

Greenwheel Insights

France's PPE 3: Electrification with a nuclear spine & renewable muscle

Summary

The long-awaited energy strategy for France has been published. The role of electricity in the economy is set to expand, driven by adding new nuclear capacity and pushing existing reactors harder for longer, along with substantial expansions in wind and solar. Renewable targets were scaled back from earlier drafts, and significant legal and political risks remain.



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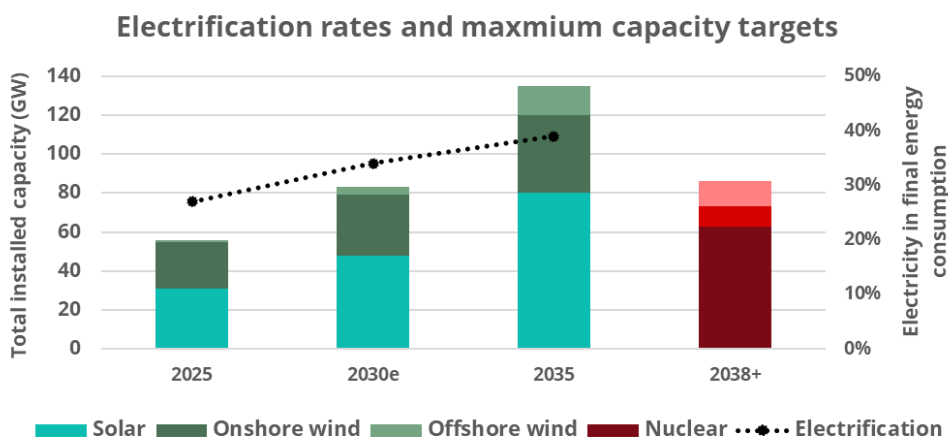


Figure 1: Electrification rates and maximum capacity targets (indicative targets, not projections or estimates). See main text and endnotes for sources. Graphic created by Greenwheel. The information shown above is for illustrative purposes.

"The Prime Minister's decree that fixes France's energy policy for the next decade reflects President Macron's stated wish to combine a solid nuclear focus with a sharp acceleration in wind – notably offshore - and solar power generation. It has attracted fierce political debate in France, with the Left parties pushing for more renewables while the Right is asking for a clearer stance towards nuclear. Moreover, the absence of a parliamentary vote on the programme weakens its perennity, with presidential elections looming in 2027.

But fundamentally, the ambitious commitments are in response to an expected sharp increase in electricity consumption, which is already emerging in the US and in some parts of Europe."



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Background

Published on 13th February 2026, **France's third 'multi-year energy programme'** (Programmation pluriannuelle de l'énergie), or **PPE 3**, sets the framework for France's energy policy for the next decade, to 2035. It comes nearly three years late, and issued by decree rather than legislation, due to political instability and debate over the appropriate balance between a nuclear- or renewables-focused approach.

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Full speed toward an electrified economy

The plan aims to **increase the share of clean energy in France's final energy consumption from around 42% to 60% by 2030, and 70% by 2035**. The **central lever is growing the rate of electrification in the economy from around 27% today to 34% in 2030 and 39% in 2035**.ⁱ

This requires rapid electrification across several sectors. The government is expected to publish a comprehensive electrification strategy, including sectoral roadmaps for transport, heating and industry and digital infrastructure in the coming weeks.ⁱⁱ

Nuclear remains at the core

- **More electricity and longer lives from existing reactors.** Generation from the existing fleet of 57 reactors is set to increase 20-30% by 2030, with lifetimes extended from 40 to 50-60 years for most reactors that have yet to receive extensions.ⁱ This is subject to approval by the regulator.
- **Six new reactors to be built, with the first online in 2038.** Six new EPR2 reactors are to be built (10 GW capacity), with the first commissioned in 2038 and the remainder following at 12-to-18-month intervals. A final investment decision is due by the end of 2026, with state-aid measures including a subsidised loan for construction costs and a 40-year Contract-for-Difference submitted to the European Commission for approval in November 2025.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **An option for eight additional new reactors.** The government hopes to “be in a position to decide” on these additional reactors, with a combined capacity of 13GW, by the end of the year.ⁱ

Renewable expectations pulled back, but remain set for rapid expansion

- **Ambitious offshore wind target pushed back by two years.** A draft plan targeted 18 GW capacity by 2035,^{iv} which is now set for 2037. France currently has just 1.6 GW offshore wind capacity,^v with targets of 4 GW in 2030 and 15 GW for 2035, signalling significant growth.ⁱ
- **Onshore wind targets dialled back, but generation still set to double.** Capacity targets of 31 GW by 2030 and 35-40 GW by 2035,ⁱ from around 24 GW current installed capacity.^{vi} This is lower than the draft 45 GW by 2035 but still implies a doubling in onshore wind generation. There is also clear preference for repowering existing sites, rather than greenfield development.
- **Solar PV doubles while hydropower is flat.** Solar capacity rises from 31 GW currently^{vii} to 48 GW by 2030 and 55-80 GW by 2035, despite downward revision from draft plans. Hydropower capacity is set to grow 10% by 2035, but with total general remaining flat.ⁱ

Flexibilities and uncertainties remain

- **Targets are described as ‘indicative ceilings’.** The government is permitted to scale back targets, and support measures to meet them, at any time.ⁱ Targets cannot be raised without a new decree.
- **A mandatory review will take place in 2027.** The mid-term review would usually fall in 2030, but PPE3 includes a clause for a ‘simplified review’ in 2027,ⁱ aligned with the next Presidential election.
- **Political and legal challenges remain.** Issuance by decree over legislation presents significant legal risk, while the 2027 Presidential election and review clause presents political risk.

ⁱ [Gouvernement \(2026\)](#)

ⁱⁱ [Le Monde \(2026\)](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Reuters \(2026\)](#)

^{iv} [Reuters \(2026b\)](#)

^v [WindEurope \(2025b\)](#)

^{vi} [WindEurope \(2025b\)](#)

^{vii} [PV-magazine \(2026\)](#)

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