

## **Challenges Environmental and Social Transitions**

### **Atlier 2 tons**

This workshop will first allow you to estimate your own carbon footprint, and then once you are on site for the workshop, the goal will be to reduce this footprint to 2 tons of carbon emitted per year by 2050. In addition to this, it will also be necessary to reduce the carbon footprint of the “average French” below 2 tons of carbon per year.

To achieve this, the workshop will take place in 8 rounds, 4 rounds where we will choose a limited number of individual actions aimed at reducing our carbon footprint, and 4 rounds where we as a government think about taking bigger measures (in terms of impact as well as in terms of budget) to help the population reduce their carbon footprint, while being limited by our budget. Individual choices made must be in agreement with who we are in order to see a possible change in our carbon footprint, not a utopian change that we will never achieve.

This workshop was interesting because it allows us to see the impact of individual actions and the impact of government actions, while also showing us that some decisions are complicated to make. Nevertheless, the aim of this workshop is to show us that with a small effort and without changing our habits too much we could go below 2 tons of carbon emitted per year. But most of the actions that have lowered my carbon footprint have been government actions, so that means that my individual actions alone will not be enough if the state does not take action to reduce pollution. So I think that the workshop is not honest in telling us that it is going to show us that we can easily be under 2 tons since the biggest actions to be taken do not depend on the citizens but on the politicians.

Thus, it raises the question of how citizens can challenge policies on this issue.

Moreover, the question of changing the mode of society is not addressed, whereas today several environmental movements advocate an exit from capitalism and decay.

### **LowTech Film**

This film shows a different group of people across France who have taken initiatives to create their own wind turbines, or set up their own repair business or innovate in low-carbon products (their use does not cost carbon). This film therefore criticizes our dependence on the high-tech electronic machines that surround us and advocates the use of “low-tech”, which are less efficient machines and made with simpler materials but which still allow us to meet essential needs such as generating electricity or driving, while abandoning the comfort of high-tech, which is not vital.

Thus, this film criticizes the search for new technologies that is not in line with the current ecological transition, but, in the same way as the previous workshop, it is only about local or individual initiatives and not about plans to be put in place on a national scale. As the film points out, these solutions are a step in the right direction, but they are not enough.

This film leads to an interesting reflection for future engineers because we are destined to work in sectors that use and promote high tech, and so we can ask how our work is going to be compatible with the ecological transition.