

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Joint initiative to speed up the industrialisation of projects to convert residual waste into renewable, low-carbon gas**

**Citeo, Eco-mobilier, GRTgaz and the Systom (France's mainland household waste treatment agency) have signed a memorandum of understanding to pool their experience and expertise so as to help optimise the treatment of residual waste. Promising technologies for converting waste – such as adjuvanted wood, solid recovered fuels, sorted paper packaging and sludge from purification plants and industry – are starting to emerge.**

Converting such residual waste into renewable, low-carbon gas is one of the solutions for the future. It adds a new layer to the hierarchy of waste treatment methods, providing an opportunity to convert waste into easily transportable and storable energy, and a way to recover material waste – the gas can be used as a raw material for the chemical industry. To speed up the industrialisation of these innovative technologies and help develop related projects to produce renewable, low-carbon gas in France, companies are going to start working together on building a platform of multi-expertise, complementary services.

As part of this initiative, partners are keen to share their expertise with:

- local communities and regional waste recovery unions, as well as with all other economic stakeholders with waste resources that they want to convert;
- technology developers working along the whole length of the value chain – from the pre-treatment of residue and waste through to the production and conversion of synthetic methane;
- developers and production project managers, design firms, development and construction architects, etc.

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to determine a service scope over the next few months, and to create procedures for implementing these services and making them available, while adhering to a few underlying principles:

- facilitate support for technology managers and project managers, help raise the profile of the sectors and the associated value chain;
- give preference to a fast and direct operational approach;

- significantly open up access to all stakeholders and all technologies.

At this juncture, the partners are intending to provide service offerings structured around three value propositions:

- Evaluating, qualifying and supporting the mobilisation of waste resources and reserves;
- Supporting the development of projects to recycle regions' waste resources;
- Supporting the industrialisation of technologies.

This platform is incontrovertibly useful for speeding up the industrialisation of these technologies, decarbonising the gas mix in France by incorporating local production at regional level and strengthening the circular economy. The partners have therefore given themselves until 2023 to build on their assumptions and confirm its feasibility.



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## About GRTgaz

GRTgaz is the second-largest European gas transporter, with 32,500 km of pipes and 640 TWh of gas transported. The company has 3,000 employees and generated nearly €2.3 billion in turnover in 2020. GRTgaz has a stated core purpose: "Together, we enable an energy future that is safe, affordable and climate neutral". GRTgaz is an innovative company undergoing a major transformation to adapt its network to new ecological and digital challenges. It is committed to a 100% carbon-neutral French gas mix by 2050. It supports the hydrogen and renewable gas sectors (biomethane and gas from solid and liquid waste). GRTgaz carries out public service missions to guarantee the safety of gas transmission for its 945 clients (shippers, distributors, industrial companies, biomethane plants and producers). With its subsidiaries Elengy, the European leader in LNG terminals, and GRTgaz Deutschland, the operator of the German transmission network MEGAL, GRTgaz plays a key role in the European gas infrastructure scene. The company exports its know-how internationally, in particular services developed by its research centre, RICE. Find us at <https://www.grtgaz.com/>, on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

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## **About Citeo**

Citeo is a benefit corporation created by companies in the consumer goods and retail sector to reduce the environmental impact of their packaging and paper. It does this by providing them with the means to reduce, re-purpose, sort and recycle what they use. To address the ecological emergency and speed up the transition over to the circular economy, Citeo has set itself five commitments: reduce the environmental impact of its clients' products by rooting the circular economy and eco-design into their practices and strategies; create the necessary conditions for developing current and future solutions which combine environmental and economic performance; provide consumers with what they need to reduce the environmental impact of their consumption; co-develop and promote the company's solutions and its positions, both locally and internationally; foster the engagement of its employees in relation to its mission. Since Citeo was founded, consumer goods and retail companies have invested more than €11 billion in developing eco-design, so as to introduce and finance selective sorting and create recycling channels, working alongside local authority, sector and operator partners. Currently, 68% of household packaging and 60.5% of paper is recycled in France – waste sorting has become the principal act in which environmentally-aware citizens engage.

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## **About Eco-mobilier**

Eco-mobilier was founded in December 2011 by 12 French distributors and 12 French manufacturers. It is an eco-body that has been granted approval by the state authorities to manage the collection, sorting, recycling and energy conversion of pieces of old furniture, as well as promoting their re-purposing.

To enable it to fulfil its remit, an eco-tax has been applied to the purchase of all new furniture since 1 May 2013. In 2021, Eco-mobilier collected 1.2 million tonnes of old furniture. It recovered nearly 95% of it and is aiming for ZERO furniture waste by 2023.

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## **About the Syctom:**

The Syctom is France's mainland household waste treatment agency and the public body tasked with processing and converting waste produced by 6 million people and 82 communes (Paris and its inner suburbs). That equates to 10% of France's total population. Every year, it processes 2.3 million tonnes of waste. As the planet's raw materials become depleted and the energy transition gets underway, all of this waste must be considered resources. An everyday challenge for the Syctom, which is always on the lookout for innovative ways of optimising the performance of its facilities (improving the sorting and recycling processes, increasing energy efficiency, etc.) and finding solutions to reduce the quantities of waste to process.

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