

City	
Country	France
Population	Municipality 285,000 – Metropolis 500,000
Title of policy or practice	Reconquête du foncier pour l'agroécologie (Reclaimed land for agro-ecology)
Subtitle (optional)	Reclaimed land to support quality local food production
URL video	
Category	Food Production
SDGs	SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17.
Brief description	<p>The Metropolis has embarked on a forward-looking initiative that develops a long-term vision for the future. Entitled <i>Montpellier Territoires, une métropole productive</i> (Montpellier Territories, a productive metropolis), this project proposes a spatial distribution and structuring of the area as a support for agro-ecological and food policy. These ambitions are reflected in the revision of the SCoT (<i>Schéma de Cohérence Territoriale</i>) [Territorial Coherence Scheme] and have been confirmed by the agreement with the Hérault Chamber of Agriculture. The latter reaffirms the objective of a long-term preservation of at least two thirds of the city with natural and agricultural areas by 2040.</p> <p>The main goal is to build a real agricultural and sustainable food project through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sustainable preservation of agricultural and natural areas through the SCoT project, which in the long term preserves agricultural and natural areas, taking into account the specificities of the metropolitan context; • the redistribution of lands to reclaim the many fields – public and private – that are currently unused, in order to give work to farmers or strengthen existing agricultural enterprises. This is achieved through: the mobilization of public land to boost the agriculture and experiment new farming methods; the mobilization of irrigable land for the preservation and redistribution of lands; finally, the reclamation of abandoned public and private lands and the support to farmers or the consolidation of existing agricultural enterprises. Authorized Agricultural Land Associations (<i>Associations Foncières Agricoles Autorisées</i>) are being created.
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	06/2015 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	Hérault Chamber of Agriculture, agricultural experts, 31 Municipalities of the Metropolis, private owners, project leaders (associations...), university researchers....
Approach	<p>April 2015: Preview report co-written by a multidisciplinary group of researchers as a consequence of workshops with elected representatives.</p> <p>June 2015: Unanimous vote of the Metropolitan Council on the reference framework for Agro-ecological and Food Policy.</p> <p>2019: Progressive transition from an institutional policy to a territorial policy.</p>
Innovation	<p>From the outset, this public policy is intended to be open and inclusive in partnership with the agricultural occupation, civil society and research.</p> <p>It is based on a territorial diagnosis commissioned by the community from INRA, which has led to</p>

	<p>a partnership approach (elected representatives, agents and researchers) to help the community build an agricultural and food policy. This multidisciplinary group of researchers has determined its aims and business lines. Voted unanimously by the 31 Mayors of the Metropolitan Council in June 2015, the reference framework was the anchor point for public policy.</p> <p>Unlike other territories, the Metropolis of Montpellier has made the deliberate choice not to submit itself to a thorough and exhaustive diagnosis but to experiment, to learn from its actions as it moves forward. Built through concrete actions, this public policy carries out all its actions concurrently without prioritizing them, thus giving them a systemic dimension.</p> <p>This transversal policy is based on other areas of public policy in which the Metropolis is committed: development, urban planning and public spaces, biodiversity conservation, raw and drinking water, risk management, waste prevention and management, urban logistics, economic development, economic integration, social cohesion, citizen participation, solidarity & education, energy, public health, tourism.</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Environmental, social and economic impact.</p> <p>The working groups together with the actors of the agricultural and food ecosystem and with the surrounding areas converged on implementing the collaborative platform "BoCal" ("bon et local" – "healthy and local"): it includes a shared agenda, a geolocalized mapping of points of sale and markets, news, resource locations. This initiative is based on the Chart for Transition and Sustainable Food (<i>Charte pour la Transition et l'Alimentation Durable</i>).</p> <p>Co-written by the partners, this chart confirms a common goal based on common definitions and everyone's desire to include sustainable food (cf. FAO, 2010) and agroecology in their actions. Its commitments are part of a transition approach: they encourage responsible production and sustainable local supply in a circular economy model, they highlight the transmission of knowledge and responsible consumption. The citizen, a responsible consumer, is thus at the heart of the changes in the area's food system. The Chart will be signed by all partners in 2019.</p> <p>Impact on vulnerable populations: this initiative supports in particular the projects carried out in the mass catering of the City and the Metropolis of Montpellier, which is characterized by food insecurity (see MONTPELLIER_MPA2019_Food Supply and Distribution).</p>
<p>Inclusion</p>	<p>Thematic inclusion: this transversal policy is based on other areas of public policy in which the Metropolis is involved: development, urban planning and public spaces, biodiversity conservation, raw and drinking water, risk management, waste prevention and management, urban logistics, economic development, economic integration, social cohesion, citizen participation, solidarity & education, energy, public health, tourism.</p> <p>Territorial inclusion: The metropolis fully plays its role as a public institution for intercommunal cooperation (<i>établissement public de coopération intercommunale</i> – EPCI). The aim was to co-construct public agro-ecological and food policy with the municipalities and their elected representatives, within the "Confidence Pact 2014-2020".</p> <p>Montpellier has come closer to its surrounding municipalities in order to set up collaborations on common issues: they result from matters that need to be understood and dealt with relevance and are based on a continuity of living spaces, among housing, work, leisure and collective action, for the inhabitants of Montpellier.</p>
<p>Adversity coefficient</p>	<p>The city has an exceptional but very fragile environmental wealth. It must be preserved and reclaimed to enhance it: the great ecosystem diversity encountered, from the coastline to the <i>Causses</i>, including ponds, <i>garrigues</i> and the mosaic of agricultural areas, favours the presence of an extraordinary biological diversity.</p>

Moreover, the geographical characteristics of the Montpellier metropolis make it a very vulnerable area to the consequences of global warming: forest fires, floods, soil and water pollution, loss of biodiversity, distribution of water resources, saltwater intrusion and submersion, urban heat islands, etc.

In terms of economic development and employment, the Metropolitan area has been characterized by a particularly contrasting situation for many years. Economic maturity and dynamism are reflected in high and constant rates of business and job creation compared to those in other metropolitan areas. Nevertheless, unemployment and precarious employment rates are among the highest in France's metropolitan areas.

The City's policy concentrates 12 priority districts where difficulties are accumulated (low level of qualifications, activity rate lower than average and higher unemployment rates than the rest of the area) (INSEE 2015 data). Observers explain that this situation was caused by the extraordinary demographic evolution that the area has experienced over the past several decades.

Food insecurity is one of the consequences of this poverty. To guarantee a quality meal for children during lunch, the City of Montpellier has adapted its school canteens pricing system by adjusting it according to household income (CAF). As a consequence, 70% of households pay less than €2 per meal for lunch in school canteens (see [MONTPELLIER_MPA2019_Food Supply and Distribution](#)).