

Biodiversity at the Heart of REDEN's Photovoltaic Projects

Thanks to its ambitious CSR policy and the expertise of its in-house agro-environmental research team, REDEN actively promotes biodiversity within its photovoltaic plants, exceeding regulatory requirements.

For the past three years, the REDEN photovoltaic plant in Samazan, in the Lot-et-Garonne region, has been undergoing ecological monitoring to assess the benefits of the measures implemented and the environmental impact of solar energy production.

Roquefort (Agen), June 17, 2024 – As a French producer of electricity and photovoltaic panels, REDEN has transformed its 10.2 hectare Samazan photovoltaic power plant into a living laboratory for biodiversity. In collaboration with CERMECO, the environmental consultancy of the Etcée Terra group, REDEN has been studying for three years the interactions and synergies between solar energy production and local flora and fauna. Located in a flood-prone artisanal activity zone, the site has undergone major ecological enhancements to encourage the return of diverse and abundant wildlife.

At the start of the project in 2018, the land – previously unused and anthropized – was home to common plant species with limited ecological value. Following the plant's construction in March 2021, REDEN planted hedgerows with native species, including hazelnut trees, rose bushes, hornbeams, poplars, alders, and ash trees. In the fall of the same year, in partnership with the Bleu Blanc Ruche association, a 32-species melliferous meadow was sown, and 69 ecological structures were installed, including bird nest boxes (for tits, sparrows, redstarts, and nuthatches), insect hotels (for solitary bees and ladybugs), and shelters for mammals (hedgehogs and bats). In 2023, REDEN further enhanced the site with additional refuges such as hibernacula and rock piles for reptiles and amphibians, along with a sand basin and embankments for solitary bees.

Since 2021, ecological monitoring at the Samazan photovoltaic plant has revealed significant biodiversity growth. In 2023, 25 animal species were recorded on-site, including nesting birds classified as "near-threatened," such as the Common Kestrel, Barn Swallow, and European Stonechat, as well as "vulnerable" species like the Zitting Cisticola, European Goldfinch, and Black-winged Kite. Surveys have also identified 11 bat species, some of which are listed as "near-threatened" or "vulnerable."

In terms of vegetation, a rush bed formed beneath the panels in 2023, creating a new wetland habitat. By early 2024, 71 local plant species had been identified, including Corncockle, Yellow Rocket, and Musk Mallow.

REDEN moreover supports a research program on wild bees, led by CERMECO in partnership with the Toulouse Center for Biodiversity and Environment Research and the CNRS. In 2023, 35 species of wild bees were recorded at the REDEN Samazan site, out of 92 individuals sampled.

To maintain the plant sustainably, vegetation management is carried out through sheep grazing and an annual late-season mowing.

Vincent LARRIBE, Director of Development France at REDEN, explains: *"We place biodiversity at the core of every photovoltaic and agrivoltaic projects we develop. It is not just about building solar projects; it is about co-designing them with a deep commitment to environmental and agricultural*

considerations, ensuring they are both beneficial and meaningful for the region. With a methodical and rigorous approach, we are dedicated to driving a necessary energy transition while respecting the ecosystem. The ecological monitoring of the Samazan plant, along with the resulting scientific data, plays a crucial role in continuously improving our practices."

Technical Data on the Samazan Photovoltaic Plant

Commissioned in 2021, the Samazan photovoltaic plant has an installed capacity of 5 MWp, generating annually 7,220 GWh of green energy. This production supplies electricity to approximately 8,000 residents in the Lot-et-Garonne department while preventing the emission of 241 tons of CO₂ per year. The plant features pile-driven mobile structures equipped with single-axis trackers, all manufactured in France. It is fitted with 12,480 bifacial photovoltaic modules, each with a power output of 400 Wp, assembled at REDEN's Roquefort factory.

About REDEN

REDEN is an independent producer of photovoltaic renewable energy, focused on the development, construction and operation of photovoltaic power plants and energy storage solutions in France, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Chile.

Founded in 2008 and headquartered in southwest France, REDEN owns 1 GW of installed capacity. The company has grown steadily since its inception and now employs more than 260 people. Its core values – Benevolence, Ethics, Commitment and Professionalism – drive its long-term performance.

Our solutions: ground-mounted photovoltaic power plants, agrivoltaic sites for livestock and arable farming, agrivoltaic pergolas and greenhouses, photovoltaic car park shades and rooftops, energy storage in stand-alone and hybrid configurations.

Since July 2022, REDEN has been supported in its growth by a long-term vision-driven consortium comprising Macquarie Asset Management (MAM), British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI) and Munich Ergo Asset Management GmbH (MEAG),

For more information, visit <https://reden.solar>.

Media Contact

Florence BURHIN, Group Communication Manager
+33 (0)7 87 25 01 02 - communication@reden.solar