

### **Best Practice #1: Access to energy data**

<b>Name:</b>	Access to energy data
<b>Geography:</b>	France
<b>Organization interviewed:</b>	AMORCE
<b>Organization interviewing:</b>	Energy Cities
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://amorce.asso.fr">https://amorce.asso.fr</a>
<b>Category:</b>	Normative rules
<b>Description:</b>	<p>French local authorities now have easier access to energy data, covering electricity, gas, heating, cooling, and fuel consumption. Since 2018, data has been accessible at street level, derived from a minimum of 10 supply points in residential areas. This accessibility is mandated by Article 179 of the Energy Transition Law for Green Growth, passed in 2015, which requires grid operators and fuel suppliers to publicly share their data.</p> <p>Gas and power grid operators have created an open data platform, incorporating information on energy infrastructure locations. However, detailed data on remaining grid capacities are often lacking.</p> <p>Recognizing that many local authorities may lack the resources to analyze this data, both regions and the National Agency for Ecological Transition fund regional observatories. These observatories produce inventories of GHG emissions, air pollutant emissions, and energy production and consumption.</p> <p>Several data portals now aggregate information that allows for assessing the potential production of various renewable energy sources. Additionally, in 2023, two new data visualization portals started being developed to support local decision-makers. One focuses on renewable energy development, while the other specifically targets the expansion of DHC networks.</p> <p>Public data on energy performance certificates of buildings are also available, although the dataset is not yet complete. Despite some gaps, France has made significant strides in establishing a framework for energy data collection and management, ensuring accessibility for local authorities.</p>
<b>Questions:</b>	
1.	<p>Could you briefly explain the legal framework regarding data sharing in France and its recent developments? What factors led to the establishment of this open legal framework?</p>
	<p>In the past, local authorities had limited access to consumer data, typically through special agreements with energy suppliers. However, this data was neither open nor available at precise grid levels.</p> <p>In 2019, Article 19 of the Energy Transition for Green Growth Act mandated network</p>

operators to release certain data they collect, establishing a framework for data collection and transmission. With the approval of the CNIL, this initiative enabled access to data at more precise grid levels, such as IRIS and ADRES grids, corresponding to 10 collection points each. Article 19 also outlines a progressive approach to data sharing.

**These datasets are now centrally available and freely accessible** on the Ministry for Ecology's SDES (Service de la donnée et des études statistiques) website, facilitating use by the general public and energy stakeholders.

Furthermore, the automatic classification of heating networks, expected to be implemented in 2022, has yielded new data, including economic information on the networks, thereby enhancing transparency in the sector.

Lastly, France Chaleur Urbaine engaged with the general data administration, which confirmed in a note that signing an agreement is unnecessary for accessing data.

## 2. What has this new legal framework changed for local authorities and the decarbonisation of heating and cooling sector?

- Access to data was crucial for both local authorities and industries to prepare for their energy transition, deepen their understanding of technology, and foster market development.
- The transparent legal framework, aligned with RGPD criteria, and ongoing industry dialogues provided reassurance throughout the process.
- Subsequently, institutional players like France Chaleur Urbaine, CEREMA, and the Ministry's DGEC utilized this data in various capacities. While the initial benefits and tools were unclear, it's now evident that the data significantly contributed to the recent advancements in renewable energy.
- CEREMA and other stakeholders developed tools leveraging this data, initially at the regional level and then nationwide. Notably, the Enzero tool, which visualizes heating network development potential on maps, and other energy mapping tools have emerged, facilitating informed political decision-making.
- Open data initiatives have standardized methodologies for network studies, enhancing reliability and benefiting the industrial sector.
- Ultimately, open data practices have curbed the uneven quality and commercialization of data by research consultancies, thereby empowering local authorities and industries with more consistent and accessible information.

## 3. What are the improvements still to be made?

- Opportunities for enhancing both the quality and quantity of data persist. This entails comprehensive examination of all networks, including those yet to be classified, along with a more detailed exploration of available waste heat resources. Additionally, there's a pressing need to enhance data accuracy and facilitate the sharing of energy consumption data for each consumption point. Such measures would streamline current mapping efforts, which presently require substantial manpower for consumption point relocation.
- Moreover, in France, efforts are underway to maximize the utilization of existing databases such as property tax and Energy Performance Diagnosis. These databases offer invaluable insights into the energy transition and contribute significantly to our understanding of the evolving energy landscape.

4. Can you list at least 3 key success factors that have made this legal framework successful?

Success factors:

- A player who centralises and processes all the data. This requires a structure to coordinate, collate and process the raw data by one or more identified player(s): ADEME (for energy performance diagnosis, for example), SDES in France. This actor should also be responsible for coordinating and monitoring the approach.
- A legal framework for open data
- A collaborative approach with the industry (working group)
- A clear regulatory framework that standardises the data to be uploaded, e.g. ECDs.

5. What would you advice for its replication in another Member State?

- Start without aiming for exhaustiveness and then open up further
- An approach that shows the advantages of projects that can be carried out using open data
- It takes time to set up, so you need to be patient.  
Think carefully about the collection format, e.g. paper/digital files.
- Aim for something that is easy to read: local authorities must be able to read it without any special skills.
- Demonstrate the added value of data collection efforts.