



Paris, May 15, 2023

## **The Syndicat Pic et Etang awards SUEZ the first contract in France for the operation of a waste-to-energy plant incorporating waste reduction targets**

**On Thursday, May 11, 2023, Fabrice Fenoy, CEO of Syndicat Pic et Etang, and Antoine Bousseau, Managing Director of Services to Local Authorities for SUEZ' Recycling and Recovery business, unveiled an unprecedented partnership for the operation of OCTAV, the Lunel-Viel waste-to-energy plant (Hérault department). As the first partnership of this type in France, the contact aims to cut the volume of waste incinerated by 25% over the space of 10 years through an ambitious waste prevention policy.**

**Goal: reduce the production of waste in the region, and reduce incinerated tonnage by 25%**

With each inhabitant in France producing an average of 582 kg of waste each year, waste reduction is a major environmental challenge for local authorities.

In force since 1 January 2023, the 10-year operating contract for the Lunel-Viel waste-to-energy (WtE) plant includes an ambitious target for the reduction of the amount of waste processed. The tonnage incinerated is set to drop from 120,000 tonnes in 2023 to 90,000 tonnes in 2033, a 25% reduction in 10 years. This ambition makes it a first in France.

The policy revolves around two aspects:

- Continuity of the public waste disposal service: an outlet must continue to be provided for the waste produced by the 220,000 inhabitants covered by the waste treatment authority, at an affordable price for the local authorities and their citizens.
- The environmental and public health aspects, from global to local:
  - Reduce discharges of pollutants,
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
  - Incinerate only waste for which there is no material recovery solution.

Applying the latter aspect is a response to the concerns of local inhabitants, environmental protection and the climate emergency.

To achieve these results, SUEZ is implementing a targeted action plan, aiming to:

- **Remove biowaste from household waste**, through the distribution of individual and collective compost bins, awareness initiatives and on-farm composting.
- **Promote the donation, reuse and repair of bulky waste items and reduce the number of those incinerated**, by raising awareness among refuse tip users, and implementing a primary sorting platform for bulky waste, a permanent recycling depot and several mobile ones, and object repair workshops across the region.
- **Sort more recyclable household packaging and sort it better, and filter out a proportion of the packaging found in household waste** through targeted communications.
- **Raise user awareness through digital and local communication** with the deployment of an app, “*Mon Service Déchets*” (My waste service) offering easy access to waste disposal information and advice on waste sorting and reduction.

These prevention initiatives will be implemented by a Prevention and Performance unit and an ecosystem of more than 30 local non-profit structures working in the circular, social and solidarity economy sphere.

#### **Aiming for environmental excellence and resource efficiency**

As a result of the waste prevention and reduction efforts made by the Syndicat Pic et Etang, the carbon footprint of the WtE plant will be significantly improved, dropping by 10,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> of greenhouse gas emissions in a year, the equivalent of 84,000 car trips from Lunel-Viel to Paris.

As a plant which is already highly efficient in this area, OCTAV will go even further with the modification of its process to attain the lowest atmospheric emissions in France. Nearly 14 million euros will be invested in these works starting in 2023, harnessing the best market-available technology.

Water consumption on site will be reduced by 80%. Systems will be used to help reduce the amount of water withdrawn from the natural environment: the installation of a weather station, and the deployment of humidity and temperature sensors and intelligent water meters to manage use in real time. A new reservoir will collect rainwater for reuse.

Biodiversity around the plant will be reinforced by managing and monitoring fauna and flora across the site's 40,000 sqm of natural space, and with the development of a garden with endemic tree species representative of the six local communities covered by the Syndicat Pic et Etang.

#### **Contributing to the area's energy independence**

Despite the 25% drop in waste tonnage, the energy generation of the WtE plant will be maintained at a level close to that achieved to date through the addition of an energy recovery and saving device in the process. Energy generation is therefore projected to go from 70,651 MWh in 2022 to 66,171 MWh /year on average, due to the lower amount of waste processed, equating to the annual electricity demand of 11,700 households.

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In addition, 260 sqm of photovoltaic panels will be installed, offering 45 kWp of annual power capacity.

**Fabrice Fenoy, CEO of Syndicat Pic et Etang, commented:**

“In Lunel-Viel, we are going to do something that’s revolutionary, unique in France: we’re going to stop burning water. Today, in our dustbins, our incinerable waste is mixed up with apple cores, yoghurts past their sell-by date, and cucumber peelings. This means that we are using dustbin lorry fuel to transport biowaste mainly made up of water... to an incinerator. It is time to put an end to this environmental, technical and economic absurdity. In this contract, which is unique in France, we have reversed the equation. Traditionally, we ask the partner to burn as many tonnes as possible, as cheaply as possible. Here, we are asking them to help us burn less! The more tonnage they divert away from the incinerator, the more they earn. This is why this pioneering contract in France is accompanied by a powerful waste prevention programme.”.

**Antoine Bousseau, Managing Director of Services to Local Authorities for SUEZ’ Recycling and Recovery business, says:**

“This first public service delegation (concession) contract for a waste-to-energy plant incorporating performance criteria is a new illustration of SUEZ’ ambition in waste reduction. Alongside pioneering local authorities, SUEZ contributes to the creation of innovative contract models including waste prevention and recycling targets. With the waste collection contracts in Greater Montauban (launched on 1 January 2022) and Limoges Métropole (launch scheduled for 1 June 2023) and the design-build-operate contract for the waste disposal facilities in Nevers Agglomération (work due to start in November 2023), SUEZ is developing unique expertise to support local authorities in their green transition through user engagement.”.

**Contacts:**

**SUEZ**

Colette Génin  
+33 6 32 18 39 54  
[suez.media@suez.com](mailto:suez.media@suez.com)

**Syndicat Pic et Etang**

Kristelle Fourcadier  
Director, Syndicat Pic & Etang  
[direction@picetang.fr](mailto:direction@picetang.fr)

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**About SUEZ:**

*Faced with growing environmental challenges, SUEZ has been delivering essential services that protect and improve our quality of life for more than 160 years. SUEZ provides its customers with innovative and resilient solutions for water and waste services. With 40 000 employees across 40 countries, the Group works with customers to create value over the full lifecycle of their assets and services, and to drive their low carbon transition. In 2022, SUEZ provided drinking water for 68 million people worldwide and sanitation services for more than 37 million people. The Group generated 3.7 TWh of energy from waste and wastewater and avoided 4 million tons of CO2 emissions. For more information: [www.suez.com/](http://www.suez.com/) Twitter @suez*

**About Syndicat Pic et Etang:**

*The Syndicat Mixte Entre Pic et Etang is an intercommunal public cooperation establishment with the authority to process household and similar waste collected by its six member groups of municipalities. The perimeter of the Syndicat Pic et Etang encompasses 89 municipalities in the south-east of the Hérault department and the south west of the Gard department.*

*The Syndicat Pic et Etang today deploys a prevention policy aiming to reduce waste in line with the processing method hierarchy. The Authority conducts studies and foresight research in close partnership with the groups of municipalities, to gain insight into the big challenges ahead for waste processing in the region.*

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