

# France

## Methodology for assessing impact on GHG emissions



**TYPE OF TOOL**  
*Methodology/  
Guidelines/  
Requirements*



**MAIN SECTORS**  
*All sectors*



**THEME**  
*Green*



**INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS**  
*Fiscal sustainability, affordability and  
value for money*

### In a nutshell



**OBJECTIVE:** France launched a new guide to provide project developers with a methodological approach to assess the impact of projects on greenhouse gas emissions in impact studies.



**Agency in charge**  
**Ministry of Ecological Transition**



**Levels of government**  
**National**



**Year of implementation**  
**2022**



**Current status**  
**Fully operational**

### Overview

Environmental impact assessments of infrastructure projects often do not adequately take into account greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Quantifying projects' impact on GHG emissions is an important step for achieving national and international climate commitments. In 2022, the Ministry of Ecological Transition launched a new guide to assess the impacts of projects on GHG emissions. The aim was to ensure an effective consideration of emission impacts in the environmental assessments of projects, as well as to make public investments better aligned with the GHG emissions reduction trajectory defined by the National Low Carbon Strategy (NLCS). The new methodological approach is rigorous and transparent, and it quantifies the emissions generated and/or avoided by a project over the widest possible perimeter and for each stage of the project's lifecycle (i.e., design, construction, operation and decommission).

The impact of a project on GHG emissions is assessed on the basis of its contribution to increasing or decreasing GHG emissions or to the removal of GHG emissions. Therefore, within the framework of an impact study, there is a focus on evaluating the difference in GHG emissions between a situation without the project (i.e. baseline situation) and a situation with the project. To this end, the new methodological guide proposes 7 steps:

1. Definition of the study area (types of GHG, temporal scope (life cycle stages and project lifespan, and spatial scope of emission sources)
2. Description of the initial state of the environment
3. Definition of scenarios with and without project
4. Determination of significant emission sources for each scenario
5. Quantification of emissions and estimation of uncertainties for each scenario
6. Calculation of project impact (the differential between with and without the project scenarios)
7. Definition of avoid-reduce-compensate and monitoring measures

#### REFERENCES:

- OECD (2023), "Strengthening environmental considerations in public investment in Ireland: Assessment and recommendations", OECD Public Governance Policy Papers, No. 35, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/83b97aca-en>.