

Mobility for all

Nantes, France

Mayor: Patrick Rimbart

Located on the Loire River, 50km from the Atlantic coast in western France, Nantes is the sixth largest French city and one of its most pioneering metropolitan areas. Once an old industrial city, home to a shipbuilding center, Nantes has transformed itself into an ambitious urban sustainable model for Europe, becoming *European Green Capital* in 2013. With the third highest proportion of public transport users in France, an impressive 95% of the population lives within a 300-metre radius of a public transport stop.

Nantes is the upcoming Green capital of Europe. This award has been granted thanks to the long-term commitment of the whole community in sustainable energy management and in mobility policies. Today, our main focus is to involve the citizens in the shift to more sustainable patterns of life. In times of crisis, it is also a way to reduce the costs of living. We joined the Covenant of Mayors initiative because we believe that cities and their inhabitants play a crucial role in reaching Europe's climate objectives by 2020. Patrick Rimbart, Mayor of Nantes



Photo: Patrick Garçon

In 2008, Nantes Métropole joined the *Covenant of Mayors* committing to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2020, taking 2003 as a baseline year. The three sectors targeted are buildings, transport and tertiary activity. Given that 29% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions come from the transport sector, Nantes has developed an ambitious set of mobility actions as part of its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). Priority is given to reducing the use of cars, increasing biking in the city centre, enlarging public transport options, enhancing parking management and raising awareness of green mobility among citizens.

Since 1 October 2012, Nantes city centre has become a 30km/h speed limited zone. The city is looking to give the centre back to the pedestrians, by encouraging the use of public transport and bikes. New



bus lines were launched to extend the already large and clean city fleet, complementing the tramway and busway networks. Nantes was actually the first French city to reintroduce the tramway back in 1985. Today, the city hosts the longest tram network in the country with three lines over 42 km.

With a comprehensive 400 km network of bike lanes, the city offers a variety of biking options to cater to the needs of its residents:

- *Bicloo*: 880 self-service bicycles available for rent for short trips in the city center in 102 stations;
- *Ville à vélo*: 350 bicycles available (including electric ones) for medium and long-term hire for companies in the framework of the *Enterprise Transport Plan*;
- *Vélocampus*: 300 bicycles reserved for students for everyday use around the university campus.

Nantes is currently testing a new service, the *Cyclo Tan* which gives 100 volunteer citizens the possibility to hire for free a foldable bike that can be used in combination with public transport. The satisfaction rate of the service is of 87% so far.

Knowing that more than one trip out of four in the urban area is connected to work, Nantes is also engaged in reducing the employee and business reliance on private vehicles. To this date, 270 companies and around 70,000 employees are committed to decreasing their use of car for work purposes. In 2008 the city launched a [car-pooling website](#) with a specific access for business travel. 19,000 announcements have been published so far, considerably contributing to reduce the use of the car in the city.

Nantes Métropole – Key facts

- France's sixth largest city – approx. 282.000 inhabitants in Nantes city (590,000 inhabitants in the metropolitan area)
- Urban area: 524.6km² – Metropolitan area: 2 242.6km²
- Awarded *European Green Capital 2013* by the European Commission
- Joined the Covenant of Mayors on 17 October 2008
- 29% of greenhouse gas emissions come for the transport sector
- Holding the third-highest proportion of public transport users in France.

As a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, Nantes Métropole voluntarily commits to reducing its CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2020.

Contacts & further information

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