



eau
seine
NORMANDIE



Water Management

in the Seine-Normandy River Basin District



ENSEMBLE
DONNONS
VIE À L'EAU

Agence de l'eau



Ministère
de l'Écologie,
du Développement
durable,
des Transports
et du Logement



Organisation of water policy

→ At international level

There are about thirty conventions which impose a number of obligations to ensure the protection of water and the aquatic environment: the Barcelona convention (1976) on the protection of the Mediterranean sea, the Ospar [Oslo/Paris] convention (1992) on the protection of the North-East Atlantic, the Ramsar convention (1971) on the protection and proper use of wetlands, and also the Aarhus or Espoo conventions on user participation ...

→ At European Community level

There are about fifty texts (treaties, regulations, directives, and decisions) which impose obligations, often in terms of means to be implemented and results to be achieved, especially regarding the targets for water quality, the elimination or reduction of dangerous substances or sources of pollution.

→ At national level

About a dozen legal codes deal with obligations relating to the means to be implemented and the objectives to be achieved or fulfilled : the Environmental Code, the Local Authorities Code, the Health Code, the Rural Code, the Social Action and Family Code, the Tax Code ...

- The Interministerial Mission for Water made up of the Ministry for the Environment and other ministries for which water is a concern (industry, agriculture, sea, health, etc.), advises on draft laws, decrees, etc., investment programmes... It draws on the services of the National Committee for Water which has a consultative role.

→ At river basin level

Implementation of guidelines and regulations is organised at the level of the six river basins, with the specific features of each being taken into account.

The River Basin Committees, the Water Agencies and their Management Boards: see opposite, the example of the Seine-Normandy basin.

- The coordinating Prefect for the river basin coordinates and guides the actions of the regional and departmental Prefects. He advises on major cases. He defines areas that may be vulnerable (nitrates) and sensitive (eutrophication). He decides on and publishes the River Basin Management Plan (SDAGE) produced by the River Basin Committee. He is assisted by the Basin Delegate for the river basin (representing the Ministry for the Environment).

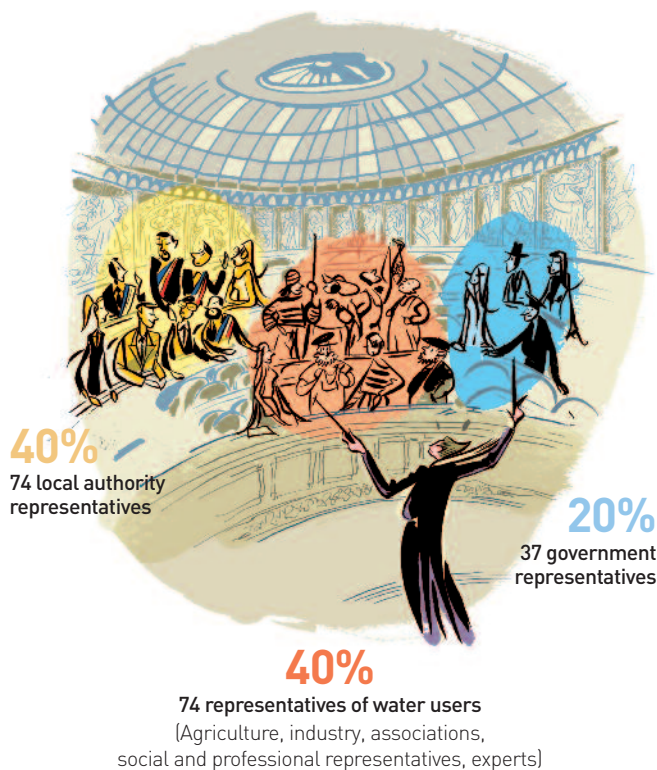
→ At regional, departmental and local level

- Regulations are usually implemented through authorisations to discharge and/or abstract water granted under the terms of "water" agreements or the "classified facilities" regulation, supervised by the Prefect and under the control of the coordinating Prefect for the river basin.
- At departmental level, the water police, appointed by the Prefect, ensure that the rules are respected.
- Municipalities or groups of municipalities deal with water supply and sanitation services. The mayor is responsible for sewage treatment, the quality of the water supply and its price.

Action programmes designed ...

→ Seine-Normandy River Basin Committee

The River Basin Committee has 185 members:



The President and the Vice-President of the River Basin Committee are elected every three years.

Based on proposals from the Water Agency Management Board, the River Basin Committee draws up the action programme for the Water Agency: the types of work to be carried out and the types of financial aid (grant, interest-free loan) applicable. It also sets rates that will fund the action programme. It also has the task of producing the River Basin Management Plan (SDAGE) and organising public consultation on this orientation document.

→ Seine-Normandy Management Plan and Programme of Measures

The River Basin Management Plan is drawn up by the River Basin Committee on the basis of proposals presented by the Water Agency and the Regional Directorate for the Basin Delegation. The aim is to manage water resources and the water environment in a balanced and sustainable way (in terms of quantity and quality). The objective that has been set is to achieve good ecological status by 2015 for 2/3 of the Seine-Normandy basin's 1,700 water bodies (groundwater, surface, inland and coastal water bodies). This is a document of more than 200 pages which sets out about forty basic issues and more than 170 measures to be taken. The Management Plan is accompanied by a "Programme of Measures" which sets out the actions needed to achieve the objectives of the Master Plan and identifies action priorities for each small catchment area. The Management Plan must be revised every 6 years by the River Basin Committee.

Public participation

The environmental objectives set out in the Management Plan for Seine-Normandy and the resources that need to be mobilised in order to achieve these goals, defined in the "Programme of Measures", are ambitious, but must also be realistic given that public expenditure should remain within limits that are financially acceptable for the consumer. During the preparation phase of the Management Plan, the Seine-Normandy River Basin Committee consulted the public (public debates, questionnaires, etc.) and assemblies – Regional and General Councils, Chambers of Commerce...- about its content and gathered various opinions before finalising the Management Plan project.

The "Grenelle Environment Forum"

Recommendations from the "Grenelle Environment Forum" were taken into account in the final or revised documents in the Management Plan programme (reducing dangerous substances, measures to prevent flooding...).

→ The Seine-Normandy river basin in brief

The basin covers 1/5 of the total area of France. It includes over 600 km of coastline and over 70,000 km of water courses. It covers 8,654 municipalities, 29 departments (wholly or in part) and 10 regions (wholly or in part).

- Wastewater from 30% of the French population (17.6 million inhabitants), 40% of national industry, and pollution spread by 25% of national agriculture is discharged into the Seine estuary.
- 60% of drinking water comes from groundwater, the rest comes from rivers.
- 4,800 drinking water catchment inlets produce 1,515 million cubic metres of water per year.
- 2,500 wastewater treatment plants in the river basin treat wastewater from 16 million inhabitants.

→ 9th Water Agency Action Programme (2007-2012)

Produced by the River Basin Committee, and based on proposals presented by the Water Agency Management Board, the Programme takes into account the sometimes diverging wishes of industry, locally elected representatives, farmers, associations, ecologists, consumers... The Agency's 9th Aid Programme focuses on the directions of the Management Plan, with two priorities: **the quality of aquatic environments and safeguarding health.**

Water taxes put to many uses

The rates that are levied enable the Water Agency to achieve its goals, set out by law, to prevent and repair the damage caused to the environment. Thanks to the revenue collected from polluters and all water consumers, it is able to finance improvement work, actions and studies in line with several different objectives:

1- Depollution

- by reducing organic and inorganic pollution (metals), nitrogen and phosphorus at source. The water pollution charge, whether from agricultural, domestic or non-domestic pollution, deals with this. The "diffuse pollution" charge, on the other hand, can be used to finance agri-environmental measures to combat water pollution by nitrates, pesticides and phosphorus;
- by upgrading wastewater treatment plants for towns of more than 2,000 inhabitants. This is the purpose of the charge for dealing with water pollution of domestic origin, and for modernising sewage collection works.

2- Meeting water needs

- by ensuring that a balance is maintained between, on the one hand, existing resources, and on the other, drinking water supplies, industrial uses, farming needs and uses. The charge for abstracting water from the available resources covers this;
- by contributing to international cooperation for water-related subjects.

3 - Reclaiming environments

- by improving knowledge of the state of the environment;
- by preserving and diversifying habitats, promoting biodiversity and restoring aquatic ecosystems (charge for storing water during periods when water levels are low and charge for protection of the aquatic environment). There is also the question of developing the ecological continuity of watercourses and thus ensuring that species and sediments can move around freely, which is often hindered when work is undertaken (charge for obstacles across the watercourses).

4 - Improving governance

- by encouraging and promoting global territorial measures. For better coherence and efficiency, the Water Agency suggests that local authorities, industry, farmers, associations... enter into a contractual agreements by which water management will be structured by territory (e.g. at the scale of a SAGE development plan, an industrial activity zone, etc.) or by theme (e.g. by industrial sector, etc.). Each contract is based upon an initial assessment of the natural environment and an operation programme to reach the negotiated joint objective written into the contract;
- by informing, raising awareness and educating the public in everyday water management and the protection of aquatic ecosystems.

ogical status for water and aquatic ec



General conditions for granting aid

Financial aid from the water Agency is in the form of grants and interest-free loans. These loans are for 15 years for local authorities and 5 to 8 years for in... To finance different types of work, Agency aid is calculated so that total aid for a project from public funds does not exceed 80% of total investment, excluding... For some actions, a reference price may be applied when calculating the amount of financial aid. Work must not begin before aid is formally granted by the...

Ecosystems



→ A policy based on democracy and responsibility

Elected representatives, industry, associations, farmers, State... fix the rates ...

The law determines the rules on which calculations are made and blocks the rates for the charges levied, leaving some leeway for the discretion of the River Basin Committee. These charges are collected by the Water Agency, and are a form of taxation.

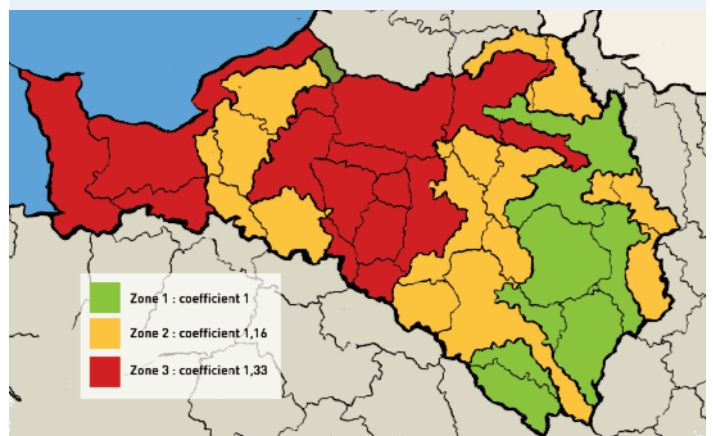
...and allocate aid

The members of the Commission for Aid (a sub-division of the Management Board of the Water Agency) – industrialists, elected representatives, consumers, government representatives - reach a collective decision about providing aid for projects put forward by contracting authorities, on recommendations from the Water Agency departments.

Effort varies depending on environmental quality

The Seine-Normandy river basin is split into 3 zones. These zones are not subject to the same regime for rates and subsidies; aid is weighted by a coefficient. These variations depend on the quality of surface water bodies.

More approaches will be made to a region that is affected by pollution, in order to increase local stakeholder responsibility and release sufficient funds to be able to provide effective action. Areas where rates are highest are the areas where most action is required to restore them to a good ecological state. In return, these same areas receive more aid from the water Agency than some of the less fragile sectors.



industries, with specific conditions applying.

ng tax.

e aid commission, though there may be exceptions.

Together, let's give life to water

→ Financing water management policies

The cost of improving to water quality and aquatic ecosystems is currently €75 per inhabitant per year. The cost of the actions planned to achieve the ambitious objectives set out in the River Basin Management Plan stands at €1.6 billion per year, or €100* per inhabitant per year. This would therefore involve an extra €25 per inhabitant per year compared with current expenditure.

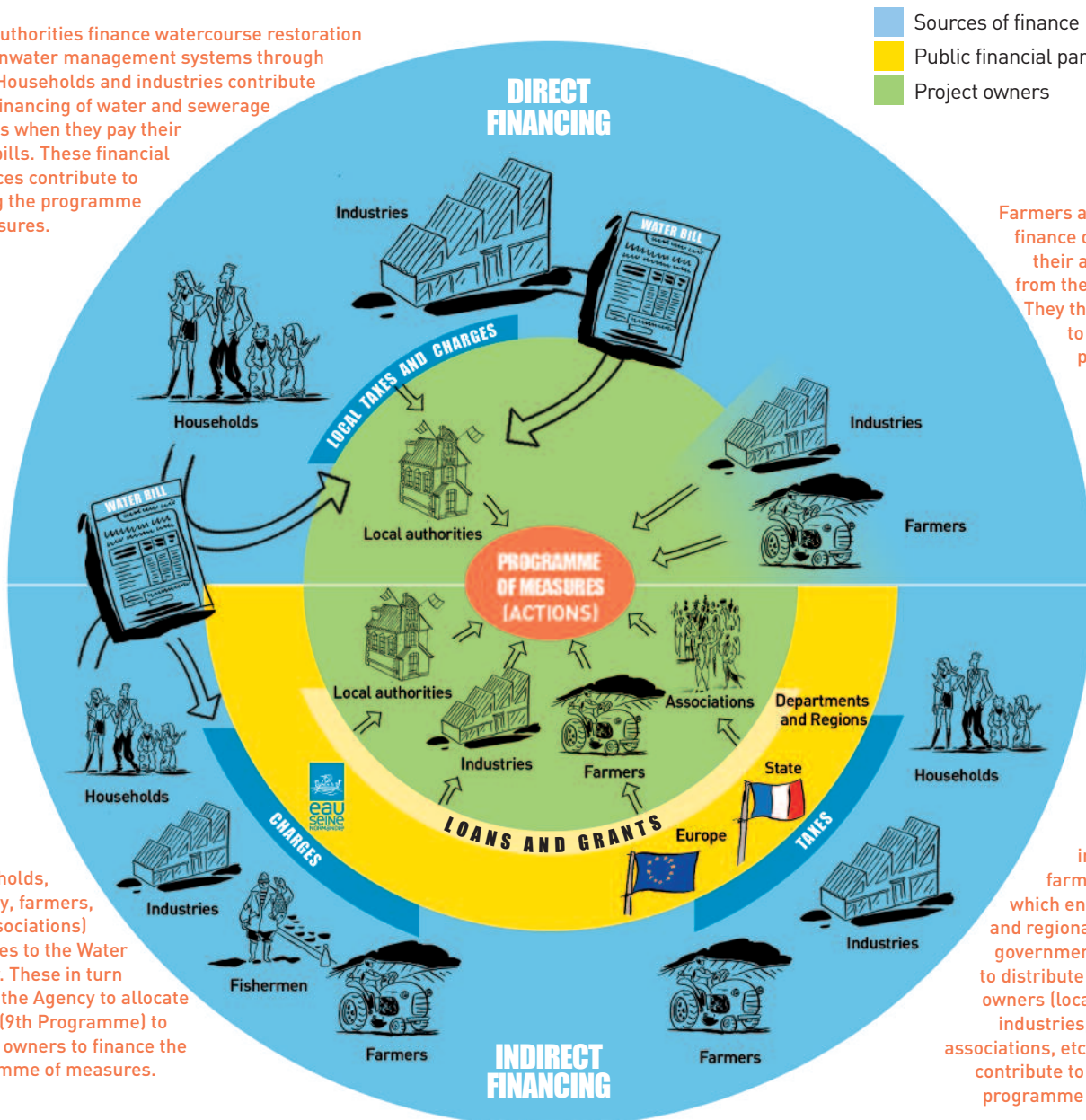
* By comparison, health expenditure in France in 2006 was €198.3 billion/year, or €3,200 /inhab/year

Local authorities finance watercourse restoration and rainwater management systems through taxes. Households and industries contribute to the financing of water and sewerage services when they pay their water bills. These financial resources contribute to funding the programme of measures.

Farmers and industries finance depollution of their activity in part from their own funds. They thus contribute to financing the programme of measures.

Users (households, industry, farmers, and associations) pay taxes to the Water Agency. These in turn enable the Agency to allocate grants (9th Programme) to project owners to finance the programme of measures.

Households, industries and farmers pay taxes which enable the local and regional authorities, government and Europe to distribute aid to project owners (local authorities, industries, farmers and associations, etc.), which thus contribute to financing the programme of measures.



→ Did you know?

In France, water provides 112,800 jobs, 31,200 in water management and sanitation companies, 29,900 with pipe laying companies and 26,800 with local authority water services and sanitation departments.

(Source: BIPE/FP2E study 2006 for the Ministry of the Environment)

→ For more information, go to the websites

• www.eau-seine-normandie.fr

• www.onema.fr

and implemented by users

→ Management Board of the Seine-Normandy Water Agency

The Management Board has 34 members:

- 11 local authority representatives, elected by and from among the representatives of territorial authorities on the River Basin Committee,
- 11 user representatives, elected by and from among the user representatives on the River Basin Committee,
- 11 representatives of the State and government departments, from a list established by law,
- 1 representative of the Water Agency staff and his deputy

The President of the Management Board is appointed by decree for three years. The Management Board puts the draft action programme and funding plans (proposal for the local water rates) before the River Basin Committee. It defines the general operating conditions for the Water Agency and for granting subsidies, and an ad hoc commission assesses the merits of applications for assistance from developers presented by the Director of the Water Agency. It determines the Agency's budget.

→ Seine-Normandy Water Agency

The Water Agency prepares the applications to be submitted for consideration by the Management Board and the River Basin Committee: proposals for the action programme along with plans for funding, and for the River Basin Management Plan. In accordance with the action programme determined by the River Basin Committee, the Agency allocates aid in the form of grants and interest-free loans to local authorities, industry, farmers, associations that undertake work to improve resource management and reduce all forms of pollution. This financial aid comes from the local rates.



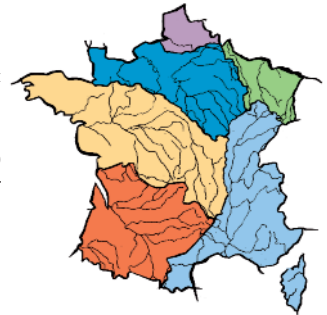
Focus on the Environmental Code

→ Over the years, the French Environmental Code has been amended by several laws covering water and water users

Law of 16 December 1964:

The basic principles

France was divided into hydrographic basins. Six Water Agencies were created (government bodies reporting to the Ministry for the Environment) and also River Basin Committees. The "polluter pays" principle was adopted.



Law of 3 January 1992 reinforced planned management

In each river basin a SDAGE (Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux - River Basin Management Plan) sets out the broad principles for long-term water resource management. Local applications of the SDAGE are defined in documents called SAGE (Schéma d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux - Water Development and Management Schemes) with the areas of reference being clearly established (2,000 km² on average).

European Directive 1991: Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

Decree of 3 June 1994: all built-up areas must collect and treat their wastewater.

European Framework Directive 2000: the main guidelines for a European community policy on water

The Law of 21 April 2004 transposed the Directive in France, setting out an obligation to achieve certain results

The Directive requires Member States to work to ensure that they prevent any deterioration in aquatic ecosystems and also to improve their quality by ensuring that resources are managed sustainably. It confirms principles already built into French law (Law of 1964). For French Water Agencies, this represents a transition from an obligation of resources (providing financial aid for pollution control) to an obligation of results (ensuring that actions undertaken are sufficient to obtain the desired results).

The Law of 9 February 2005 (Oudin-Santini law): international solidarity

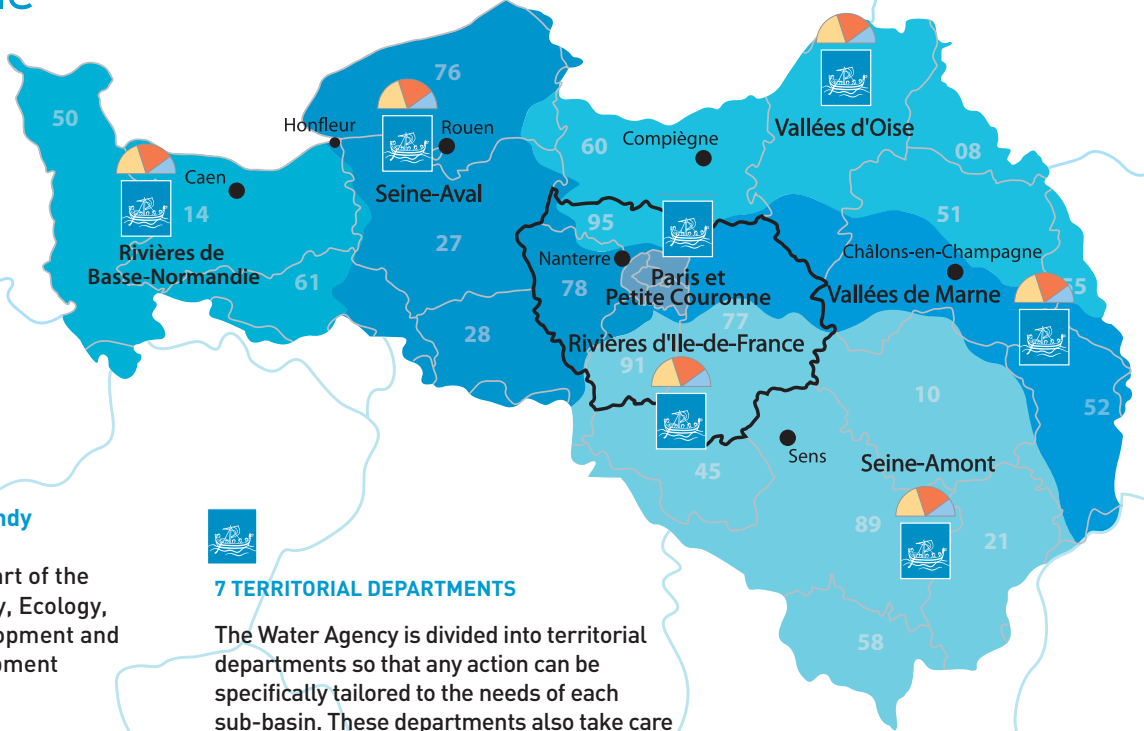
Authorisation to fund decentralised water cooperation through the water and wastewater treatment budgets of regional authorities and water agencies (up to 1% maximum of these budgets).

The Law of 30 December 2006 on Water and Aquatic Environments (LEMA)

The LEMA approves and legitimates the principles of water management by river basin and the organisation of water agencies. Everyone has a right to water. The LEMA was the culmination of a process of reforms begun in 2003 (the "flood risk" law; the law of 2004 transposing the Water Framework Directive (WFD); the law on public health with the protection of water catchment areas; the 2005 "Oudin-Santini" law; the law on the development of rural territories in relation to managing wetlands, etc.), it adapted existing tools and created what was needed to carry out the community programmes and meet the objectives set by the WFD (including ensuring that water reached a good ecological status) and to ensure a balance between water needs and resources. Care was taken to strengthen local and regional management.



**eau
seine
NORMANDIE**



The Seine-Normandy Water Agency

is a public body, part of the Ministry for Energy, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Territorial Development

HEAD OFFICE DEPARTMENTS

- GENERAL DIRECTORATE
- TERRITORIAL STRATEGY DEPARTMENT
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT
- WATER, AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
- HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

HEAD OFFICE

51, rue Salvador-Allende
92027 Nanterre cedex
Tel: 01 41 20 16 00
Fax: 01 41 20 16 09



7 TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENTS

The Water Agency is divided into territorial departments so that any action can be specifically tailored to the needs of each sub-basin. These departments also take care of administrative work for the territorial commissions within their area.

PARIS Y PETITE COURONNE

51, rue Salvador-Allende - 92027 Nanterre cedex
Tel.: 01 41 20 17 74 - Fax: 01 41 20 16 39

RIVIÈRES D'ILE-DE-FRANCE

51, rue Salvador-Allende - 92027 Nanterre cedex
Tel.: 01 41 20 16 10 - Fax : 01 41 20 17 01

SEINE-AMONT

2 bis, rue de l'Ecrivain - 89100 Sens

VALLÉES DE MARNE

30-32, chaussée du Port
51035 Châlons-en-Champagne cedex
Tel.: 03 26 66 25 75 - Fax: 03 26 65 59 79

VALLÉES D'OISE

2, rue du Docteur Guérin - Zac de l'Université
Tel.: 03 44 30 41 00 - Fax: 03 44 30 41 01

RIVIÈRES DE BASSE-NORMANDIE

1, rue de la Pompe - BP 70087
14203 Hérouville-St-Clair cedex
Tel.: 02 31 46 20 20 - Fax: 02 31 46 20 29

SEINE-AVAL

39 Hangar C Espace des Marégraphes
BP 1174 76176 - Rouen cedex 1
Tel.: 02 35 63 61 30 - Fax: 02 35 63 61 59



6 TERRITORIAL COMMISSIONS

The members of the Territorial Commissions are drawn from the River Basin Committee.

The role of the Territorial Commissions is to put before the River Basin Committee the priority actions needed in the sub-basins and to ensure that they are implemented.

**ENSEMBLE
DONNONS
VIE À L'EAU**

Agence de l'eau