



Poissy, September 7th, 2020

For the first time in France, the Ile-de-France region and SUEZ unveil an innovative air quality solution in a school in Poissy

As part of the UN's International Day of Clean Air for blue skies and the call for projects "Innovons pour l'air dans les bâtiments publics" ("Let's innovate for air quality in public buildings") launched by the Île-de-France Region, Valérie Pécresse, President of the Île-de-France Region, Karl Olive, Mayor of Poissy, and Diane Galbe, Senior Executive Vice President of SUEZ in charge of Strategy and the global Business Unit, Smart & Environmental Solutions, unveil an innovative solution developed by SUEZ to improve air quality in schools, commissioned in the courtyard of the Victor Hugo elementary school in Poissy.

Each year, air pollution costs France €100 billion¹. Even more striking than the economic impact is the human impact. In France, 75% of children breathe polluted air². The figure is confirmed internationally since 91% of the world's population live in places that "exceed WHO air quality guidelines"³. This is a pressing issue for French people since more than a third of them see air quality as their main environmental concern⁴.

Since 2016, air quality has been a priority of Paris Region's environmental and health policy, with actions aimed at both eliminating the sources of air pollution and finding new technological solutions to purify the air. Through its "Changeons d'air" ("Let's clean up our air") plan, the Region has set up a test of innovative solutions for the treatment of indoor and confined air in public buildings, especially day nurseries and school courtyards. As they have less mature respiratory system than adults, children are particularly sensitive to air quality and must be protected as a priority.

SUEZ is a key player in preserving the fundamental elements of our environment: water, soil and air. The Group's innovative solution was selected for the Île-de-France region's call for projects: "Innovons pour l'air dans les bâtiments publics". The initial pilot tests start today for a year, in order to confirm the initiative's real-time performance and scope.

The solution has a strategic positioning, creating a "clean air bubble" that covers a vast air treatment range (primarily PM 10, PM 2.5, NO2 and VOCs). It combines cutting-edge technologies, including microalgae solutions codeveloped with Fermentalg.

The technology is seamlessly integrated into the school courtyard thanks to SUEZ's collaboration with French *street art* and graffiti artist, Zdey, with colorful and pop culture references. The presentation of the solution is bold and original. It encourages children to take ownership of this clean-air space and to make it their playground.

¹ French Senate, Special Inquiry, 2015

² UNICEF

³ World Health Organization (WHO), 2018

⁴ Sustainable Development division of the French Ministry for the Ecological Transition (CGDD)

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Valérie Péresse, President of the Île-de-France region, commented: “Improving air quality is a public health emergency for people living in Île-de-France. The Region made it a priority of its environmental strategy with the launch of the “Changeons d’air en Île-de-France” action plan in 2016. With this pilot project in Poissy, to be rolled out across other day nurseries and schools in the region, we are taking concrete action to improve the environment and the quality of life of our schoolchildren.”

Karl Olive, Mayor of Poissy, commented: “The city of Poissy cares deeply about the well-being and quality of life of its residents. With respect to air quality, the Carbon Sink installation in 2018 and as an “innovative city,” we considered essential to go even further in our commitment. In doing so, we provided our citizens with a practical and innovative solution for preserving our environmental capital.”

Diane Galbe, Senior Executive Vice President of SUEZ in charge of Strategy and the global Business Unit, Smart & Environmental Solutions, commented: "In a context of climate change and population growth, SUEZ has been supporting municipalities and industrial companies for 15 years in the design, development and operation of air treatment solutions. These innovations are fully in line with our strategic plan *Shaping SUEZ 2030*, in which new business lines play a key role. Today, we are proud to offer our expertise to the Île-de-France region. Our long-term goal is to expand this project and include other schools in France and abroad”.



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From left to right: the artist Zdey, Valérie Péresse – President of the Île-de-France Region, Karl Olive – Mayor of Poissy, Diane Galbe - Senior Executive Vice President of SUEZ in charge of Strategy and the global Business Unit, Smart & Environmental Solutions and Jérôme Arnaudis - Director of Air Solutions division of SUEZ



From left to right : Karl Olive – Mayor Poissy, Valérie Péresse - President of the Île-de-France Region and Diane Galbe - Senior Executive Vice President of SUEZ in charge of Strategy and the global Business Unit, Smart & Environmental Solutions.

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About Île-de-France region

Regional action for the environment has been a priority for the Region since the beginning of the mandate, fighting against global warming, improving the health of people living in Ile-de-France or preserving their living environment. This is the purpose of the commitments made by the Region within its various programs, particularly through "Changeons d'air". Indeed, the Region is taking immediate and determined action to stop pollution (clean buses, end to polluting boilers, conversion of professional vehicles, etc.). The implementation of this new plan is in line with this strategy. The Region is one step ahead in new solutions with the launch of the first permanent monitoring of ultrafine particles, a call for projects on air quality in underground areas or inside public buildings.

In Ile-de-France, total spending for environment reaches a historic level of €2 billion in 2020. Thus, the Region will spend €10 billion for environment from 2020 to 2024.

About Poissy

With a rich cultural heritage, including the 12th century collegiate church and the Villa Savoye, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Poissy is also one of the industrial centers of the Yvelines region, with automobile manufacturing (PSA Peugeot Citroën Group plant and expertise center) since the beginning of the 20th century. With 38,000 residents, the cité saint Louis has many forward-looking projects. The opening of the new Paris-Saint-Germain Training Center by 2022, the forthcoming Tram13 Express and the RER Eole services, Le Corbusier museum project, the new building of the inter-communal hospital and the launch of the first buildings of the future Rouget-de-Lisle eco-neighborhood demonstrate the dynamism of Mayor Karl Olive's majority since 2014.

About SUEZ

Since the end of the 19th century, SUEZ has built expertise aimed at helping people to constantly improve their quality of life by protecting their health and supporting economic growth. With an active presence on five continents, SUEZ and its 90,000 employees strive to preserve our environment's natural capital: water, soil, and air. SUEZ provides innovative and resilient solutions in water management, waste recovery, site remediation and air treatment, optimizing municipalities' and industries' resource management through "smart" cities and improving their environmental and economic performance. The Group delivers sanitation services to 64 million people and produces 7.1 billion m³ of drinking water. SUEZ is also a contributor to economic growth, with more than 200,000 jobs created directly and indirectly on an annual basis, and a provider of new resources, with 4.2 million tons of secondary raw materials produced. By 2030, the Group is targeting 100% sustainable solutions, with a positive impact on our environment, health and climate. SUEZ generated total revenue of €18.0 billion in 2019.

About Zdey

Zdey was born in Hong Kong in 1989. He first came to France in 1997. He entered the Parisian graffiti scene at the age of 15, under the tag, "Sodey." In 2013, he moved to Mumbai, India, where he began leading a double life; dressing in suits by day and doing graffiti by night. This lifestyle would inspire his future character taken from the legendary black-masked figure, Zorro. And so, Sodey became Zdey. In 2014 he quit his job and returned to Paris to fully focus on his lifelong passion. Since then, Zdey's graffiti creations have appeared on walls in France and abroad in the never-ending quest for sharing and interaction. More recently, Zdey has collaborated with NGOs, especially on participative murals and humanitarian initiatives. In particular, he worked with the non-profit organization, Pimp My World, to paint a school in Nepal.

Find out more about the SUEZ Group
on the [website](#) & on social media



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