

Communiqué de Presse
30 August 2024 –

First partnership agreement signed between the Grand Est Region and GRTgaz to speed up the Energy Transition

On 30 August, at the Châlons Agricultural Fair, the 2nd largest in France, Franck LEROY, President of the Grand Est Region, and Sandrine MEUNIER, Managing Director of GRTgaz, signed a 3-year partnership agreement aimed at stepping up their cooperation and working together to speed up the region's energy transition

The Region is implementing a policy to foster the energy transition and the circular economy, emphasising efforts to achieve greater energy savings and efficiency, renewable energies, resource efficiency and local sustainable development initiatives. GRTgaz supports local and regional authorities in their energy transition: the company is developing its grid to accommodate ever more renewable gases, preparing future hydrogen transmission grids and contributing to the CO2 capture, recovery and storage solution.

Through this agreement, the Region and GRTgaz assert their commitments to taking action against climate change and fostering the ecological and energy transition and economic development of the Grand Est region. The two partners are committed to working together to implement concrete actions in two major areas:

- **Speeding up the Region's energy transition**, by facilitating the production and use of renewable gases, supporting innovation in the production of renewable gases from waste (pyrogasification and hydrothermal gasification), developing infrastructures for the transport of renewable, low-carbon hydrogen and examining the CO2 transport infrastructures needed to deploy the CO2 Capture, Recovery and Storage (CCUS) solution.
- **Contributing to regional development**, by preserving natural heritage and biodiversity, promoting innovation and vocational training, and strengthening the region's economic dynamism.

An agreement structured along five key lines:

1. **Jointly promoting anaerobic digestion that is virtuous and advances value-sharing between players in the sector and the regions concerned**
The Grand Est region, the leading producer of biomethane injected into the grid nationally, aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 and by 75% by 2050. The two partners want to combine their skills to share data, bring knowledge to the fore, enliven ecosystems and encourage the emergence of new projects and new business models serving anaerobic digestion.
2. **Supporting innovative renewable and low-carbon gas production sectors**
The Grand Est region and GRTgaz are working together to better understand the potential deposits available for pyrogasification and hydrothermal gasification, and structure a regional collective that brings together all the interested parties.
3. **Transporting and developing renewable, low-carbon hydrogen**
The two partners are taking part in strategic discussions on hydrogen at the

regional, national and European levels, with a view to interconnecting the various hubs (in particular the Mosahyc and Rhyn hubs), and are continuing the development of regional projects without discrimination, supporting local authorities and regions as they explore their potential industrial or mobility-related uses.

4. **Decarbonising industry**

The Grand Est region is the second-most industrial region (in terms of industry contribution to regional GDP). 30% of CO₂ emissions come from industry. The decarbonisation of industry is thus a major focus of this agreement, with a savings/efficiency component and a defossilisation component, in particular through Biogas Purchase Agreements (BPA) and the use of renewable/low-carbon hydrogen. The Agreement also includes a component on CO₂ capture, transport, storage and recovery (CCUS) technologies.

5. **Preserving biodiversity**

The Grand Est region is recognised as one of the most active when it comes to managing, protecting and restoring biodiversity. With 5,200 km of easement strips and almost 1,270 surface installations, including 3 compressor stations, biodiversity and land use are important issues for GRTgaz. It is thus only natural that the two partners should contribute to the protection and enhancement of our natural heritage, as well as to the implementation of virtuous projects in the field of biodiversity.

About GRTgaz

GRTgaz is France's primary gas transmission system operator and the second biggest in Europe. The Group has two subsidiaries: Elengy – the European leader in LNG terminals, and GRTgaz Deutschland, which operates the MEGAL network. In line with its mission statement – “Together, we enable an energy future that is safe, affordable and climate neutral” – GRTgaz has a public service mission, ensuring the safety of gas transmission for its 865 clients (biomethane producers, shippers, industrial companies, electricity power plants and distributors). GRTgaz is committed to achieving net zero and is adapting its network to new ecological and digital challenges; it supports the development of low-carbon hydrogen and renewable gas sectors (biomethane and gas from solid and liquid waste). It also transports waste CO₂ for the purposes of decarbonising the industrial sector. Key figures: 32,600 km of pipes, 625 TWh of gas transported, 3300 employees, €2.1 billion in turnover generated in 2023 (€2.6 billion at Group level). Retrouvez-nous sur : <https://www.grtgaz.com/>, [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)

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About Région Grand Est

In first generation renewable gases (from the methanization sector), the Grand Est is positioned as a precursor, with in 2024 an installed capacity of 2.6 TWh/year and 124 injection sites. The Region encourages the decarbonization of industries, in particular through the recovery of waste, and displays concrete objectives on waste prevention and management. Some of this waste can be used for innovative sectors. Finally, through its economic, industrial and even academic fabric, the Grand Est benefits from major assets on its territory to offer the best conditions for the emergence of these sectors while taking into account the availability of biomass and deposits.

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