

Key energy decisions for the 2027-2032 French presidential term

The energy transition addressing the concerns of the French people

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As the French 2027 national elections approach, and following a summer marked by extreme climate events, this booklet is intended for candidates, policymakers, and citizens who wish to understand what is truly at stake in terms of energy for the next five-year presidential term. It draws on the concrete concerns of the French people — purchasing power, employment, sovereignty, finances, and quality of life — as reflected in recent major French polls (IPSOS, CEVIPOF, ADEME).

1. Purchasing Power

Avoiding a new Yellow Vest (*Gilets jaunes*) crisis

A new wave of social and political upheaval appears increasingly plausible, given that 80% of the workforce relies on cars to commute to work, energy crises are becoming a recurring phenomenon, and €71 billion was spent between 2021 and 2023 on a largely untargeted price-protection program.

✓ SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT AN INFLATIONARY SPIRAL LEADING TO A SOCIAL CRISIS

- Energy vouchers targeted at low-income households (immediate but not long-term relief).
- Social electric vehicle leasing at €100/month + an eco-bonus for the purchase of a used EV.
- Energy-efficient retrofit: 60–75% reduction in heating costs for a home renovated from Energy Performance Certificate E to B (thermal comfort improved in summer and winter).
- Energy flexibility: shifting consumption to off-peak hours without.

2. Sovereignty

Carbon-free energy: a shield against external shocks

France is dependent of up to 57% on fossil fuels, and more than 60% of the components needed for the French energy transition are imported from China, while the country is exposed to Russia for uranium. France (and Europe) cannot hope to regain control of its entire value chains on its own. True sovereignty does not lie in an illusory independence, but in the ability to limit critical dependencies and withstand geopolitical shocks.

✓ SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY

- Diversification of low-carbon energy sources: solar, offshore wind, EPR2, SMR, and biomethane.
- Focus on high-value-added segments and European industrial partnerships.
- Energy efficiency and sufficiency, resource conservation, circular economy and recycling all are underutilized drivers of energy sovereignty.
- Thanks to carbon neutrality: self-sufficiency rate from 40% to 95%.

3. Jobs, Industry and Regions

The transition: an opportunity not to be missed

Political instability discourages investment, prompts energy companies to scale back their operations, and leads to the abandonment of strategic projects. Yet, as approximately 100,000 jobs in France are expected to be filled by 2030 in the renewable energy and nuclear sectors, the energy transition could become a powerful driver of industrial competitiveness and job creation rather than a forced economic dependency.

✓ SOLUTIONS FOR RE-INDUSTRIALIZING, ENHANCING THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF REGIONS, AND CREATING JOBS

- Long-term contracts to secure investments over 10–20 years.
- Train 2.8 million people: region-specific technical training, revitalization of skilled trades.
- An exemplary government: better-targeted public procurement, local preference, and conditional aid.

4. Public Finance

The problem isn't spending more, but spending more wisely

The energy transition is not hindered by a lack of capital, but by a lack of clarity. With public finances under strain, more than 2,200 subsidy programs are sending mixed signals to investors. Meanwhile the volatility of fossil fuel costs and the gradual loss of a portion of the tax revenue —ranging from 15 to 30 billion euros per year — are fueling confusion. A clear and credible framework, is needed to secure private capital and to mitigate the risks of missteps.

✓ SOLUTIONS FOR FINANCING THE ENERGY TRANSITION WITHOUT INCREASING THE DEFICIT

- By 2050: Loss of revenue from fossil fuels ≈ 15 to 30 billion euros, offset by the ETS, EV VAT, and green taxation.
- Make aid contingent on concrete results: jobs created, regional roots, and actual performance.
- Channel French citizens' savings (Livret DDCS) toward the transition in a transparent and traceable manner.

5. Public Services

Reliable energy: a prerequisite for the continuity of public services

Access to reliable and affordable energy has become a direct prerequisite for the continuity of public services. However, buildings already account for 76% of municipalities' energy expenditures, with costs expected to rise by 30 to 50% by 2030, while essential infrastructure (hospitals, schools, etc.) remain increasingly vulnerable to climate-related risks.

✓ SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE OPERATING COSTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND ENSURE THEIR CONTINUITY

- A 10–20-year multi-year investment plan (energy performance contracts, EU funds).
- €10 billion per year needed for electricity grids, with a cumulative total of €200 billion by 2040.
- Energy flexibility: demand response and load shedding
- to reduce peaks, without overinvestment or recovery of waste heat.

6. Quality of life & Resilience

Protecting the people from climate shocks

The energy transition also includes essential adaptation strategies. Millions of French people still live in homes ill-equipped to handle extreme weather events, which are leading to rising and unpredictable costs (€10 billion in 2022). Piecemeal solutions, such as the widespread use of air conditioning, risk exacerbating existing imbalances rather than correcting them.

✓ SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE FRENCH PEOPLE'S QUALITY OF LIFE

- Insulation: reduce emissions AND protect against the cold and heat waves.
- Green roofs, treated roofs, and cooling networks: combat urban heat islands.
- Every euro spent on prevention saves between 2 and 10 euros in repairs (OECD).
- Supporting the transformation of agriculture (for example,
- agricultural anaerobic digestion: recycles waste, produces biogas, and reduces fertilizer use).

7. Democracy & Trust

No transition against the people

The main obstacle to the transition is neither technological nor economic, but political and social. Against a backdrop of persistent divisions over energy choices, regional tensions, and growing mistrust, decisions become fragile, signals become contradictory, and investment is discouraged. Without lasting trust, no transition strategy can take hold over the long term.

✓ SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- Change the narrative: focus on the everyday benefits (comfort, health, costs) rather than CO₂.
- Energy communities: early consultation, sharing of value and governance with the local community.
- Social justice as a prerequisite for acceptance: targeted assistance, protection against price increases.
- Make the transition visible, understandable, and equitable — fake news thrives on mistrust.

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