

Optimised urban lighting that protects biodiversity

As part of its responsibilities to provide a public service, EDF manages energy demand and encourages energy efficiency. Public lighting accounts for a very significant share of local authorities' energy expenditure, sometimes representing up to 40% of their electricity bill. A source of CO₂ emissions, this lighting can also be a source of visual pollution that negatively affects biodiversity, especially birds. EDF is particularly aware of this issue on Reunion Island. The island is a global biodiversity hotspot where the energy mix is dominated by coal – a source of energy that emits high levels of CO₂.



The Petrel project for the protection of the species and the region by reducing light emissions was initiated by EDF's Reunion Island teams in partnership with the island's local authorities and its ornithological society.

EDF encourages towns and cities to change their public lighting equipment and practices, notably by adopting the use of an astronomical clock⁽¹⁾ to:

- reduce electricity consumption by consuming better and less
- prevent Barau's petrels from becoming stranded on the shore. A species native to Reunion Island, the birds are dazzled by the halo of light when they fly down from the mountains to feed at sea. In April, when the young Barau's petrels leave the nest, the local authorities and large industrial concerns are encouraged to switch off their lighting for around 10 nights.

Ultimately, this action reduces the annual urban lighting bill and CO₂ emissions, while also helping protect the island's biodiversity.

(1) EDF and the Reunion Island ornithological society acknowledge the municipalities that have reconfigured their public lighting systems and adopted an astronomical clock. The clock is programmed to automatically switch off public lighting according to a schedule defined jointly with the ornithological society. EDF fully funds the clock.



KEY FIGURES

40%: share of public lighting in municipalities' electricity budget on Reunion Island

10% to 20% reduction in local authorities' lighting bill as a result of this programme

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