



## 10 Minutes For The Planet

### Zoom On Energy & The Presidential Candidates©

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Retrouvez la traduction de certains mots à droite du texte

Les syllabes accentuées sont en gras et soulignées\*

Hello everyone and welcome to this week's **episode** of 10 Minutes for the Planet.

Last week we **analysed** the first **presidential** TV **debate** from an **environmental perspective**. Today we'll **dive** right **into** our presidential **candidates'** environmental programs. We'll start with the most debated issue: **nuclear energy** and **prospects** for energy transition.

75% of all energy **produced** in France comes from one of our 19 **nuclear plants** and over 50 **reactors**. Behind the United States and **ahead of** Russia, France is the second most nuclear energy producing country worldwide. France is ranked first in terms of the nuclear energy **percentage** of our total energy production. France also ranks first worldwide in terms of **electricity exported**, which amounts to 15% of our **national** production. We also have the lowest prices in **Europe**.

Our electricity **exports add up to** 2 **billion** euros per year. **However**, our global energy **import/export balance** drops way down to the **negatives**, due to the **annual** 50 billion euros from **fossil fuels** import: made up mainly of **petrol**, gas and **coal**.

Candidate François Fillon believes it would be economical **suicide** to get out of nuclear and clearly against public **interest**. **Instead** he would like to **modernise** the French nuclear systems and **increase** their **life span**. This **investment** would **represent** 100 billion euros in the next five years. Fillon's **proposal aligns** with Marine Le Pen's. However, Le Pen also **supports massive** investments in all **renewables**, except in wind; while Fillon only **promises** "**favourable conditions**" and a 30€ per ton carbon tax.

For Benoît Hamon and Jean-Luc Mélenchon, a 100-billion euro nuclear renovation could go instead towards the

**to dive into** (vb.) se plonger dans

**prospect** (n.) perspective

**nuclear plant** (n.) centrale nucléaire

**ahead of** (prep.) devant

**to add up to** (vb.) équivaloir à

**fossil fuel** (n.) énergie, combustible fossile

**petrol** (n.) essence

**coal** (n.) charbon

**lifespan** (n.) durée de vie

**renewable** (n.) ressource, énergie renouvelable

**renewable** energies and create more **innovative** jobs. Both candidates are **set on** closing the **entirety** of French nuclear plants. Like candidate Philippe Poutou, Hamon has a nuclear-free **objective** for 2050. Before 2025 he would like renewables to represent 50% of our energy **consumption**, and he also believes in **encouraging** a strong **decrease** in our energy consumption.

Mélenchon has **called on government** to stop fossil fuel **subsidies** and to be more **transparent** when it comes to nuclear **waste** management, which is a very **opaque subject** today. He is **concerned about** the health aspect of **transitioning to** a transparent renewable energy production, as well as consumption.

Candidate Emmanuel Macron **insists** on closing the much **discussed** Fessenheim **power plant** but only when the new Flamanville nuclear waste management plant opens. Macron has chosen to focus his **discourse** on **decreasing** carbon **emitting** energy sources. As nuclear power has low carbon emissions, it is not a **priority**. He **is set to** close coal factories and also to **forbid shale gas** exploration. With Macron, the carbon tax would rise to 100€ per ton before 2050. He also favours a 30-billion **private** investment plan in **sustainable** energy sources before 2022. Mélenchon doesn't agree here, as he believes in **opposing** the privatisation of energy production.

Candidate Jean Lasalle also opposes privatisation, as he believes in decentralisation and giving back power and **autonomy** to local **municipalities**. **In that respect**, he aligns with Hamon and Mélenchon on **actively** transitioning towards more local and **sustainable** energy productions.

Some candidates such as Jacques Cheminade, François Asselineau and Nicolas Dupont-Aignan are **completely** against transitioning out of nuclear power and support large investment in nuclear research and candidate Nathalie Arthaud has **yet** to **express** strong opinions on environmental issues.

That's the end of our first episode **examining** our presidential candidates' environmental programs! See you next week with another look at the candidates.

**set on doing** (adj.) résolu à faire

**consumption** (n.) consommation

**to call on** (vb.) faire appel à

**subsidy** (n.) subvention, aide financière

**waste** (n.) déchets

**concerned about** (adj. + prep.) préoccupé par

**to transition to** (vb.) passer à

**power plant** (n.) centrale électrique

**to be set to do** (exp.) être prêt à

**shale gas** (n.) gaz de schiste

**sustainable** (adj.) durable

**in that respect** (adv.) à cet égard

**yet** (adv.) encore

**\*Aide à la prononciation :** Un même mot peut être accentué sur des syllabes différentes, en fonction de sa nature grammaticale. Ainsi, les noms **decrease**, **discourse**, **export**, **import** et **increase** sont accentués sur la première syllabe, alors que les verbes **decrease**, **discourse**, **export**, **import** et **increase** sont accentués sur la deuxième syllabe.