



Raise the awareness of the population about lower energy consumption

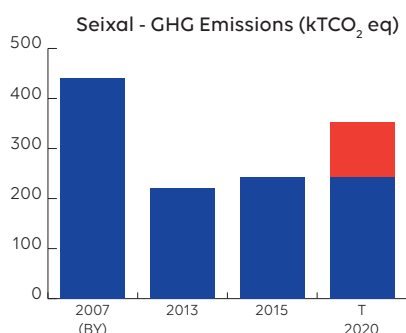
In 2011, the Portuguese district of Seixal, to the south of Lisbon, signed up to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, one year after adopting its Renewable Energy Action Plan (PAES). The latter is the result of a partnership between the Municipal Energy Agency of Seixal (AMESEIXAL), the environmental division of the municipal council, with the participation of various stakeholders. It proposes three broad categories - Infrastructure, Transport, Citizen Awareness - to achieve a 20% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 from 2007 (441 kt CO₂eq), as set by the Covenant of Mayors. From 2013, the district of Seixal, having reduced its emissions by nearly 50%, exceeded its targets set for 2020. The drop-in emissions between 2007 and 2015 came mainly from the tertiary sector and residential housing (-63%) and transport (-27%). Most of these emissions come from electricity; improvement in its production and consumption is Seixal's main lever of action.

• THE INDISPENSABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES IN SEIXAL'S ENERGY MIX

The application of Seixal's climate policy since 2007 has mainly led to a rebalancing of the city's energy mix in favour of renewable energies. In 2013, 36% of the city's final energy consumption was electricity, of which 58.3% came from renewable sources (Seixal 2017 Council). Five large renewable energy production units have been set up in the area since 2007. With annual production of 44 GWh, they provide 25% of the electricity supply of the population of Seixal, whose average consumption is 1,080 kWh/year/capita. **The region enjoys a high rate of sunshine, with 3,000 hours per year and three photovoltaic parks with 9,600 solar panels have been installed. A waste recovery plant, being tested since 2014, has also started up recently and is expected to increase biogas production (Seixal 2017 Environmental Charter).**

• LOWER FOOTPRINT THROUGH CITIZEN AWARENESS

Of the 41 measures planned in the PAES, a dozen take the form of energy efficiency awareness campaigns (CM Seixal). Since 2012, the district council has been organising several awareness campaigns targeting residents and businesses in the city, which in 2007 accounted for 43.5% of total GHG emissions. These campaigns will run until 2020. To raise awareness among its businesses, the city offers them a free analysis of the annual trend in their consumption and ways to reduce it. A similar programme, Projeto Ecofamilias (Eco-family Project), has also been set up with about fifteen volunteer families per year. In addition, every year **the Annual Renewable Energies Exhibition is organised to enable inhabitants to explore possible alternatives in terms of heating and electricity, such as the installation of photovoltaic panels or heat recovery units.** Between 2007 and 2015, GHG emissions from the tertiary and residential sectors were reduced by 52kT CO₂ eq and 68kT CO₂ eq, respectively.



MAIN SOURCES:
[PLAN D'ACTION POUR L'ENERGIE RENOUVELABLE - 2011](#)
[RAPPORT DE SUIVI 2015](#)