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For a Transition in energy

The energy transition can only succeed if it is socially just. In other words: if, on the one hand, people with fewer financial resources are relieved of the burden of rising energy prices and, on the other hand, are supported so that they can actively participate in the energy transition (i.e. if they also have access to renewable energy, etc.).

Unfortunately, too little is currently being done in this area. That is why Mouvement Ecologique, the Chamber of Labour, the OGBL and the LCGB are also running a joint campaign to secure improvements.

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‘SOCIAL CLIMATE PLAN’ SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION MUST BECOME A POLITICAL PRIORITY! JOINT POSITION OF THE MOUVEMENT ÉCOLOGIQUE AND THE CHAMBRE DES SALARIÉS

Those with fewer financial resources are the ones who suffer most from the biodiversity and climate crisis, even though it is proven that they contribute the least to it.

The EU is therefore requiring Member States to draw up a social climate plan to protect low-income households and vulnerable businesses from the consequences of rising fuel and heating prices, and to enable them to play an active role in the energy transition. Low-income households are particularly affected, as energy costs account for a disproportionate share of their budget (even though they consume less on average than those on higher incomes) and they cannot afford to invest in energy-saving measures.

Such a scheme is also of particular importance in Luxembourg, as current measures tend to exclude people on low incomes.

Unfortunately, according to Mouvement Écologique, the government has not worked on this crucial plan with the necessary vigour. This is why a joint statement was published with the Chamber of Employees, the OGBL and the LCGB. This initiative has borne fruit: the social climate plan has finally become a political issue. The aim: much more needs to be done, and faster, in Luxembourg to include people with limited financial means in the transition.

These joint actions have borne fruit: various discussions have taken place (including meetings with the Minister for the Economy, Lex Delles, and the Minister for the Environment, Serge Wilmes), a working group has been set up, the first draft of the plan has been revised, and so on. However, the new draft plan subsequently presented once again revealed a number of shortcomings, prompting the alliance of the Mouvement Écologique and the trade unions, in collaboration with the Chamber of Employees, to mobilise once more and demand improvements. The final plan is now due to be presented in 2026; we will have to wait and see.



SOCIAL RENTAL: AN IMPORTANT PROJECT TO ADVANCE SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR'S TRANSITION

On behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, *Luxmobility and the consultancy firm Fier* have conducted a study on the feasibility of a social long-term electric car rental scheme in Luxembourg. The aim is to enable households with limited financial resources to move away from combustion engine vehicles and give them access to more affordable electric cars. This long-term leasing programme is designed to offer particularly favourable terms regarding the vehicle, maintenance and insurance.

Mouvement Ecologique has been campaigning for years in favour of this social scheme and has expressly welcomed this initiative.

Representatives from the long-term leasing, automotive, social and environmental sectors took part in workshops, including Mouvement Ecologique. The latter successfully advocated for the long-term leasing programme to be made as accessible as possible, regardless of commuting distances or public transport links. The study sets out clear recommendations, which must now be implemented by the relevant ministries.

To further reduce costs, the study recommends incorporating the 'Mobility' climate bonus. This scheme will be reserved for households already receiving REVIS or the 'Cost of Living Allowance'. In addition, an expansion of the public charging infrastructure and a wide choice of vehicles are planned.

The Department for the Environment has announced that a social leasing scheme will be put through the legislative process in 2026.

ELECTRICITY TARIFFS FOR HEAT PUMPS AND ELECTRIC CARS MUST REMAIN MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THAN THOSE FOR FOSSIL FUELS – the most disadvantaged towns MUST BE STRONGLY SUPPORTED!

In 2024, the overhaul of electricity tariffs, the rising costs of charging points, etc., sparked some fairly heated debates.

At the same time, many feared that these changes would not be sufficient for the energy transition, as the switch to renewable energy would not be sufficiently encouraged. Consequently, many citizens began to doubt the value of this transition.

This raised the following question: what needs to be done to shape the energy transition in such a way that it is socially just and also benefits those who are investing in it today? What decisions need to be taken to ensure that renewable energies remain attractive in the long term (i.e. including heat pumps and electric mobility)?

To achieve this, clear political framework conditions are needed that are transparent, predictable and socially equitable. During the discussions, Mouvement Ecologique advocated the following measures in particular:

- Electricity from renewable sources must be and remain cheaper than fossil fuels;
- Electricity pricing should be co-determined by the state through greater public participation in grid costs;
- A gradual increase in the CO2 tax up to 2030 should be decided and set now;
- The green transition must be socially just;
- The State and local authorities are required, amongst other things, to propose collective solutions for a just energy transition.

The State is required to present a medium- and long-term strategy, taking social criteria into account and considering the potential consequences for individual businesses or certain types of businesses.

