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Sufficiency as the third pillar of transition to climate neutrality.

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International Network for Sustainable Energy - INFORSE



INFORSE is a network of 150 NGOs worldwide formed 1992 at Rio “Earth Summit”

An international voice of NGOs promoting:
renewable energy, energy efficiency,
fossil-free, nuclear-free, 100%-RE scenarios
protect environment, reduce poverty,
women empowerment, and
sustainable lifestyle - sufficiency



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An isometric illustration of a city street scene. In the foreground, a blue tram is moving along a track. To its left, a yellow double-decker bus is on the road. Several people are walking on the sidewalks. In the background, there are various buildings, including houses with red roofs and larger commercial buildings. A white truck is also visible on the left side of the street. The scene is set against a green background with some trees and a clear sky.

Add Sufficiency to RES & EE in high-consuming countries

- We are not reducing emissions fast enough to keep 1,5°C target of 2°C
- In high-consuming countries, problematic solutions are introduced with their own problems (nuclear, CCS, overuse of biomass, geoengineering and others).
- Many studies conclude that after a certain level of consumption, increased consumption is not increasing wellbeing or happiness
- Many analysts are concluding that we simply need to reduce consumption, but this statement alone is not reducing consumption
- One option is to implement policies that lead to less of the consumption with high climate and environmental impacts, replacing it with low-impact consumption.
- We call that **sufficiency policies**

Sufficiency policies implement sufficiency measures (i.e. the consumption change)

Sufficiency Measures, examples

Consumption Type	Service, duration	Size	Sharing
			
Dwellings	Long building life, less heating/cooling, less light	Smaller buildings, easier move of families & of functions	Share common rooms & facilities
Transport	Shorter travel to work, to shops etc.	Smaller vehicles, use bi-cycles	Public transport, sharing cars & trips
Products	Longer product & cloth life, repair	Sizes adapted to needs (fridges etc.)	Sharing economy, 2 nd hand cloth etc.
Food	Plant based food, organic	Reduce food waste	
Holidays	Avoid flights & cruise ships	Shorter distances	Exchange homes in holidays

Sufficiency policies to implement measures

Consumption Type	Measures on service, duration	Policies
Dwellings	Long lifetime of buildings less heating/cooling & light	Support renovation, finance Clothing habits, stop H&C not used
Transport	Shorter travel to work, shops etc.	Urban planning, taxes & subsidies, ban malls outside cities
Products	Longer prod. & cloth life, repairability	Product regulation, clothing habits Regulation: repairability, against planned obsolescence
Food	Plant based food, Organic	Public kitchens, information, taxes Support organic agriculture, info.
Holidays	Avoid flights & avoid cruise ships	Develop good alternatives, taxes Market good alternatives, taxes

We are doing it in Europe (too little, too late)

Country	Sufficiency policies (selected)
Denmark	Smart electricity meters, tariffs vary over the day, online advice on energy saving behaviour, 3 municipalities plan tiny houses. Budget (small) for bicycle infrastructure, aviation tax, packaging tax, free reuse at cycling centers, R&D in plant-based food, municipal actions for plant-based food.
France	"Sobriete plan", support smart heat control systems, 19°C indoor temperature target, car pooling boost, support for more passenger and freight trains, restriction of car advertisements, (low) aviation tax, limit to short haul flights, support bicycling including cargo bikes, ban on single-use plastic bags, repair label, environmental label on food, more vegetarian meals in public canteens
Germany	Energy advice on behaviour change to reduce heating in buildings, (some) smart meters and variable tariffs, support for expansion of trains, pact for expansion of public transport, 49€/month ticket, text exempt job ticket, build out bicycle infrastructure, aviation tax, preparing nutrition strategy

We can much more, French sufficiency policies

Present sufficiency policies

- "Sobriete plan", support smart heat control systems, 19°C indoor temperature target,
- car pooling boost, support for more passenger and freight trains, restriction of car adverticements, (amll) aviation tax, limit to short haul flights, support bicycling including cargo bikes,
- ban on single-use plastic bags, repair label,
- environmental label on food, more vegetarian meals in public canteens

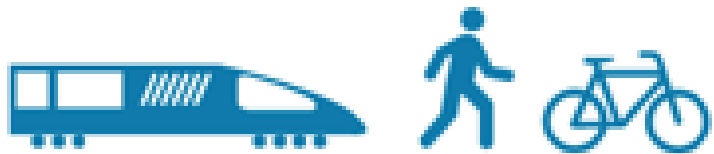
France can do much more:

- Promote co-housing and sharing facilities, renting out rooms, move homes, tiny houses, regulate holiday homes, progressive taxes on energy and water use
- Promote working from home, urban planning, stronger transport actions outside cities
- Support product sharing centers, increae support fo repair workshops, taxes and more limits on packagingo
- Implement food proposals, lower VAT on plant-based & organic food

We can do much more

Sufficiency contributes to a Just Transition (but sufficiency is not JT)

- Some policies for smaller buildings can make them cheaper (e.g. tiny house policies)
- Societies that require less travel and support bicycling is more equal
- Reusing and repair products make more second hand products available and reduce costs of use (but can can reduce initial costs)
- Plant based food can be the cheapest
- Holiday options with less travel can be cheaper



Will sufficiency give economic growth or degrowth?



- It replaces high-polluting consumption with low-consuming consumption, some sectors will grow others will not grow (concrete production versus building renovation, airlines versus trains, cruise ships versus hotels etc.)
- Some parts of sufficiency will support growth, other degrowth
- It will increase utility of consumption without increasing GDP (GDP is an imperfect measure of wealth or progress)
- A main critique is that it will harm economic growth, but that is questionable and this is mainly told by sectors that will reduce activity with sufficiency policies (as airlines)

Policy recommendations

- Set sufficiency as a national climate policy direction
- Map possible sufficiency policies, their climate effects, economic effects, equity effects, public acceptance.
- Make a sufficiency plan as part of the climate plans:
 - Combine support for low-impact consumption and tax on high impact consumption
 - Involve citizens in decision-making including citizens assemblies, consultations, informed consent of local people, referendums
- Integrate sufficiency policies in sector policies: taxation, urban planning & housing, transport, product policies, food, tourism.



Many sufficiency policies can help development

- Reduce travel needs with closer public and private facilities will make them more accessible for all
- Longer lifetime, repairability and more second-hand use will make products more accessible for all
- Some developing countries have high-consuming sectors and areas
- Some developing countries are already considering initiatives for more sustainable lifestyles as India's Mission Life (Lifestyle for Environment)





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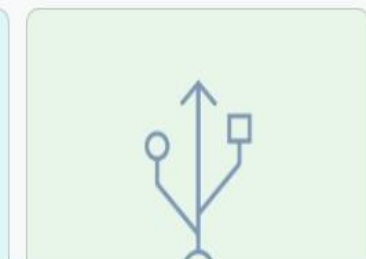
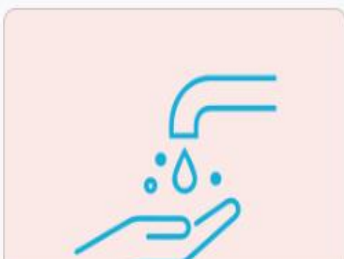
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