

Earth and Life Institute (ELI)



Georges Lemaître Centre for Earth and Climate Research

Monsieur le Président de la République Française Palais de l'Élysée 55, rue du faubourg Saint-Honoré 75008 Paris France

Louvain-la-Neuve, le 31 août 2018

Mister President,

Among industrial countries, France has the best performances as far as carbon dioxide emissions are concerned. The Carbon intensity of France amounts to 0.1 kg per dollar, while the average value for the entire world is four times as much. The figure for the US is 0.3, for Germany 0.2 and for China 1 kg per dollar. Should all countries adopt the French energy mix, the worldwide annual carbon dioxide emissions would be divided by 4 going from 32.3 billion tons to 7.6 billion tons, nearly reaching carbon neutrality and temperature stabilization. Benefiting from carbon-free electricity, France could go even further in decarbonizing its economy by moving toward electric transportation and heat production. This extraordinary performance results from the high proportion of nuclear energy in the French electricity mix.

It appears that, following the resignation of your Ecology Minister, Nicolas Hulot, and the report by Yannick d'Escatha and Laurent Collet Billon, France now has the opportunity to choose an environmentally efficient nuclear policy. With many colleagues climatologists I wish hereby to encourage you to continue in this way.

Doing this, you will appear as an efficient and real leader of the fight against global warming which the world needs and, once more, France could be leading a vital fight for humanity.

With my very distinguished consideration,

André Berger, Emeritus Professor and Senior Scientist Web: http://www.climate.be/u/berger

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