

Presentation of the website

WARNING : version 01/01/2020-15h15 not yet up to date - please read french version (up to date on 26/01/2021)

Quick overview

The website « Bibliothèque de liens » on global warming and solidarity-based, ecological transition to sustainable energy (abbreviated: "la Bibli") contains principally a repertoire of about 500 links to reference websites or key documents on these topics.

For the most part, documents are published by and websites are related to large international organizations (e.g. UN, IPCC, IPBES, OECD, ...), the European Union, the French government (principally the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity-based Transition and related bodies such the ADEME), French parliamentary offices (of the Assemblée Nationale and the Senate), large public institutions (e.g. the French weather service Météo France, ...) as well as scientific journals or written press (and also, but less frequently, specialized NGO).

The website is regularly updated by a multidisciplinary team of volunteers who perform thematic research on the internet and are monitoring documentary sources identified by internet discussion groups focusing on topics of interest for the Bibli (in France, there are more than 1000 members of such groups).

Before presenting the site itself, it may be useful to recall:

- *the extremely slow process of awareness on global warming, biodiversity loss and the overwhelming evidence that the main causes of both are human activities,*
- *the fact that curbing and limiting global warming necessitates profound and rapid changes in lifestyles,*
- *on the one hand, the urgency and, on the other hand, the apparent difficulty to induce rapid and profound change, a situation which jeopardizes the sustainability of our civilization.*

1. A process of awareness that initially was extremely slow is speeding up

For a long time, scientists have anticipated the greenhouse effect that would lead to climate change. Volcanologist Haroun Tazieff predicted this 4 decades ago while pinpointing the role of CO₂ emissions caused by human activity (*cf.* <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=tPjHLRYZiHM>). The IPCC (Intergovernmental Group for the Study of Climate Change) was created in 1988 under the aegis of the United Nations, 31 years ago ! Its reports have succeeded one another approximately every six years, every edition being more solidly corroborated and more alarming than the preceding one.

But the media and the general public paid little attention, except for rare exceptions. Only occasionally a media tackled this subject, illustrating the fragility of the thin layer sheltering life on the surface of the Earth: let us quote the film "A disturbing truth" by Al Gore and more recently the film "Home" by Yann Arthus-Bertrand. Let us also mention the television documentaries "Ushuaïa" by Nicolas Hulot.

In France and numerous other countries, those who were called "environmentalists" received little attention, especially when they were working in the political field: few people cared about occasional media coverage of wolves in the Alps, bears in the Pyrenees, Notre-Dame-des-Landes or Greenpeace breaking into a nuclear power plant.

When Nicolas Hulot was appointed minister, head of the "Ministry of Ecological and Solidary Transition", some saw it as a reassuring sign that "things were under control". His resignation announced live on France-Inter on August 28, 2018 would probably not have had the effect of such a violent electric shock if six weeks later (October 8) had not been issued the very disturbing IPCC report on global warming to 1.5 ° C. Mr. Hulot was informed about the upcoming report, felt that the politicians

were not ready to assume the reality, had been outspoken on the issue ("the President thought of an angina, me of a cancer") and considering his action hampered, left slamming the door.

Shortly after, the "Yellow Vest" protests started, which proved to be a long-lasting phenomenon. Initially this movement was triggered principally by a slight increase in fuel taxes, making obvious the conflict between the goals to "make ends meet" and to avoid that our civilization ends. To put an end to these protests, the President of the Republic announced the launch of a "Grand National Debate", carried out from January to mid-March 2019 on four topics, including the issue of ecological transition. On April 25, 2019, at a press conference subsequent to this series of townhall meetings, the President announced, together with a considerable number of measures, the launch of a "Citizen's Convention on Climate" and subsidies to low-income households for energy-saving and anti-pollution investments in private housing and replacement of high emission vehicles. The creation of a "High Council for the Climate" (HCC) in November 2018 has been officialized by a decree dated May 14, 2019.

In early summer 2019, the first annual report of the HCC and the French Senate's report on climate related risks were published in quick succession; a main conclusion of the latter being that France is insufficiently prepared for the upcoming climate change and its expected consequences, while the HCC report insists on the necessity to accelerate and enhance policies aiming to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Very recently, it was the European Union that stood out: the EU parliament approved a resolution declaring a climate and environmental emergency (November 29, 2019), then the Commission disseminated (mid-December) the European Green Deal outlining around fifty actions and an ambitious timeline, the European Council took note of the Commission communication on the European Green Deal and asked the Council to take work forward.

Let us note in passing that in the European elections, the problem of environmental disorder was very present in the electoral campaign of several lists, in particular that of EELV (traditional party of ecologists) and the Renaissance list whose number two candidate was none other than Pascal Canfin, previously CEO of the NGO WWF France. In terms of electoral results, the list of traditional ecologists marked a significant progression and the French "Renaissance" list, which participated for the first time in an European election and finished second in France, only just falling short of finishing first.

And as if bad climate news was not enough, the IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which is linked to the UN) had released in May 2019 its first global report on the state of biodiversity, revealing the decline, collapse or disappearance of many living species, to the point that one may wonder about the possibility of a sixth mass extinction of species, and that the UN warns of the risk that human nutrition may be compromised.

Finally, everyone has noticed that for about six months, and more particularly since the start of the new French school year in September, all the major radio and TV stations have been buzzing with programs about environmental issues and the ecological transition. All of the above reminders, not counting the highly visible actions such as the "climate marches", the media coverage of Greta Thunberg, the movements of "civil disobedience" (in particular in London) or the appearance of the "extinction rebellion" movement, are all revealing increasing public awareness of the climate emergency issue. And even in the United States, champion of energy waste, President Donald Trump's climate skepticism is strongly contested by big companies, cities and states.

2. Our civilization in question ?

Our so-called advanced civilization is a "thermo-industrial civilization". Energy is needed for everything: to extract raw materials, to transform them, to shape objects, to transport and deliver them, and for some of them even to make them work (ranging from hair dryers to cargo vessels, including freezers, cars or aircraft as well as buildings that need to be heated or air conditioned). Energy is essential everywhere. Even to operate the internet and our smartphones. Even to operate the fuel dispensers of service stations. However, energy comes, on a global scale, only to a small extent from nuclear, solar and wind power. Energy comes for a huge proportion from the combustion of oil, gas or coal (more than 70% of the world's electricity comes from coal). This combustion releases the disastrous CO₂ which accumulates in the atmosphere and increases the greenhouse effect, responsible for global warming.

Curbing and limiting global warming means emitting less CO₂. Alternative solutions to produce low carbon energy exist and are the subject of active research aiming to develop the already known or to invent new ones, but this requires time and some luck (for example, today we do not know a solution for storing at a very, very large scale the electricity potentially provided by inexhaustible but intermittent sources (solar, wind), which can be attractive equally in terms of energy-, economic and environmental efficiency.

We are in a race against the clock ...

It took several decades for awareness to spread from a few scientists to the general public. The pending question is now: how long will it take for all the countries of the world together to make enough efforts to adapt the lifestyle of their citizens to reduce CO₂ emissions sufficiently and quickly enough so that our civilization evolves without drama ?

We don't know the answer; however, we know that:

We are all in the same boat (planet Earth); there is a leak in the hull, so water is entering in the hold. To avoid that the boat sinks, it would be better for each of us to rush to the pumps and help to operate them with our whole strength.

You will not find an answer to the above question in the "Link Library", nor a ready-made solution.

It is up to everyone to act.

The ambition of the "Bibli" team is only **to collect, organize and make available** reference information on this issue.

3. How to safeguard our future?

Of course we want to safeguard our and the upcoming generations' future. But how can this be done?

It's up to each one of us to take action.

We would like to draw your attention to the following four ways to act:

1. **Perform individual actions as enumerated by the UN** (cf. section 7 of the Bibli's table of contents "Référentiel").
2. **Actively participate in election campaigns in order to promote ecological transition** (as an activist or candidate) and promote, at municipal level, measures as e.g. those proposed by the French ADEME's publication "Demain mon territoire".
3. **Lobby your family and your circle of friends or acquaintances** for the ecological transition in order to motivate people for favoring eco-responsible choices and behavior (e.g. avoiding air travel, preferring carpooling, lowering temperature in apartments during heating seasons, reducing beef consumption,...), lobby also, if it's possible for you, influential people by proposing them to show courage and responsible behavior in the political area through facilitating, intensifying and accelerating the transition.
4. **Massively promote the address of the "Bibli's" website** (<http://transitionecologique.free.fr>) and distribute the Bibli's promotional poster (format 2 x A4) to all your friends and acquaintances, asking them to further disseminate the information / the poster.

4. History of the "Link Library"

The "library of links on the ecological transition" has originally been developed by its initiator, starting in October 2018 (after the abrupt resignation of the French Minister for the Environment at the end of August 2018 followed, six weeks later, by the release of the alarming IPCC report on global warming to 1.5 ° C), first in the form of a pdf document, then as a website more suitable for viewing on smartphones.

At the end of February 2019, the distribution of site updates (whose repository had reached 230 links) was stopped to prepare a version 2 and to constitute a multidisciplinary team of ten specialists intended to steer the evolution of the content.

From there, the development of the following versions became collaborative. The dozen participants in the working group communicate via a dedicated online discussion loop, the site initiator ensuring coordination and technical support.

Today the "Repository" section of the site contains nearly 400 links to web addresses pointing to websites, web pages or reference documents.

5. Upcoming developments

Two new sections will soon be made accessible online: the "News" section and the "History" section. These sections will contain summaries of articles published on the internet and selected according to their general interest. The selected articles will stay for around ten days in the "News" section and will then be transferred to the "History" section. These sections will each have two versions: a chronological version and a version with classification of the articles in thematic headings and sub-headings. The envisaged duration of conservation in the history is of the order of two to three years.

It is already possible to have an overview of some summaries in these future sections, but these are unfinished tests dating from the summer of 2018. Target date for implementation is spring 2020. Given the number of contributors on internet discussion groups specializing in ecological transition (of the order of a thousand members), the flow of articles will be relatively high (in the order of several dozen articles per week).

Pending the entry into service of these two new sections, a provisional solution has been implemented: this is the last section "News on the water" on the home page of the site, where the articles are classified under thematic headings.

6. Evolution of successive versions

- Collaborative development with periodic reviews (operation in "proofreading committee" mode) a redesigned IT infrastructure to ensure the reliability and sustainability of the database the estimated level of difficulty is displayed (colored disc = level of knowledge required + volume of the document)
- Several marked routes of around twenty links each, depending on the level of knowledge targeted: from basic to expert
- Adding "tooltips" of a few lines that can "pop up" at the "i" located on the left edge of the screen in front of certain links to provide summary information on a few lines (for example the definition of an organization or the summary of the target page of the link). On PC, these "tooltips" appear as long as the mouse cursor hovers over or the "i" or stops there. On Android smartphones, they are persistent: they appear when you touch the "i" and they disappear either by touching the "i" again, or by touching the "tooltip" itself.
- The addition of a "post-it" functionality to be set in front of certain links (at the right edge of the screen to avoid interfering with consultation by other users), these "post-it" are intended receive each a number referring to a note for the attention of the members of the "Bibli" team, in order to facilitate the preparation of reviews of the repository. All notes related to any given page are visible via the "i" link located at the bottom of the page (just after the date).

7. Compatible IT platforms

This site is tested on Windows PC with the browsers "Internet Explorer" and "Firefox", on Android smartphone with "Chrome" and "Firefox" and on iPhone with "Safari" (on the latter, the "tooltips" and Post-It "does not seem to work).

These tests however do not make it possible to detect possible malfunctions with certain browsers not fully compatible with the HTML5 and CSS3 standards. In the event of technically faulty operation, please notify by email sent to the email address appearing at the bottom of the home page and the pages of the main sections.

We hope you will enjoy browsing our site and thank you for your comments!

The "Bibli de liens" team.