

EERA JP e3s Conference
“Fostering change in energy consumption:
a pathway to demand reduction”

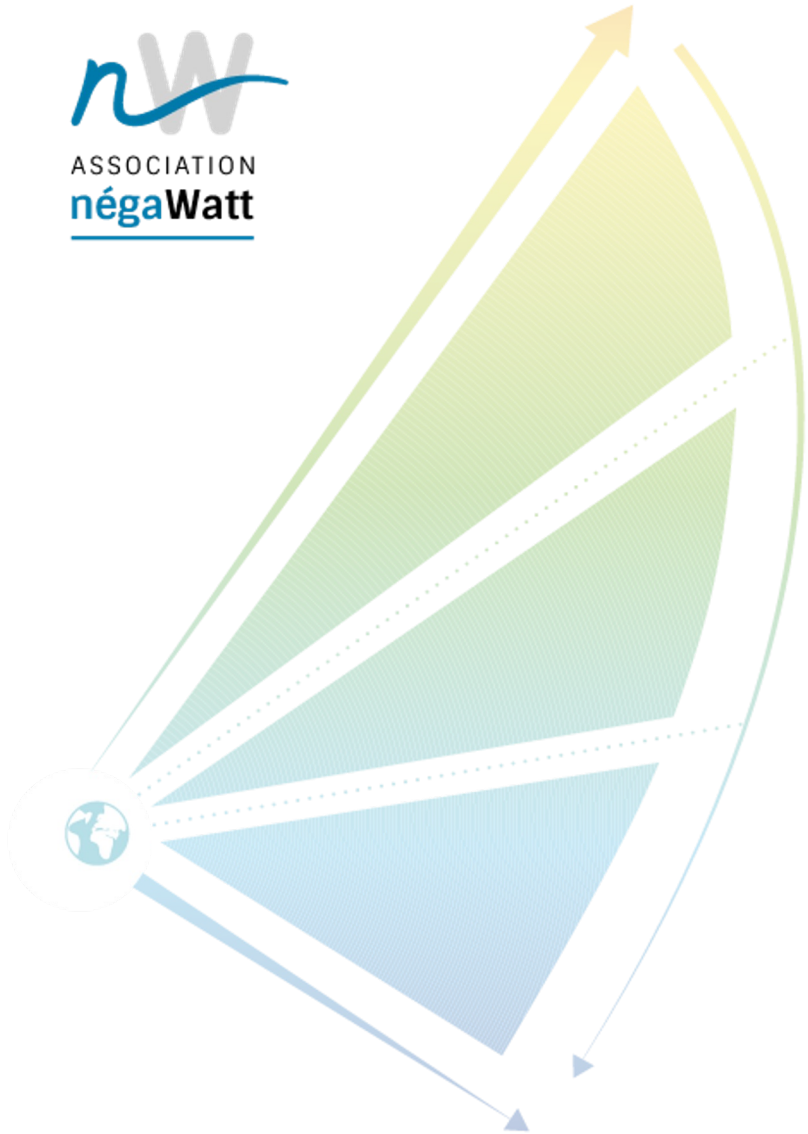
Energy Sufficiency

The concept and role of sufficiency in fostering
a sustainable and just energy transition

Yves MARIGNAC

Senior advisor on energy transition and scenarios, spokesperson
Association négaWatt

Accademia Galileiana di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti
Padova • 26 October 2023



↘ What is négaWatt?

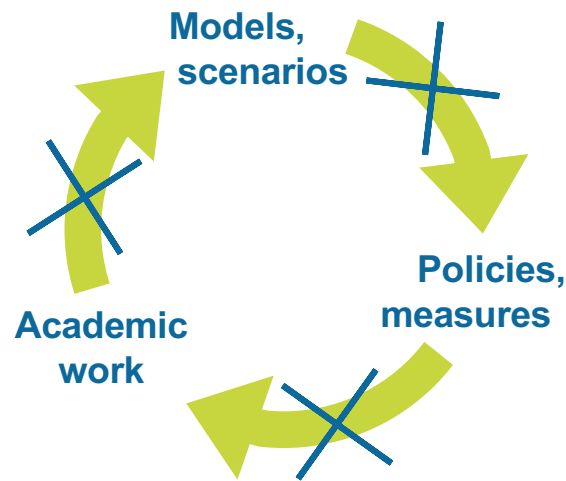


- A French **think tank on energy** created in 2001
- A **non-profit, independent group** of experts and field-practitioners
- 20 employees + an active core of ~50 “companions” and “ambassadors”
~1600 members
- Producing **sustainable energy scenarios** based on a sufficiency / efficiency / renewables framework for France (latest in October 2021) and Europe (released in June 2023), proposing systemic policies and measures

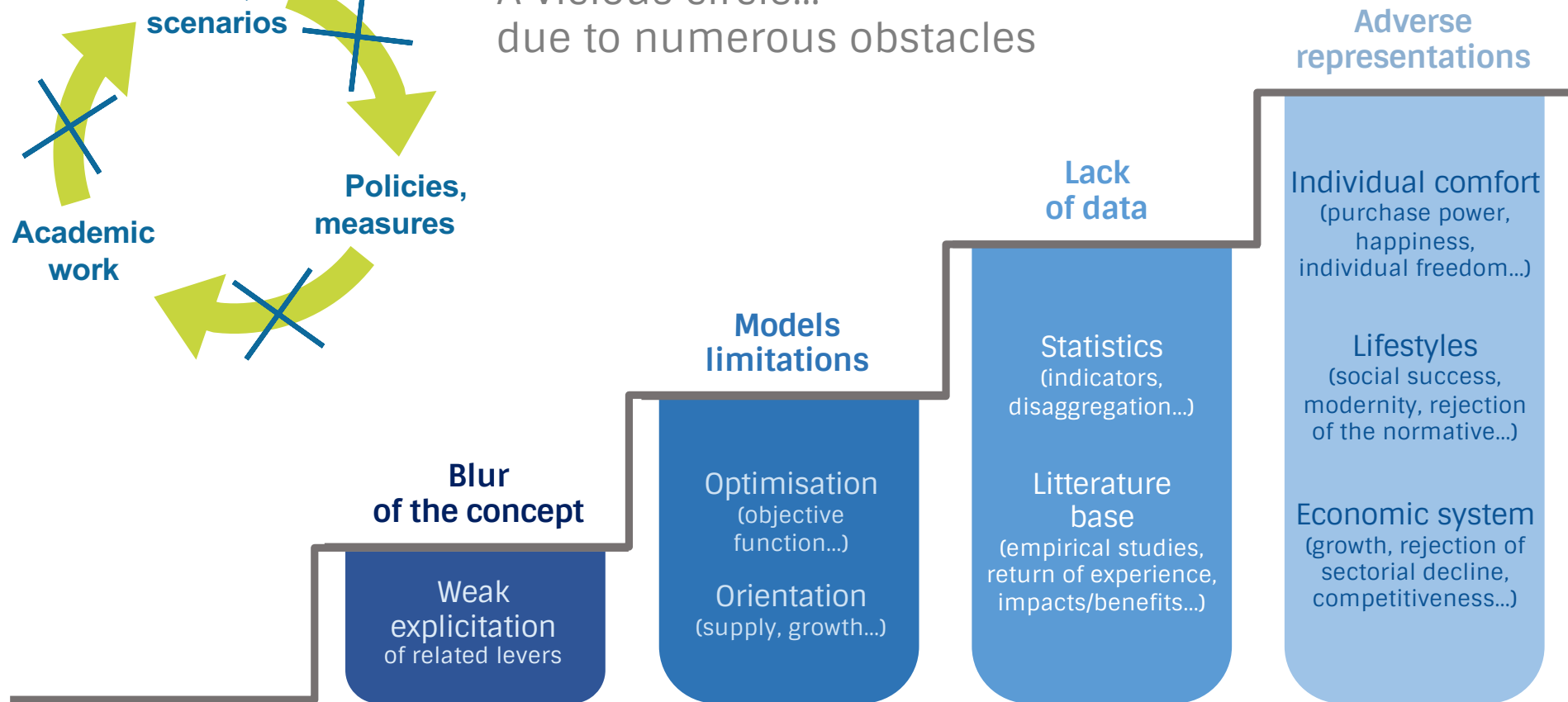
A “group”, with subsidiaries acting on the ground



Obstacles to the emergence of sufficiency



A vicious circle...
due to numerous obstacles





5 lessons

about needs and wants for sufficiency

1

Sufficiency, as distinguished from *and* combined with efficiency, is key to reduce **energy demand** (and that of other resources)

↘ A systemic and systematic approach



► Distinguishing between *efficiency* and *sufficiency* leverages to combine their effects in energy savings, is key to shift away from **addi(c)tion** of (to) resources



Selection and preparation of the primary resource



Transformation




Delivery of final energy to end user

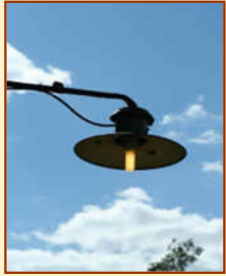


Conversion into useful energy

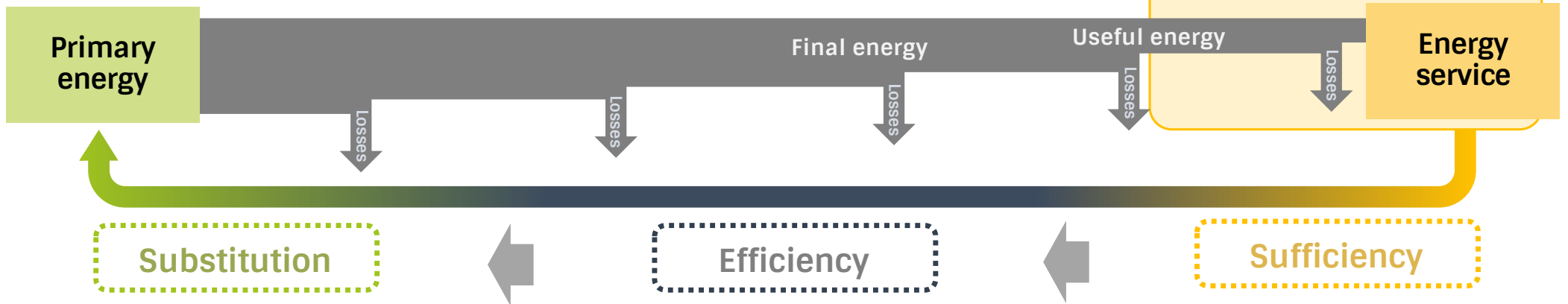
Individual and collective action on uses



Design and dimensioning



Conditions of use

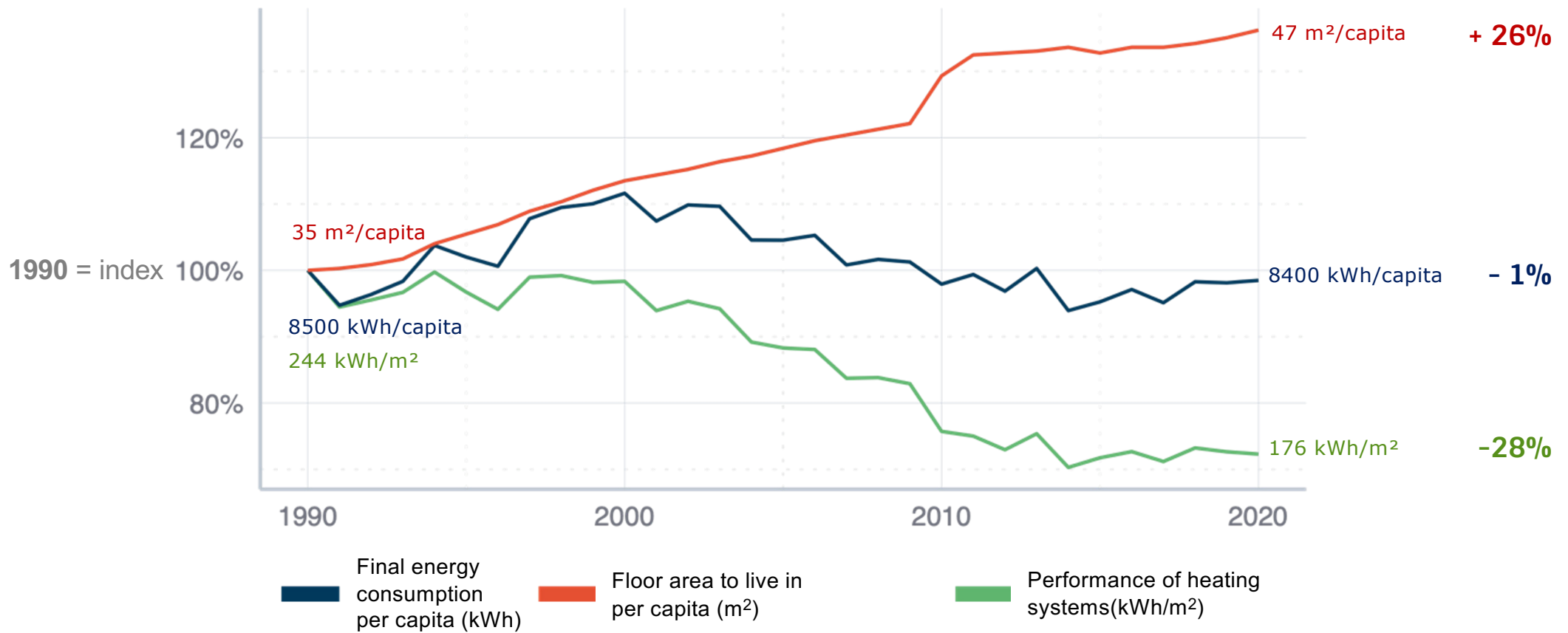




Sufficiency, essential complement to efficiency



Evolution of heat demand in the residential sector in Germany since 1990



Source: German Federal Statistical Office (2000, 2021) and Working Group on Energy Balances (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Energiebilanzen 2021)



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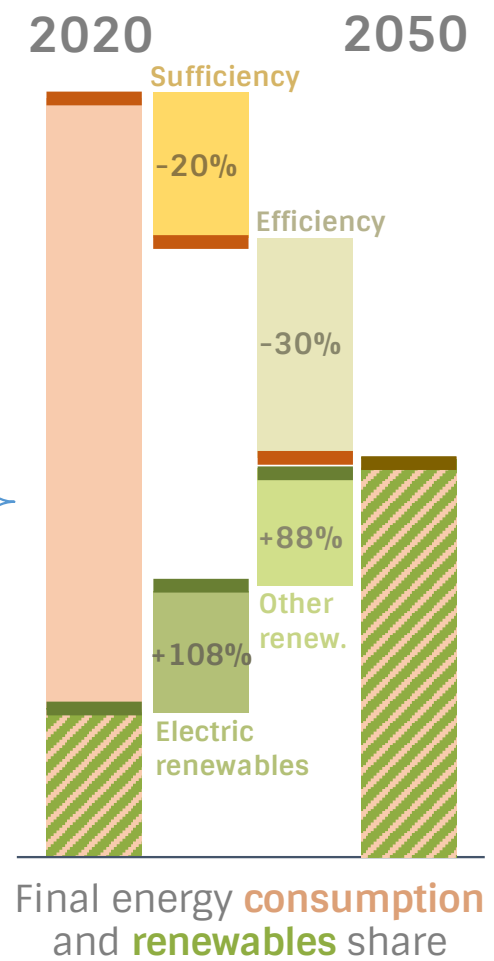
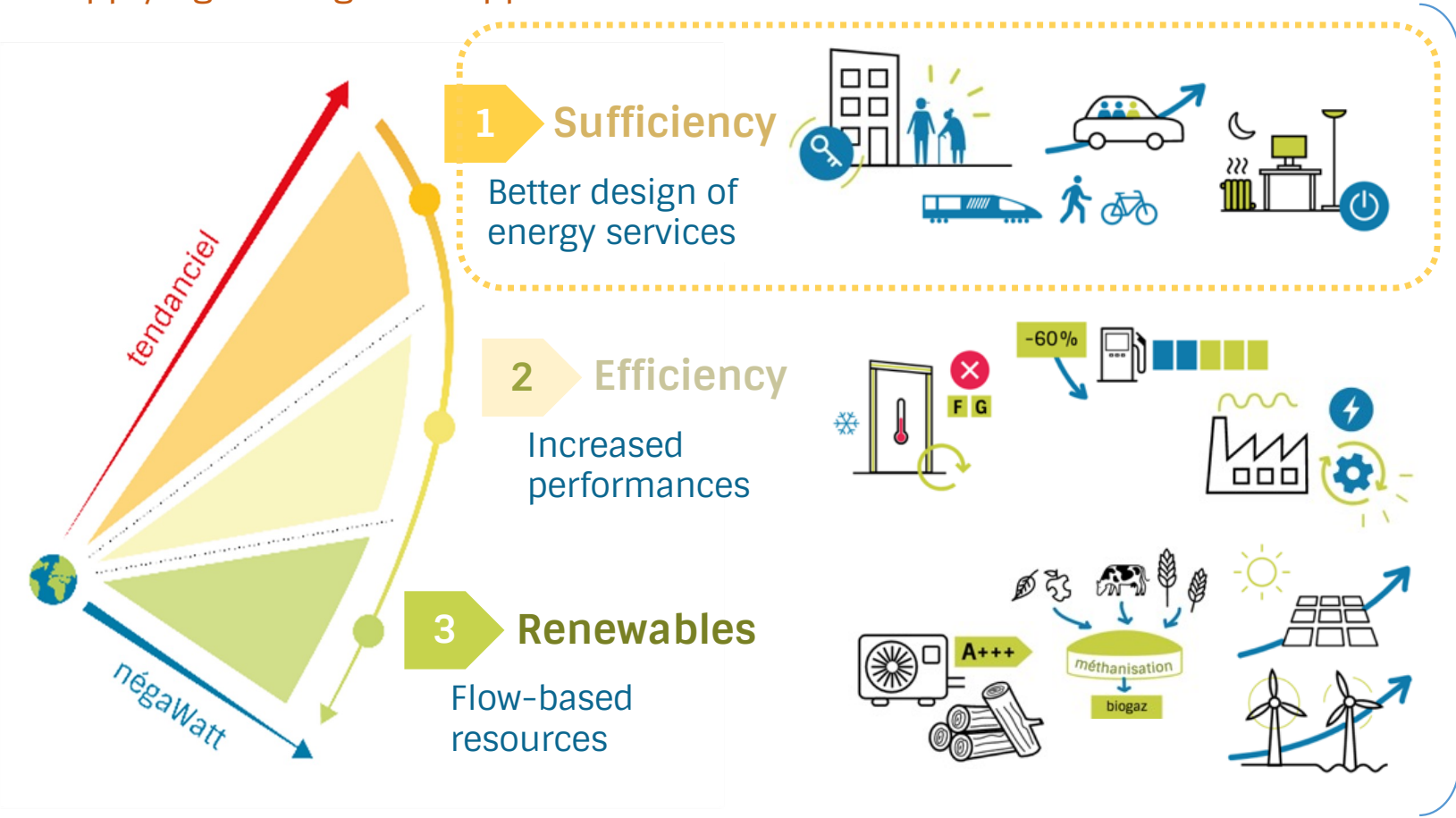
2

Bottom-up modelling enables sufficiency to be placed at the heart of the **scenarios** and its role to be assessed

↘ The role of sufficiency: the French nW2022 scenario



Applying the negaWatt approach to France over 2020-2050:



➤ Impact of sufficiency: the French nW2022 scenario



17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (2015)



Sufficiency
contributes

Quantitative and qualitative scenario
assessment matrix

- ODD 7** 100 % local renewables
- ODD 13** Carbon neutral footprint
- ODD 12** -30 % on raw materials footprint
- ODD 14** Reduced pressure on biodiversity
- ODD 15** Reduced pressure on biodiversity
- ODD 3** Positive health impacts
- ODD 1** Reduced energy poverty, enhanced social justice
- ODD 10** Reduced energy poverty, enhanced social justice
- ODD 8** 600.000 net jobs (new economic dynamics)
- ODD 16** Reduced tensions etc.

↘ Sufficiency as a key enabler



Reduced amount of resources + Reduced size / number of equipment



Pace and range of **substitution**
(and feasibility of investments)

Multiple co-benefits

Raw material needs Land-use Water resources Health ...



Environmental and health **impacts**

Possible shocks Chains of consequences Various impacts

Occurrence and magnitude of shocks Vulnerability of the system to shocks Sensitivity to residual impacts



Socio-economic **resilience** throughout transformation

Sufficiency is likely to enhance the **effectiveness, positiveness and robustness** of energy transition

↘ Strategies and scenarios (1/2) - France



Short term

- the quickest lever to activate so as to ease constraints
- necessary to address cumulative issues (carbon budget)

Medium term

- sizing effect to find room for manoeuvre
- lasting downward impact on household and business bills

Long term

- structural change to achieve deep decarbonisation
- overall reduction in the ecological footprint and numerous co-benefits



Stratégie nationale bas-carbone

La transition écologique et solidaire vers la
neutralité carbone

One sufficiency based
central scenario

March 2020



Futurs énergétiques 2050

Sufficiency as 1 of 3
demand scenarios

October 2021



Scénario négaWatt 2022

La transition énergétique
au cœur d'une transition sociétale

Sufficiency based

October 2021



TRANSITION(S) 2050

CHOISIR MAINTENANT
AGIR POUR LE CLIMAT

Sufficiency at the core
of 2 out of 4 scenarios

November 2021



Climat, crises:
Le plan de transformation
de l'économie française



Series of sufficiency related
sectorial plans

February 2022

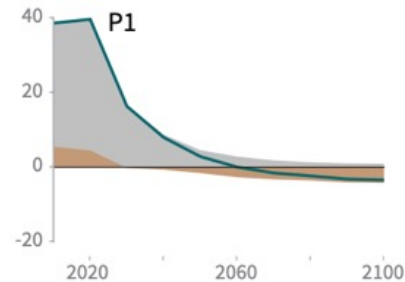
Strategies and scenarios (2/2) - World



Special Report 1,5°C
(SR15 – October 2018)

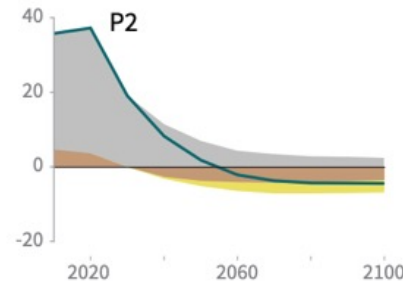
● Fossil fuel and industry ● AFOLU ● BECCS

Billion tonnes CO₂ per year (GtCO₂/yr)



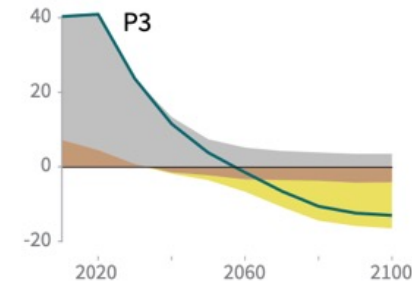
Social innovation, **reduced demand**, improved living conditions, no recourse to technological carbon sinks

Billion tonnes CO₂ per year (GtCO₂/yr)



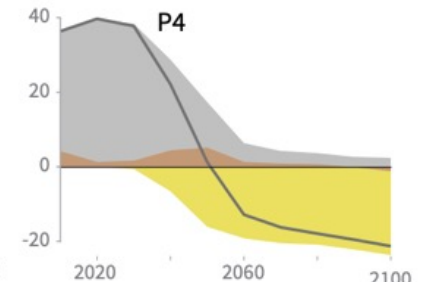
Energy intensity, human development, economic convergence, **sustainable and robust consumption** patterns

Billion tonnes CO₂ per year (GtCO₂/yr)



Rather “usual” societal and technological development, giving priority to production changes over demand reduction

Billion tonnes CO₂ per year (GtCO₂/yr)



High energy and resource intensity, continued and **widespread mass consumption**, reduction of emissions through technology

CO₂ emissions in typical 1,5°C pathways

6th Assessment Report
(AR6 – WGIII, 2022)

- “Demand-side mitigation can be achieved through changes in **socio-cultural factors, infrastructure design and use**, and end-use technology adoption by 2050”
- By 2050, **comprehensive demand-side strategies** across all sectors could reduce (...) GHG emissions globally **by 40–70%** compared to (...) policies announced by governments until 2020.
- “Pathways with **lower energy and natural resource use** advance the SDGs and energy security and lower other risks compared to pathways that prioritise supply-side technological solutions”



Scientific Advice– June 2023



5 lessons

about needs and wants for sufficiency

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Bottom-up modelling enables sufficiency to be placed at the heart of the **scenarios** and its role to be assessed

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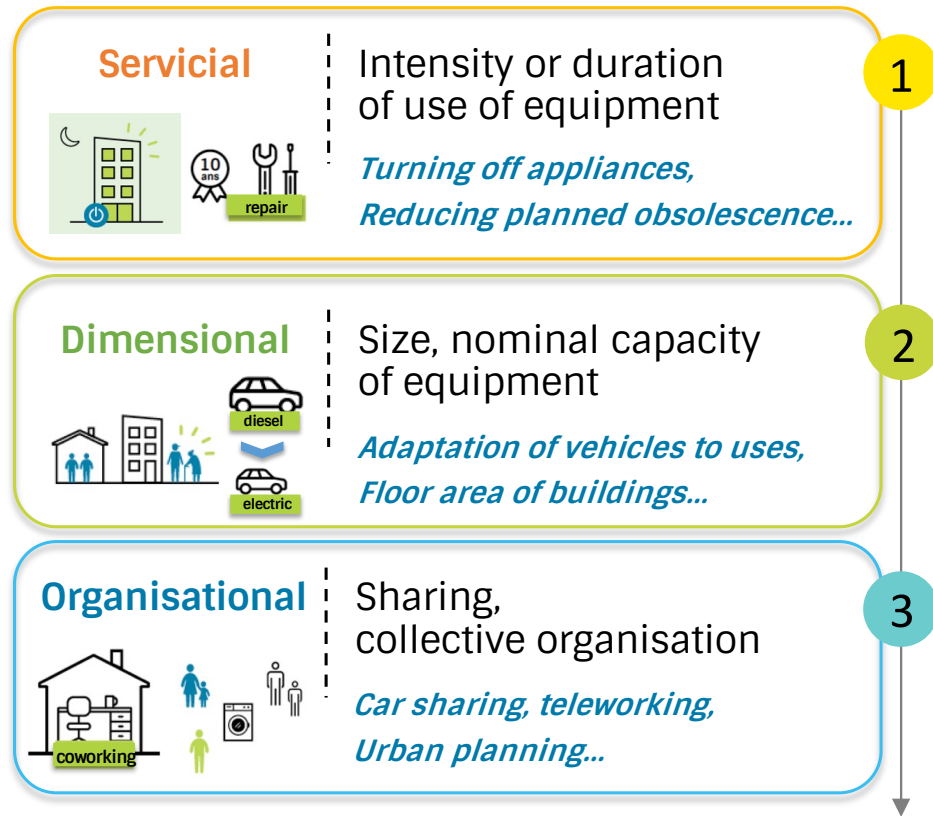
Concrete **levers** for sufficiency can be identified, and the corresponding **policies and measures** developed

↘ A wide range of potential policies and measures



Policies and measures

Sufficiency levels



Informing and supporting actions

Guiding and regulating innovation and markets

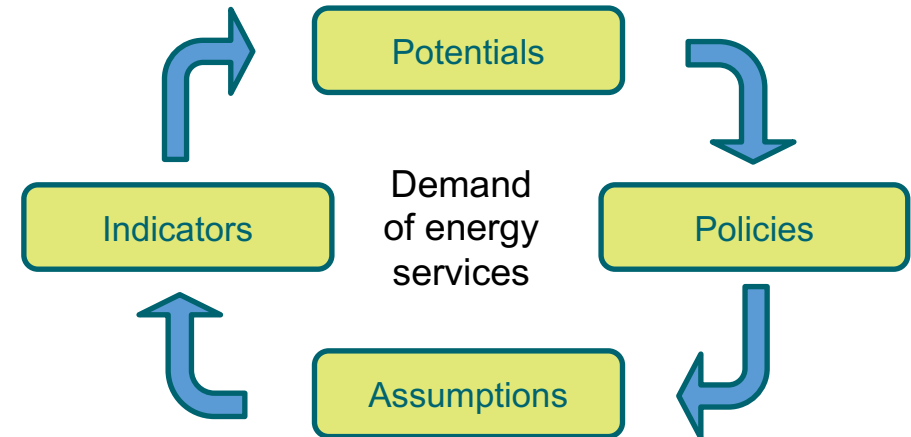
Changing social norms and practices

Regulating and adapting infrastructures



Policies to be developed

according to the same principles as the other levels



There are hundreds of identified applicable policies and measures, covering all sectors

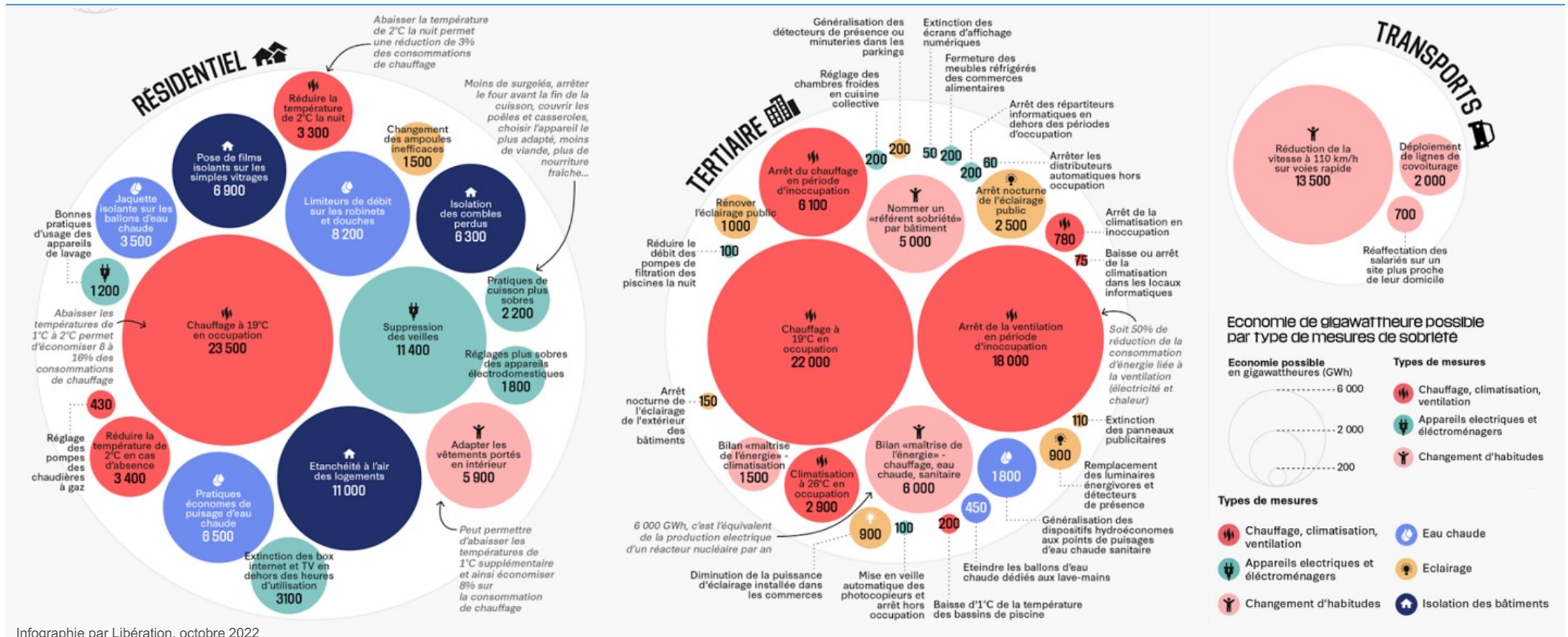


Short term: French government's sufficiency plan



Proposals by négaWatt: **-20% on gas**
Plan delivered 5-10% **-17% on electricity**

Short-term potential that can be mobilised, taking into account the capacity of concerned players and assuming effective processes



Medium-long term: the French nW2022 scenario

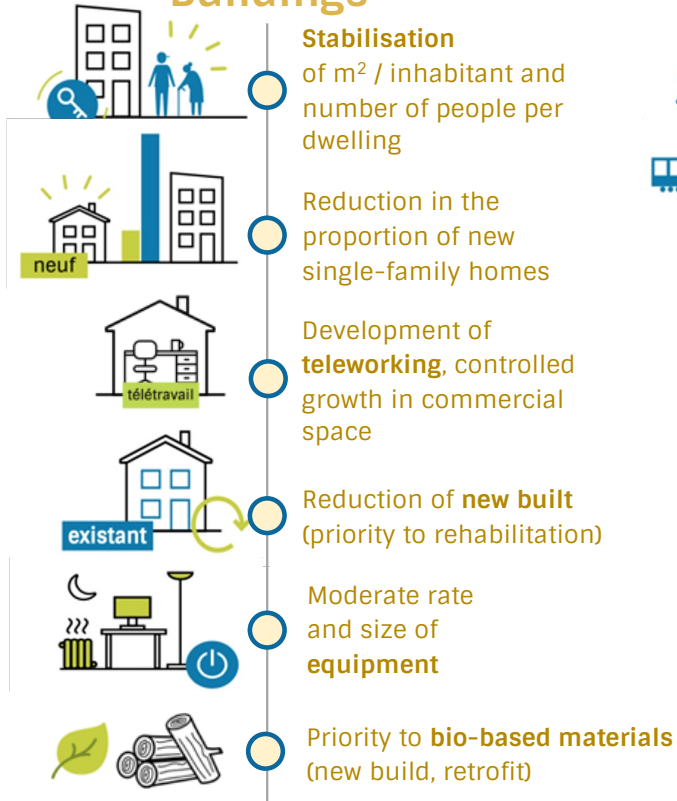


Impact of sufficiency on final energy:

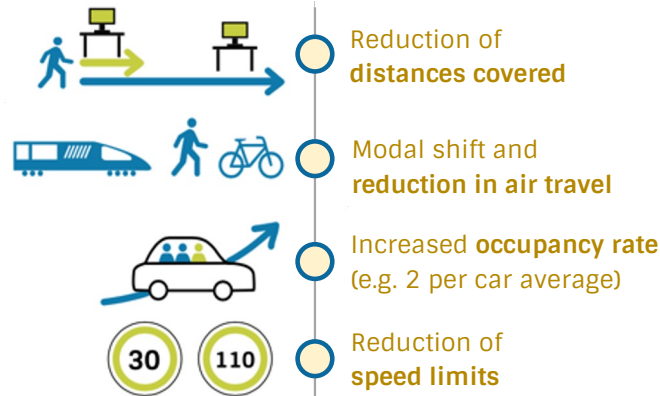
-10% by 2030
-20% by 2050

Medium- to long-term potential through the structural and progressive implementation of sufficiency

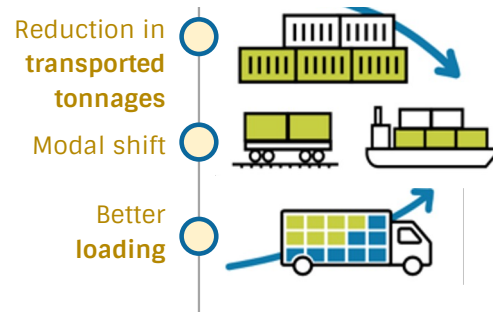
Buildings



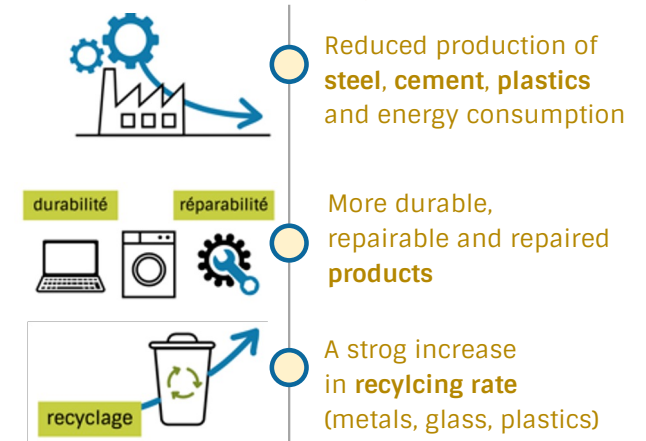
Mobility



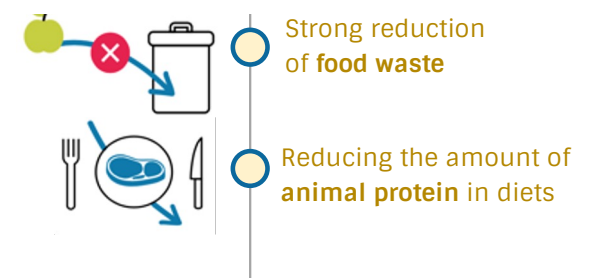
Freight



Industry



Agriculture

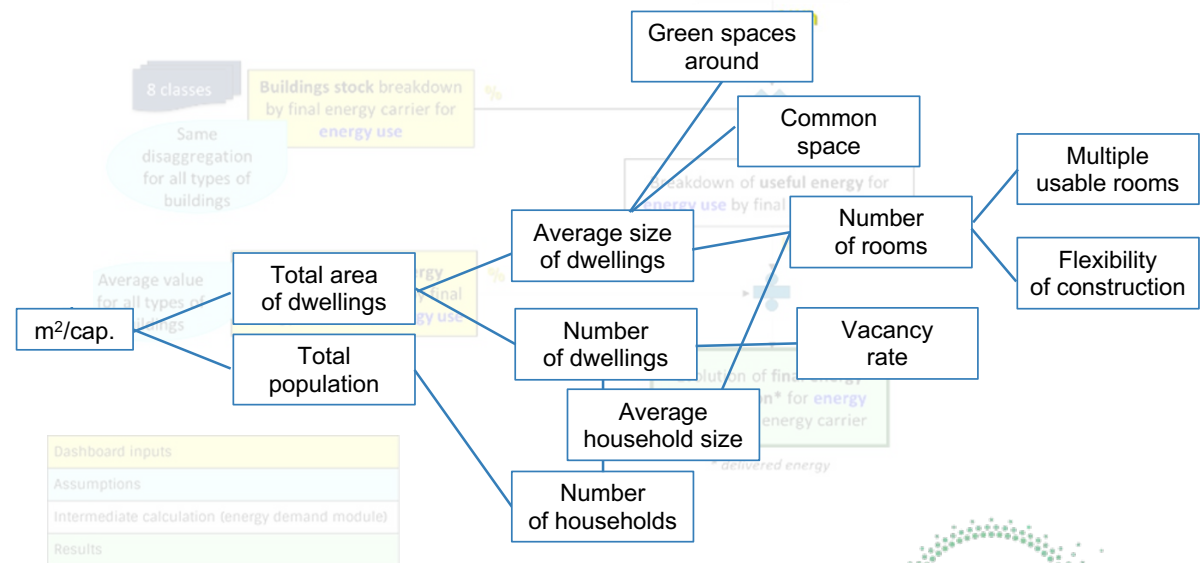
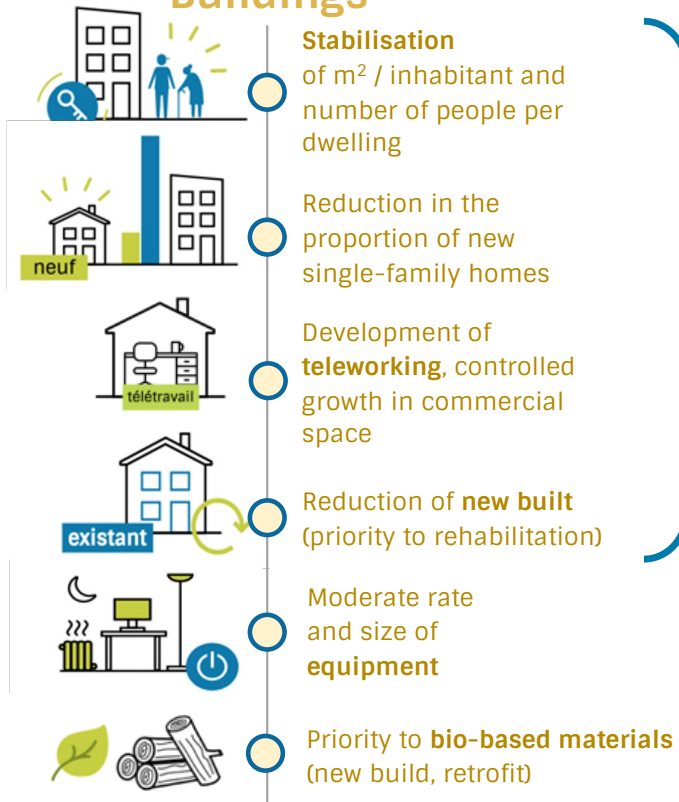


Medium-long term: building assumptions



Working on sobriety indicators and levers enables us to identify the factors likely to have an impact

Buildings



Ongoing work to refine the methodology in FULFILL (EU Horizon 2020 research project)





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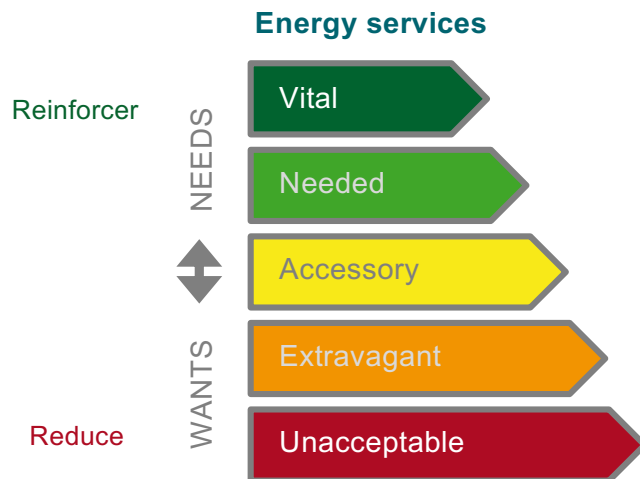
Sufficiency is a powerful lever for rethinking the **economy** from the perspective of **sustainable activity** and **social justice**

➤ Sufficiency, fairness, solidarity... and a new economy?



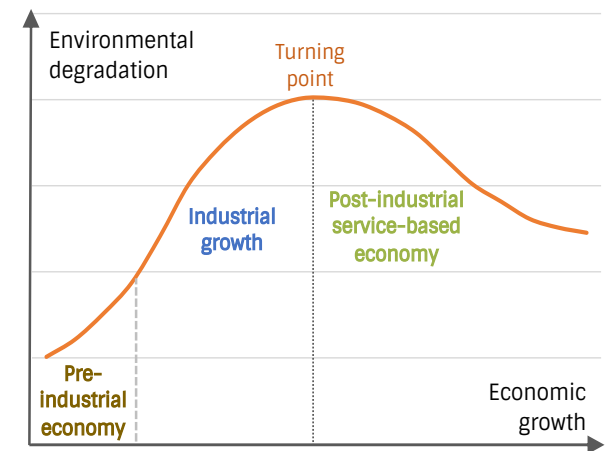
“Sufficiency policies are a set of measures and daily practices that **avoid demand for energy**, materials, land and water while **delivering human well-being** for all **within planetary boundaries**.”

Within collective limits, ensuring a fairer distribution of access to services

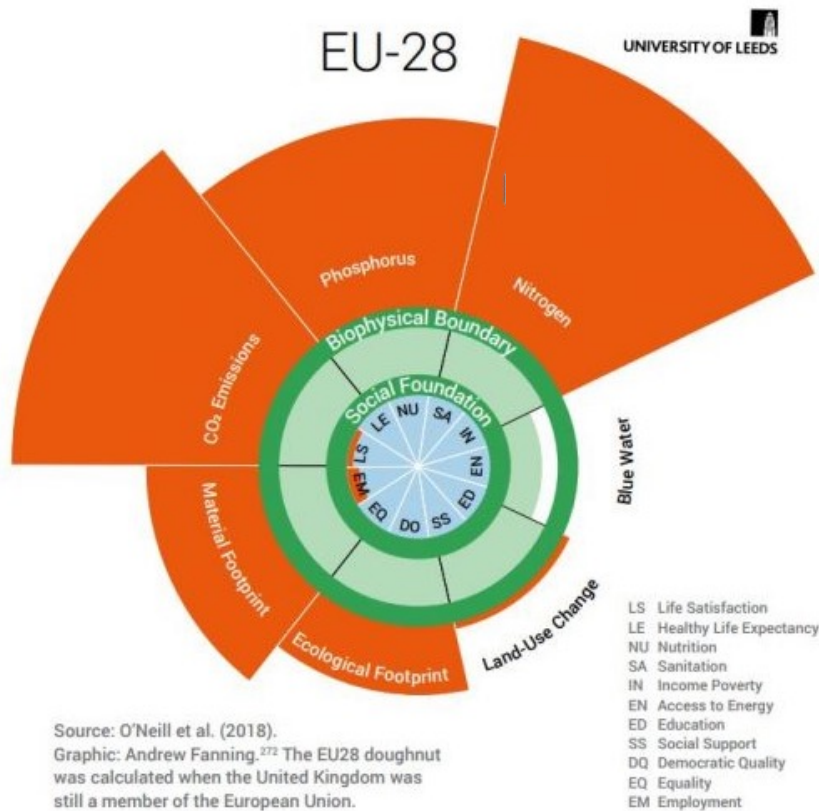


Rethinking activities, between the **ceiling** of environmental limits and the **floor** of decent living conditions

Aligning value creation with resource protection and sharing rather than predation and destruction

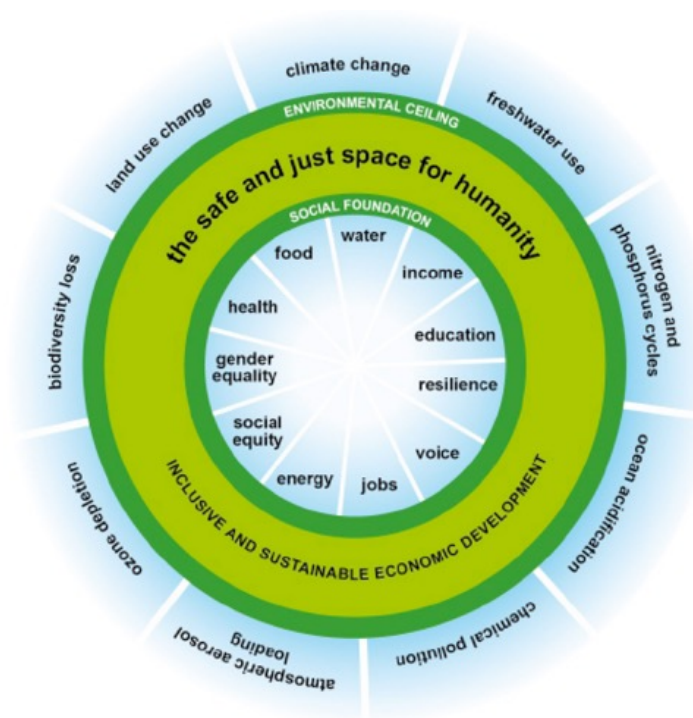


➤ Sufficiency and the doughnut economy



Source: O'Neill et al. (2018).
Graphic: Andrew Fanning.²⁷² The EU28 doughnut was calculated when the United Kingdom was still a member of the European Union.

Source: University of Leeds, 2018



The "doughnut economy" concept
(Raworth et al.)

Source: based on K. Raworth, 2022

Need for collective discussion to establish thresholds for energy services that are compatible with these limits

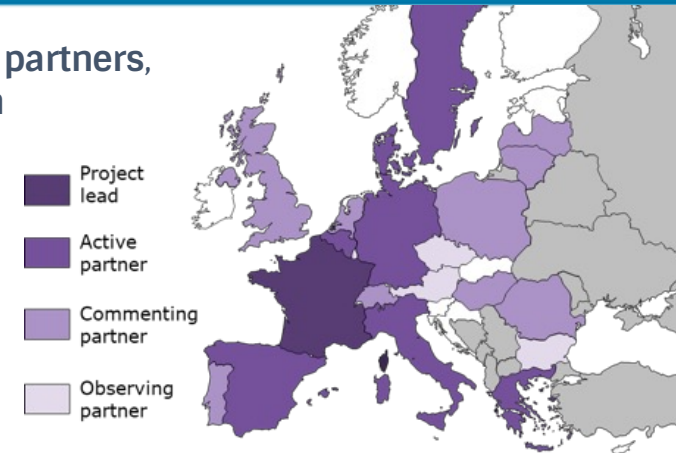
➤ A European scale application: the CLEVER scenario



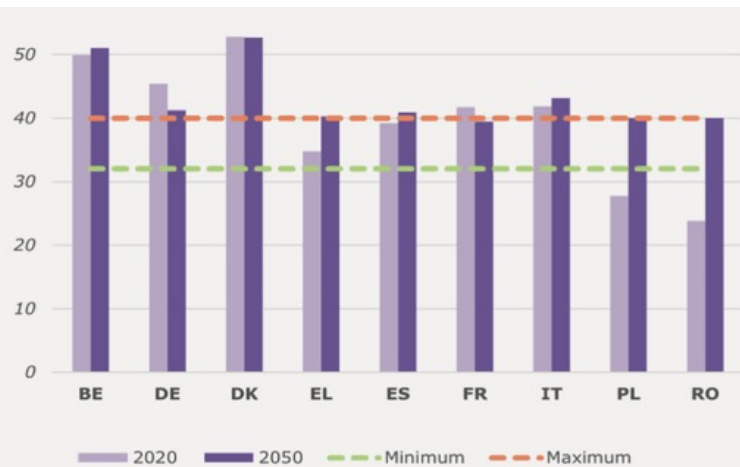
European scenario:

- carbon neutral by 2045
- 55% less final energy by 2050
- with 100% renewables feed

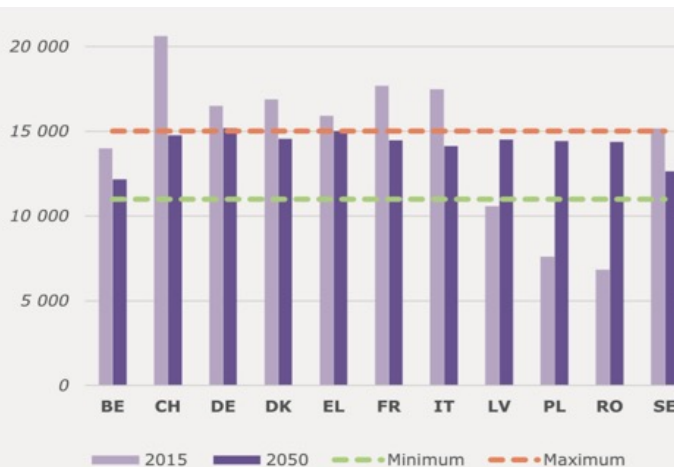
- A bottom-up construct with a network of 25 partners, based on the harmonisation and integration of national trajectories
- Closer economic and social conditions within Europe through **corridors of convergence** on energy service levels
- Joint definition of **high/low thresholds** towards which to converge



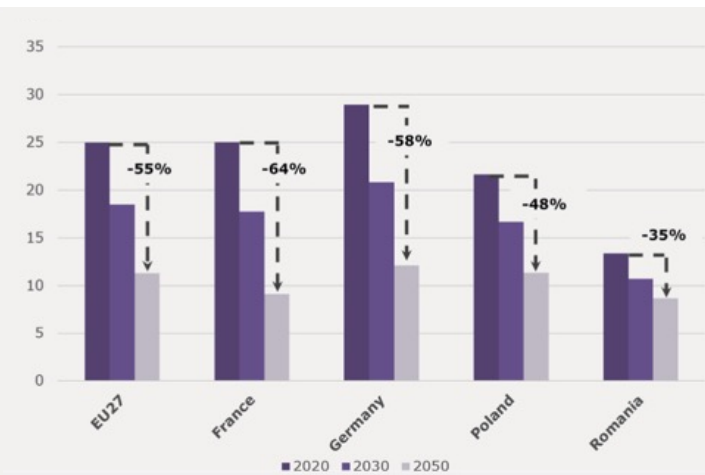
Distance covered per capita in selected countries (km/./an)



Floor area of housing per capita in selected countries (m²/cap.)



Per capita final energy consumption in selected countries (MWh/cap./year)



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Sufficiency is a powerful lever for rethinking the **economy** from the perspective of **sustainable activity** and **social justice**

5

When the conditions for **public debate** allow it, **citizens** are more ready for sufficiency than **decision-makers** seem ready to believe

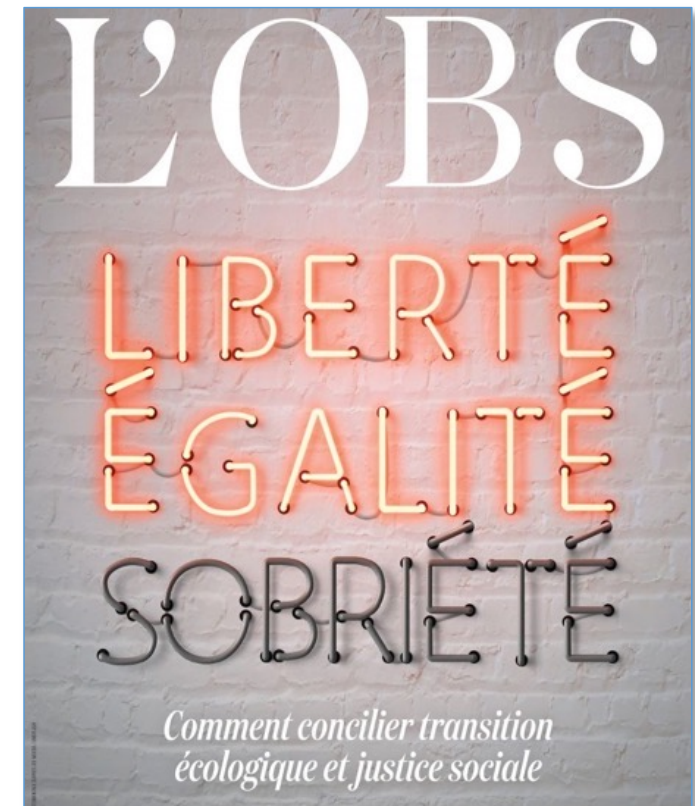
↘ The emergence / eruption of sufficiency in public debate



Le Monde, 31 May 2022



Joint oped, CEOs of the three major French energy companies (TotalEnergies, EDF, Engie), *Journal du Dimanche*, 26 June 2022



L'Obs, 13 September 2022

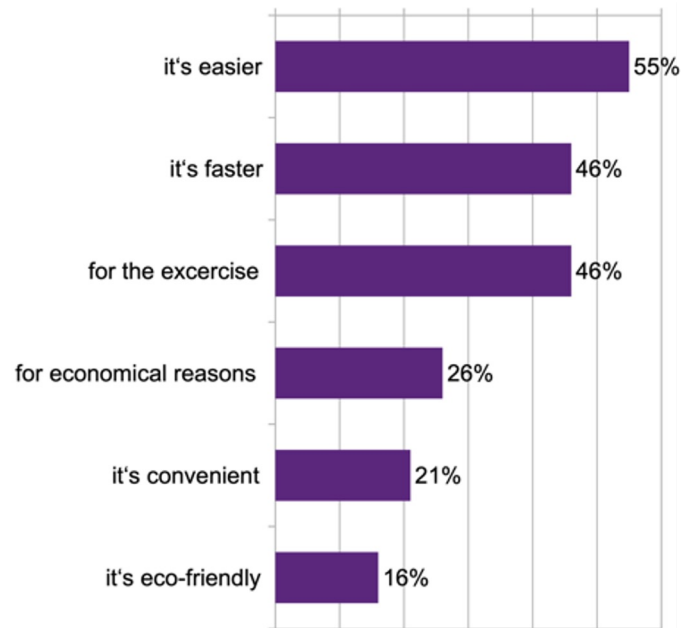
↳ Sufficiency as a core democratic stake



Key conditions:

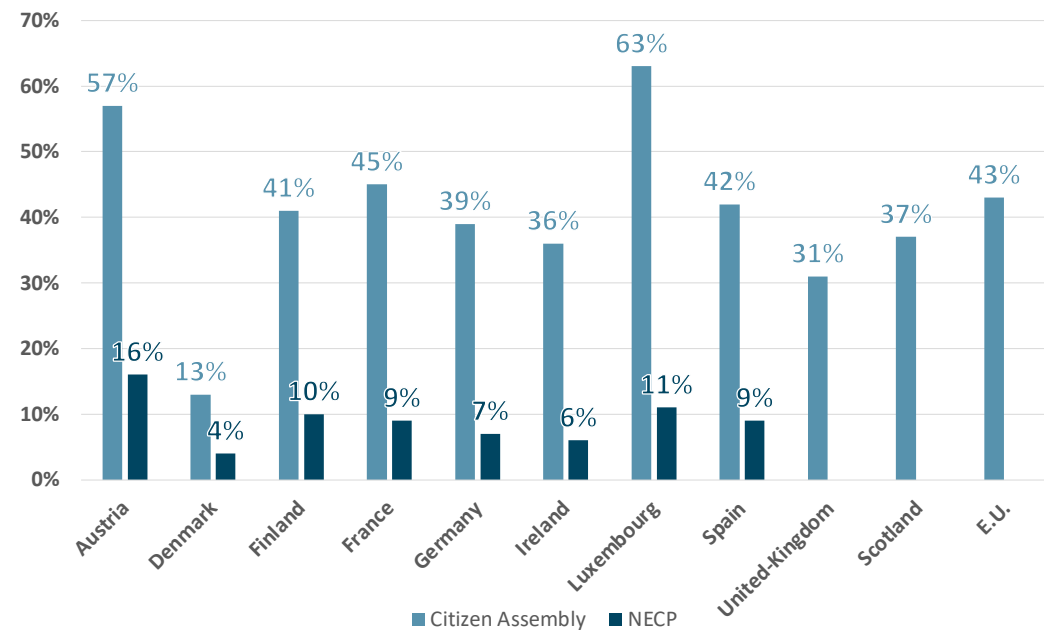
- 1** Commit to deliver on co-benefits
- 2** Give effective access to alternatives
- 3** Bring explicit answers to social justice issues

Why do people cycle in Copenhagen?

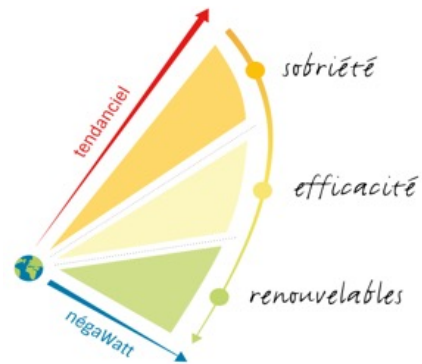


Reference: City of Copenhagen, 2019

Share of sufficiency policies in total climate-mitigation policies in citizen assemblies and National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)



Source: article in Energy Research & Social Science, septembre 2023



<https://www.negawatt.org>



Clever

A Collaborative Low Energy Vision
for the European Region

<https://clever-energy-scenario.eu>

FULFILL

Fundamental decarbonisation
through sufficiency
by lifestyle changes

<https://fulfill-sufficiency.eu>

Resources on
the nW approach
and the French
négaWatt scenario

The first
sufficiency-based
energy transition
scenario for Europe

The first 100%
sufficiency-focused
EU Horizon 2020
project

**Thank you
for your attention!**



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