

Inventing the low-carbon architecture of tomorrow's cities

By 2050, cities will be home to three-quarters of the world's population. In France, the proportion is already 80%. Cities are necessarily at the heart of the energy transition now under way. EDF is therefore working with local authorities to build pleasant, low-energy, socially balanced urban environments. Created in 2008 by EDF, the Low-Carbon Architecture competition is a laboratory of ideas attracting architects, urban planners, landscape architects and designers to devise the contours of tomorrow's city.



The 2015 competition, which carries the COP21 label, is atypical for several reasons:

- it is a **call for ideas** and will not result in any contracts or implementation
- it is based in a real place, the Vauban-Esquermes neighbourhood in Lille, France
- it **projects forward to 2050**, aiming for the carbon neutrality of an entire neighbourhood.

The study (urban concepts, architecture, energy use and design) involved four multi-disciplinary teams of urban and landscape architects, designers, visual artists and engineering firms. Their task was to understand the transformations cities will need to undergo and define tomorrow's energy landscape. The competition did not stipulate any particular surface area to be built or renovated. Above all, the teams had to take into account climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SEVEN YEARS OF CREATIVITY AND PROJECTION INTO THE FUTURE FOR THE LOW-CARBON ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

A COMMON THREAD: THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION OF THE CITY

2008: design new housing combining energy efficiency and renewable energy use

2009: renovation of public or private buildings

2010: social housing

2012: living in the sustainable city

2013: sustainable transformation of cities

2014: new forms of housing

2015: sustainable transformation of cities

INTERESTING FACTS



THE FOUR KEYS TO THE 2015 COMPETITION

- **Quality of urban environments** with a particular emphasis on public spaces
- **Digital neighbourhood** encompassing tomorrow's life styles and approaches to work
- **Urban design** incorporating the visible signs of cultural and artistic dimensions
- **Energy and carbon** to achieve carbon neutrality at a neighbourhood level by 2050.

See all our solutions on:
edf.fr/en/cop21

50 SOLUTIONS FOR THE CLIMATE

