

# Report: Evaluating the joint action: **Cooperation between regional, urban and rural authorities as well as local stakeholders for the strengthening of the wood fuel supply chain.**

## Context and rationale

- Studies demonstrate that to reach its SEAP 2020 objectives, the Grand Lyon metropolitan area needs to mobilize all the wood fuel potential in a circle of 150-200km. Situation is similar for other big cities of Rhône-Alpes.
- The demand can impact negatively to price and quality of the wood fuel as well as the structuration of the supply chain.
- Cooperation between regional, urban and rural authorities should enable a sustainable planning of the fuel wood supply chain

## Description of the Joint Action

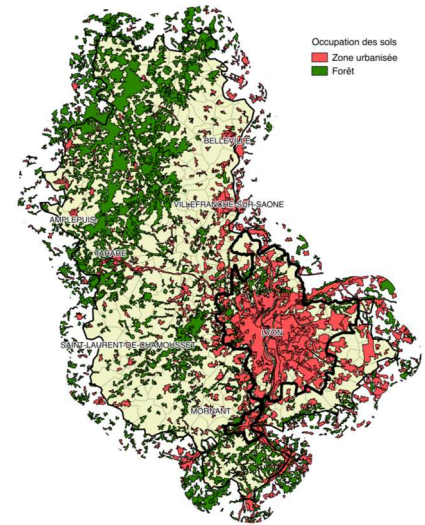
- The first phase consisted in assessing barriers and opportunities to develop a supply chain of highly dried fuel-wood in Rhone county (department). The steering committee meeting stressed out the increasing interest of urban area to participate to the strengthening and scaling up of local wood-fuel supply chain. In particular, Grand Lyon Metropolitan area whose objective is to multiply by two its wood consumption in a horizon of 10 years.
- In a second phase, the action focused on developing two feasibility studies:
  - To development of highly dried wood chips in collaboration with a biogas cogeneration plant of Lyon-Confluence
  - To develop waterway and train solutions to transport wood-fuel resources to Grand Lyon metropolitan area (as part of the waterway transport strategy)

## How we collaborated

- To implement the joint action, several groups have been set-up and specific meetings organised:
  - a "Coopenergy" project steering committee has been set-up by bringing together rural communities, one urban metropolitan area (Grand Lyon) and the partners (institutional and professionals) of the departmental woodfuel plan
  - several working groups have been held
  - specific bi-lateral meetings have been organised to enhance the participation of the stakeholders and collect relevant information

## Transferability - the success factors for collaboration

- Enhancing the cooperation between wood fuel suppliers (forest owners, forestry companies, etc), consumers (Lyon Metropolitan area) and regional authorities and policies
  - o Bringing together local communities and stakeholders from different cultures (forestry, energy, agriculture and transport) and different area (rural area and metropolitan area) implies an important coordination work and facilitation skills since their "culture/background" are very



### Key results of the Collaboration

- 3 rural municipalities involved together with one metropolitan area in addition to departmental and regional authorities
- Involvement of all the chain of actors from supply to demand.
- 2 concrete feasibility studies achieved



different (public Vs private rural Vs city, agriculture vs energy, etc.)

- o People have to learn about others context and constraints of other stakeholders
- o First workshop enables to match demand and offer (coming up of first ideas)

and to generate the interest amongst local stakeholders, as well as to meet local opportunities with regional policies.

- Mobilising local and regional expertise on the wood fuel potential in the Rhone county and actions with local stakeholders to strengthen the supply chain
- o Second part of the work has been to set-up small working groups to carry out feasibility studies on the initial ideas that come up during the first working session.
- o This working group bring together local and regional experts
- Maintaining the momentum
- o Several interesting idea identified during the first workshop appears to be unfeasible after the feasibility check: mainly for economical reasons. Therefore, the collaboration models focused on the importance to maintain the momentum between local stakeholders to keep them on board and study alternative solutions.



### Lessons learned and success factors

- Involvement of local stakeholders is long but necessary
- Initial proposal of multi-level projects may not work on the first concept. It is therefore challenging to maintain the momentum.
- Relations between stakeholders and governance are often more important than technical issues.
- Multi-level governance and projects success depend of the adequation of time schedule and constraints (technical, political, etc.) of the partner

### Barriers and proposed solutions

- Projects temporality is a key point that may compromise multi-level projects. For example, time constraints of the stakeholders may not coincide with the political or administrative calendar of local authorities. It is necessary to wait for the conclusion of specific administrative procedures to go forward with the project
- Multi-level governance process requires that each party understand the context and constraints of others. It is necessary to spend time and meeting to make effective this mutual understanding

### Resources

- Hespul Staff
- Expert know-how
- Next development will be support with regional and national fundings.



## Perspectives, continuation of the action

The action has started in November 2013. Many working groups have been set-up and interviews organized. However the topic tackled by the joint action is related to the organization of local supply chain that is a long process than required lot of time to be started, especially as the project focus on a very innovative part of the supply chain: local production of wood chips and supply through "low Carbone emission" solutions such as waterway or railway. In addition, the decision to set-up a local supply chain of highly dried woodchip is directly related to the realization of the Lyon confluence woodfuel gasification plan (that is still depending of the evolution of local regulation on feed-in tariffs for the renewable electricity that will be produce. Other meeting will therefore been held after the end of Coopenergy project once Lyon confluence will take the final decision regarding the gasification power plant.

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