



# #2

## SSE, Inclusive Economy and Ecological and Energy Transition

Summary of the thematic guide

"The ecological transition is essential, and it must be socially balanced, inclusive and acceptable. The challenge is to adapt our economy to a climate emergency that requires us to innovate rapidly. Local and national governments have powerful levers to integrate the SSE and the inclusive economy into the ecological transition: supporting their scaling up, supporting cooperation in the territories, activating economic transformation via public procurement and recovery plans, etc. This guide lists the solutions developed throughout the world by the SSE and the inclusive economy to make their contribution to the ecological transition. It also lists the inspiring practices of local and national governments to support these structures and their development. I hope that it will feed the work of PACT FOR IMPACT members to co-construct ambitious commitments in favour of the ecological transition.

**Olivia GREGOIRE, French Secretary of State for the Social, Solidarity and Responsible Economy.**

"India has strong laws and a number of policy programmes that flow from guidelines on sustainable development. Unfortunately, we don't have a clear policy, we don't have the vision for a clear policy. We need to move from policies that focus on basic energy needs to policies that focus on the more productive needs of people. It is difficult to meet the needs of different sectors. Depending on the situation, both large-scale and decentralised technologies are needed. The lack of regulatory discipline on large companies is driving them away from the poorest parts of society, leading to unemployment and disempowerment. Social enterprises have a key role to play, but they lack finance and capital. The emergence of the social stock market will see the emergence of new instruments that could be used by social enterprises in the energy sector. The key will be when different stakeholders are able to embrace the complexity to make an impact."

**Anita AHUJA, Co-founder and President of Conserve India**

# Observation and diagnosis of the issues

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1

The climate emergency requires a common agenda to safeguard the planet and human life.

- The overstepping of certain **planetary limits** due to our growth and development models forces us to rethink them.
- To address the urgency of an EEO, we must also consider middle and low income countries, which must be able to build economic growth on **low-carbon and resilient trajectories** that will leave no one behind.

The richest 10% (630 million people) are responsible for 52% of cumulative CO2 emissions.

The richest 1% (63 million people) account for more than 15% of cumulative emissions.

2

The preservation of our environment requires the involvement of everyone.

The **growing awareness** of political decision-makers is reflected in more consultations and strategic commitments at high level, which do **not however sufficiently include Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) and Inclusive Economy organisations** as a lever towards more sustainable and inclusive development patterns.

In order to face the climate emergency and to support the SDGs, and because the organisations of the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Inclusive Economy contribute intrinsically to this **Ecological and Energy Transition**, it is necessary to allow **SSEs to be recognised and to commit themselves to the climate.**

3

The SSE and the Inclusive Economy provide promising solutions for the ecological and energy transition (EE).

Through their local and community roots, SSEOs and inclusive economy actors propose new models, services and goods that are more environmentally responsible, and can contribute to addressing environmental issues.

# The contribution of the SSE/Inclusive Economy to the challenges of the EEO <sup>3</sup>

Through their **mode of operation**, their **local presence** in the territories, their **democratic governance** and their pursuit of an ideal of justice and economic solidarity, the SSE and the inclusive economy **embody and carry the solutions** of the ecological and energy transition.



## Energy and resource management

Many SSE and inclusive economy organisations, considering energy as a common good, are a real lever of EEO, through different levers:

- Establishment of **regional cooperative energy suppliers** (collective self-consumption, renewable heat networks, etc.) *In France, [Energie Partagée supports citizen projects to produce green electricity](#).*
- **Decentralisation of energy systems** (smart grid) for **equal access to energy**. *In Bangladesh, [Grameen Shakti works on rural electrification](#). In West Africa, [Oolu Solar and Baobab+ are developing solar kits for rural households via a "pay-as-you-go" system](#).*
- Organising more local, leaner and renewable **energy production and distribution** systems. *In Germany, in 2017, [32% of renewable energy installations were managed by citizens](#). In Spain, [Som Energia is a REScoop with 65,000 members and 100,000 electricity consumers](#).*



## Agriculture and Food

The SSE and the inclusive economy provide sustainable and solidarity-based solutions in the field of agriculture and food, malnutrition & over-consumption:

- In *Tunisia*, [Dream in Tunisia trains young women in agroecology in arid areas](#).
- Establishment of **food distribution methods in short and local circuits** (collective interest production cooperatives, income sharing). *In Tunisia, [Wiki PAM is a network of 11 GDAs for aromatic and medicinal plants that brings together more than 500 artisans \(92% women\)](#).*
- Development of **agricultural activities in the city** (shared gardens, urban farms, *such as [Agricool or the Safranière suspendue in France](#)*).
- Management of **responsible processing tools** (vegetable shops, local products, *such as [Tazart in Tunisia](#)*).
- Participation in the **fight against food waste**. *Internationally, [Salvation Army recovers unsold food from the retail sector and sells it at reduced prices to the poorest people](#).*



## Sustainable transport and mobility

The SSEOs are also rethinking the ways in which city life is organised and proposing **cleaner and more sober** modes of transport through initiatives such as :

- Creation of **carpooling and carsharing platforms** (*Mobicoop in France*) based on **cooperative governance** in the hands of users (repair and maintenance services at solidarity prices by integration structures).
- Development of the **bicycle as an alternative mode of transport** in the urban environment, installation of solidarity garages and participatory workshops (equipment, knowledge, re-use, repairs).
- Partnerships with public actors, promoting links between transport operators and SSE actors. *In France, Wimooove benefits from social impact contracts to work on the return to employment of people with limited mobility.*



## Housing and buildings

SSEOs and inclusive businesses are engaged in supporting sustainable housing design:

- Specialisation in ecoconstruction in raw or natural earth *such as Ecodôme Maroc in Morocco or Terramano in France.*
- Promotion of sustainable housing and traditional building techniques *The association La Voute Nubienne promotes a traditional low-tech building technique that is very energy efficient.*
- Contributing to the **fight against fuel poverty** and energy renovation. *In the UK, RetrofitWorks designs energy efficiency and retrofit programmes.*
- Contribution to the imagination of **alternative solutions to deconstruction** (reuse of buildings, selective removal, sorting, recycling).



## Circular economy and waste

SSE and inclusive economy organisations are proposing new modes of production and consumption, based on the **circular economy**, generating sustainable employment and inclusion:

- Establishment of **recycling and resourceries** and organisation of repair workshops, insertion workshops, upcycling and focus groups, *such as the Emmaus and Envie networks in France.*
- Working on **recycling non-reusable everyday waste**. *In India, the NGO Conserve India is creating solutions to recover waste while generating income, such as Handmade Recycled Plastic. In Brazil, Belo Horizonte provides a network of collectors with sorting and storage facilities.*
- Study on **digital recycling issues** *In the UK, Circular Computing refurbishes and repairs computers.*
- Contribution of existing public policies (creation of EPR channels, creation of new markets, etc.)

Local and national governments **have an interest in supporting the development of SSE** and inclusive economy actors as **local solutions to the EEO** and as bearers of modes of operation and governance compatible with new economic models that are more respectful of the environment and people. For this, **several levers are available to them:**

## Mobilising and strengthening the place of SSE and the inclusive economy in environmental policies

It is important to **highlight** SSE and Inclusive Economy actors as a lever for the ecological and energy transition (EE), and to **strengthen their place in the process of developing, implementing and evaluating environmental policies.**

- Generate **an international coalition** to assert the role of innovator and provider of solutions to the challenges of sustainable development and environmental protection
- **Develop a strong advocacy at the international level** for a decarbonised, fair and inclusive economy
- **Defend a vision of business and society**, with a clear pursuit of social, environmental and governance objectives.

## Raising awareness, training and equipping SSEs and inclusive enterprises for EEO issues

There is a challenge **to train, raise awareness and upgrade** the skills of SSE and inclusive economy actors who are not yet involved in EE and its technical issues.

- Set up **local training** adapted to their needs, operated by a social economy actor.
- Raise awareness among SSEOs and entrepreneurs **to integrate environmental criteria** in their value proposition and raison d'être.
- Raise awareness of the systematic implementation of the **Donut Theory** (Kate Raworth) which questions the functioning of organisations (a lower limit of social floor and an upper limit of environmental ceiling not to be exceeded)
- *The city of Amsterdam has implemented its development plan based on the Donut Theory in 2020 with measures such as:*
  - *Fair price initiative to offset the carbon footprint.*
  - *Fairer remuneration for local producers.*
  - *Increasing the wages of impoverished workers.*
  - *Recovery and rehabilitation of computers for poor families.*



## Encouraging the relocation of the means of production

New virtuous alliances can be set up between SSEOs, social enterprises, large groups and public institutions to relocate production tools and processes.

- The creation of **collaborations between SSEs and traditional companies** to reconstitute a **local and sustainable industrial base**.
- Facilitating **partnerships** via platforms or meetings in the territories.
- Helping OESS to appropriate **the language and communication methods** of traditional companies.
- **Incentives for mainstream companies to turn to solutions offered by SSEs and social enterprises** (internal advocacy, low-carbon strategies, knowledge of stakeholders)

## Proposing new consumption and production models

- **Refocus the production of** goods and services on meeting basic needs.
- Systematise **eco-design** in the design of new goods,
- **Fight against programmed obsolescence.**
- Use local, more resilient financial resources.
- **Internalise the environmental impact** in the calculation of its performance through more **environmental accounting.**

## Directing recovery, where possible, to be green and social

The economic and social recovery phase following the Covid-19 pandemic is an opportune time to **initiate fair and green changes and reforms.**

By ensuring that

- Find a balance between **incentive and punitive mechanisms.**
- **Analyse the social impact** of measures taken on the most vulnerable populations
- **Changing the paradigm of financial profitability** from short term to long term
- **Develop the specifications for public procurement** in favour of social economy actors who value a territorial base, shared governance and a social impact objective





# Useful resources



## Reports and documentation

- UNFSSSE, Social and Solidarity Economy and the Challenge of Sustainable Development Position Paper, 2014, [https://base.socioeco.org/docs/position\\_paper\\_tfsse.pdf](https://base.socioeco.org/docs/position_paper_tfsse.pdf)
- UNEP, Medium term strategy 2018-2021, May 2016, [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7621/-UNEP\\_medium-term\\_strategy\\_2018-2021-2016MTS\\_2018-2021.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7621/-UNEP_medium-term_strategy_2018-2021-2016MTS_2018-2021.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y)
- UNDP, Climate Change Adaptation in Africa, UNDP Synthesis of Experiences and Recommendations, October 2018, <https://www1.undp.org/content/undp/fr/home/librarypage/climate-and-disaster-resilience-/climate-change-adaptation-in-africa.html>
- OXFAM France, Tackling the inequalities of CO2 emissions. Climate justice at the heart of the post-covid 19 recovery. September 2020 <https://www.oxfamfrance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Resume-Rapport-Oxfam-Combattre-Inegalites-Emissions-CO2.pdf>
- ILO, Global Employment and Social Issues 2018, a green and job-creating economy. 2018 [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/--inst/documents/publication/wcms\\_638147.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/--inst/documents/publication/wcms_638147.pdf)



## Examples of tools

- Doughnut Economics Action Lab, Concept and implementation of the doughnut economy <https://doughnuteconomics.org/about-doughnut-economics>
- The climate mural <https://fresqueduclimat.org/>
- Carbon emissions calculator for individuals and households <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>



## Examples of initiatives

Would you like to tell us about an innovative initiative on one of the four action levers identified in this summary?

Send us a description of your initiative by e-mail to [contact@pact-for-impact.org](mailto:contact@pact-for-impact.org)



Contact:

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AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

