiques renouvelables, grassroots initiatives, renewable energy communities, territoires à énergie positive, territoires à énergie positive pour la croissance verte ...

localism

Emergent French localism

Amorce [set up in 1987, heating network/energy/waste, 835 members]

Energy Cities [urban, 1990, 1000 cities]

Covenant of Mayors [mostly urban, 2008, 6700 signatories]

TEPOS [POSitive Energy Territory] network [rural, 2011, 50 members]

Grenelle de l'environnement [first time represented]

Policy discourse

2013 draft TECV Law >> territory (130); local (51); transition (329) ; decentralisation (1)

2015 TECV Law >> call for projects (2016), financial support
about 300 TEPCV [may 2016]

Only a recent administrative follow up in France

Commune [English parish]

Group of communes ['communautés de communes']

Natural Regional Park [voluntary engagement of parishes in sustainable charter]

Pays [voluntary gathering of 'communautés de communes' endowed with competence in the field of local development]

Region [administrative and political entity, interface betw national and territorial, regionalisation of climate energy policy]

Not "community"

Variable perimeter

Collectives of different types



A

expériences locales, communautés énergétiques renouvelables, grassroots initiatives, renewable energy communities, territoires à énergie positive, territoires à énergie positive pour la croissance verte ...

census

A state of rural experiments

Census 2012

In association with TEPOS

Ongoing dynamics

TEPOS

set up in June 2011

rural local authorities and stakeholders [energy and farming cooperatives, small and medium size enterprises, specialised NGOs and engineering offices]

working for the energy transition in rural territories

heading towards energy autonomy (or '100% renewables')

average annual coverage of energy consumption by local renewable energy production (electricity, heat and mobility)

150 prospects [TEPOS and RES LEAGUE, 2012]

50 members [16 certified TEPOS] [April 2016]

Prospect listing

Pooling by project

Exchange with TEPOS

Completed list [publicly available data, interviews]

10 significant experiments (2012)

A state of rural experiments

[Criteria]

Actual development [installed capacity, energy production, schedule/milestones, expected development in 2012-2013]

Innovative dimension [model of organisation or assemblage that can be developed on a larger scale or by other collectives]

Collective dimension [mutualisation, range/diversity of actors]

Scale [scales (European, national, local) included in carrying out the experiment]

Institutionalisation [connection with existing institutional devices such as energy or climate-energy policy frameworks]

Climate energy dimension [targeted at energy or climate issues, or both]

Energy context [singularity of regional energy context – e.g. Brittany, PACA ...]

A state of rural experiments

La commune de **Kayersberg** (Alsace)

La commune de **Tramayes** (Bourgogne)

La Communauté de Communes du **Mené** (Bretagne)

La Communauté de Communes **Val d'Ille** (Bretagne)

La Communauté de Communes des **Crêtes Pré-Ardennaises***
(Champagne-Ardenne)

Le Pays de **Figeac** (Midi-Pyrénées)

La commune de **Loos-En-Gohelle*** (Nord Pas-de-Calais)

La commune de **Montdidier** (Picardie)

Le Pays **Thouarsais** (Poitou-Charentes)

La **Biovallée*** (Diois, Rhône-Alpes)

<p>Kayersberg (Alsace)</p>	<p>Key words: citizen participation, wood energy, citizen-owned ReN capacities (PV power plant, wind farm).</p> <p>Key aspects: Remarkable wood energy achievements: 7 wood and gas boiler units, wood processing platform, heating network (871 kW) Citizen engagement in the development of ReN capacities: individual PV and thermal solar panels; co-operative PV farm (1st in France, 8kWc) and 5-turbine wind farm Energy-savings: public lighting, communal buildings.</p>
<p>Tramayas (Bourgogne)</p>	<p>Key words: wood boiler room, heating network, energy planning, public lighting, positive energy territory.</p> <p>Key aspects: Publicly owned and managed wood boiler unit and heating network: the municipality sells more heat from renewable energy sources than it consumes for its own buildings. Reduction of the 'energy bill' (energy savings, energy efficiency, renewables). Demonstration based on the concrete case of public lighting. Front-runner and leader on a local and regional scale, 'Positive energy Territories' meeting and regional call for projects.</p>
<p>Le Mené (Brittany)</p>	<p>Key words: agriculture, agro-industry, cooperative, local development, energy self-sufficiency, 100% ReN.</p> <p>Key aspects: Variety of ReN developments: colza oil-mill, wood boiler unit and municipal heating network, methanization plant, co-operative wind farm, etc. Ambition: 100% ReN and energy self-sufficient by 2030. Innovative financial plans for energy projects including various actors (inhabitants, farmers, co-operatives, industrialists, etc.) Singular context of Brittany: energy insularity; agro-industry, pig manure and nitrate pollution.</p>
<p>Val d'Ille (Brittany)</p>	<p>Key words: transverse management /sustainable development; organic farming; short circuits/short food supply chain; wood energy/heating network; solar photovoltaic; 'soft' transportation; Covenant of Mayors; climate plan (GHG).</p> <p>Key aspects: transversal governance, articulation between climate-energy issues and local development, articulation between local initiatives and institutional frameworks, installed ReN capacities, innovative (business) models.</p>
<p>Crêtes Pré-ardennaises (Champagne-Ardenne)</p>	<p>Key words: participative democracy; territorial development; co-operative ReN</p> <p>Key aspects: Pioneer territory in the development of local wind power planning and charter. ReN innovation model based on citizen participation / funding, supporting the gradual emergence of a co-operative ReN model in France. Core role of participative democracy in the emergence of a local climate-energy agenda.</p>

<p>Pays de Figeac (Midi-Pyrénées)</p>	<p>Key words: mutualisation, territorial development, bond agriculture-energy, collective park solar, agricultural cooperative.</p> <p>Key aspects: Projects of renewable energies like vector of a renewal of activity and a fixing of value on the territory; new trades to be adapted Implication of the inhabitants and in particular of the agricultural sector: entry of the farmers into a new trade, start of a transformation of the role of the farmer, who from now on can see himself as an energy supplier Mutualisation-like tool of mobilization and implication of the actors in the territory; facilitates the initial implication in the projects, limits the risk, increases the force of negotiation, and redistributes the profits.</p>
<p>Loos-en-Gohelle (Nord-Pas-de-Calais)</p>	<p>Key words: eco-construction / eco-renovation, innovation cluster, R&D, ‘pilot city towards sustainable development’, citizen participation.</p> <p>Key aspects: coal industry legacy: unemployment, low-incomes, mining housing, massive environmental degradation, industrial infrastructures ‘pilot city’, territorial reconversion towards sustainable innovation and R&D: network of actors and R&D clusters (CERDD, Cd2e, Ekvation cluster, life cycle analysis platform, national pole of competitiveness named ‘TEAM’², a R&D test platform for solar energy ‘Luminawatt’, a training centre for eco-construction. citizen participation.</p>
<p>Montdidier (Picardy)</p>	<p>Key words: ‘pilot city’, energy efficiency, ReN projects, municipally owned and managed power grid and utility, 100% municipal wind farm</p> <p>Key aspects: Municipal control over local power supply and distribution grid, as part of a local energy public utility ‘Pilot city’ for energy efficiency, ReN production revenues recycled into energy savings Municipality aiming at energy autonomy and thereafter at becoming a positive energy territory. Exemplary experiment, yet having little coordination with departmental and regional climate-energy public policy devices</p>
<p>Pays Thouarsais (Poitou-Charentes)</p>	<p>Key words: Climate-Energy Plan; agriculture; energy savings; renewable energies (PV, methanisation, wood-energy)</p> <p>Key aspects: Strategy articulated around a Climate-Energy Plan Agriculture and the reduction of GHG emissions Variety of public fundings (national, regional, EU) and variety of financial models</p>
<p>Biovallée (Rhône-Alpes)</p>	<p>Key words: branding, European reference, sustainable development, regional support, Low Energy Building retrofitting (50KWh/m²/y).</p> <p>Key aspects: Regional integration and support (Rhône-Alpes Region), emblematic territory, sustainable development, ‘rural Freiburg’. Low Energy Building retrofitting, craftsmen collectives, experiments, standardisation / massification Small wind power experiments, support to co-operative PV solar projects.</p>

Outcomes 1

Issues of local development / territorial conversion, historicity

Loos-en-Gohelle [declining mining territory, industrial and mining heritage]

Crêtes Pré-ardennaises [sparsely populated area, no real economy apart from agriculture, major challenge in the 1980s]

Montdidier [local DSO and the upcoming liberalisation of the electricity sector]

Pays de Figeac [need to diversify local agric. coop. and local economy]

Outcomes 2

Variety of achievements as regards actual realisation

[installed capacity, reduction in energy demand]

Most advanced

Le Mené [methanisation unit, oil mill for biodiesel, wood-fired heating plant and network, participatory wind energy, low-energy buildings, eco-construction, ReN start-up incubator, etc.]

Kaysersberg Valley [wood heating plants and wood supply industry, citizen solar installation, small hydro units, public and civic wind project]

Montdidier [energy consumption reduction, publicly-owned wind power, wood-fired heating plant and network, solar PV]

Pays Thouarsais [wind park, collective methanisation unit, wood heating plants, solar installations, shared energy management]

Intermediary stage and scale of realisation

Loos-en-Gohelle [home energy retrofits, eco-construction, thermal solar energy and wood boiler in public buildings, solar PV, R & D platforms on eco-materials / eco-construction / recycling / solar PV]

Crêtes Pré-ardennaises [participative democracy, coop ReN]

Promising soft-type experiments

[e.g., organisational, institutional]

Val d'Ille [wood-fired heating plant and network, solar PV]

Biovallée [energy renovation, small wind power]

Outcomes 3

Uneven enrolment in public policy programmes such as climate-energy plans

Not a condition for concrete achievements or developments
Le Mené, Biovallée

Structuring role [devising of plans or schemes]
Pays Thouarsais

Labelling, increased visibility [access to EU funding]
Val d'Ille, Montdidier, Loos-en-Gohelle

In-between, tension
Crêtes Pré-ardennaises

Outcomes 4

Innovations that reach beyond their territory

Biovallée, DOREMI

'craftsmen collective' for low-energy retrofitting (individual housing) with a view to development on the national level

Crêtes Pré-ardennaises

regionalisation of the Enercoop national energy cooperative

'Mouvement Energie Partagée', funds for developing participative funding of ReN projects on a national scale.

Wind energy charter

Outcomes 5

Discontinuities, events, institutional support

apparent dating of experiments does not really correlate with the extent of realisation

Loos-en-Gohelle, Crêtes pré-ardennaises - early start, not the most developed
Biovallée, Val d'Ille - recent, gaining visibility and scale

some processes made up of discontinuities

Montdidier - election of a new mayor

Val d'ille – elections mayors, CdC

role of institutional support or recognition

Crêtes pré-ardennaises - 1999 Decentralisation Law

Biovallée - regional recognition as GPRA

Pays Thouarsais – CLIC support and funding

Outcomes 6

In-depth inquiry into some of these experiments

successes are like icebergs

visible part of longer processes of local development

importance of capacity building that enables local collectives to seize the opportunities opened up by market or policy environment

understanding the territorial and historical processes of capacity building requires an archaeology of these processes to uncover the way in which a collective capacity has been built at the local level

Conclusion

Territoriality as a driver >

synergy between energy & local development / territorial reconversion
(historicity / singularity)

territoriality (sociotechnical history, know-how(s), forms of solidarities, local attachments, time made material...)

Condition >

collective capacity building (shared vision, carrying on projects over time with a collective work, importance of exchanging practices ...)

Autonomy >

capacity to capitalise on ongoing energy projects in order to develop new projects and get a grip on local energy futures

Policy >

accounting for all the resources engaged in energy change processes
accounting for uncertainty, trial and error process

Local as another way of doing energy policy (not a mere implementation level of national objectives)

Call for a critical appraisal of French localism



Thanks for your attention

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