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Closing the Provence thermal power plant: the stakes of a reconversion in a land of energies

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Closing the Provence thermal power plant

The stakes of a reconversion in a land of energies

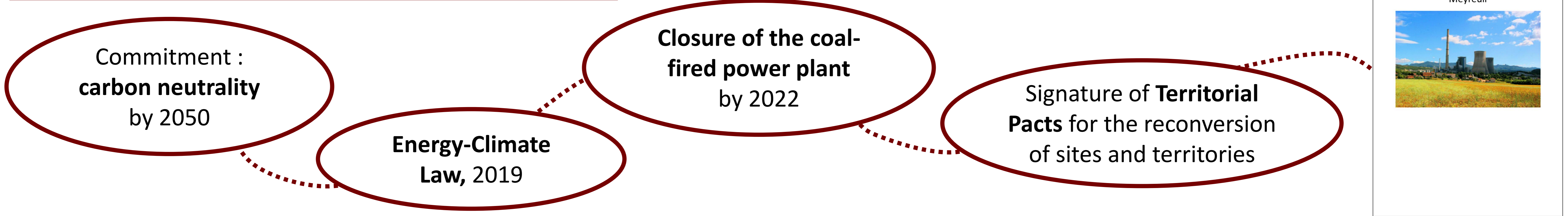
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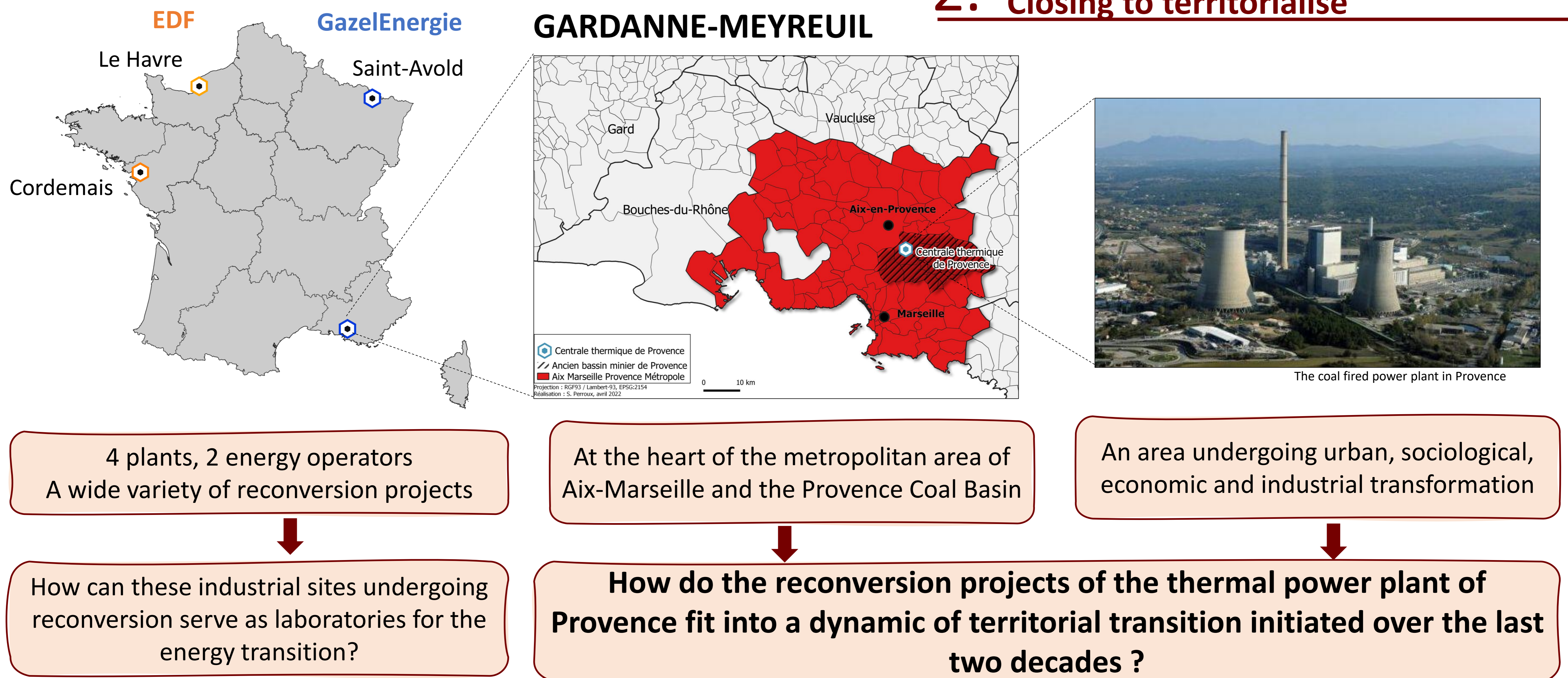


1. Closing to decarbonise



The aim of **decarbonising the French energy system** implies the transition from a 'thermo-industrial' regime, based on fossil fuels, to a 'post-carbon' regime that values renewable energies (Durand, Pecqueur, Senil, 2015). For the territories of the coal-fired power stations, this **energy transition challenge** is an **opportunity to experiment** with new ways of producing energy.

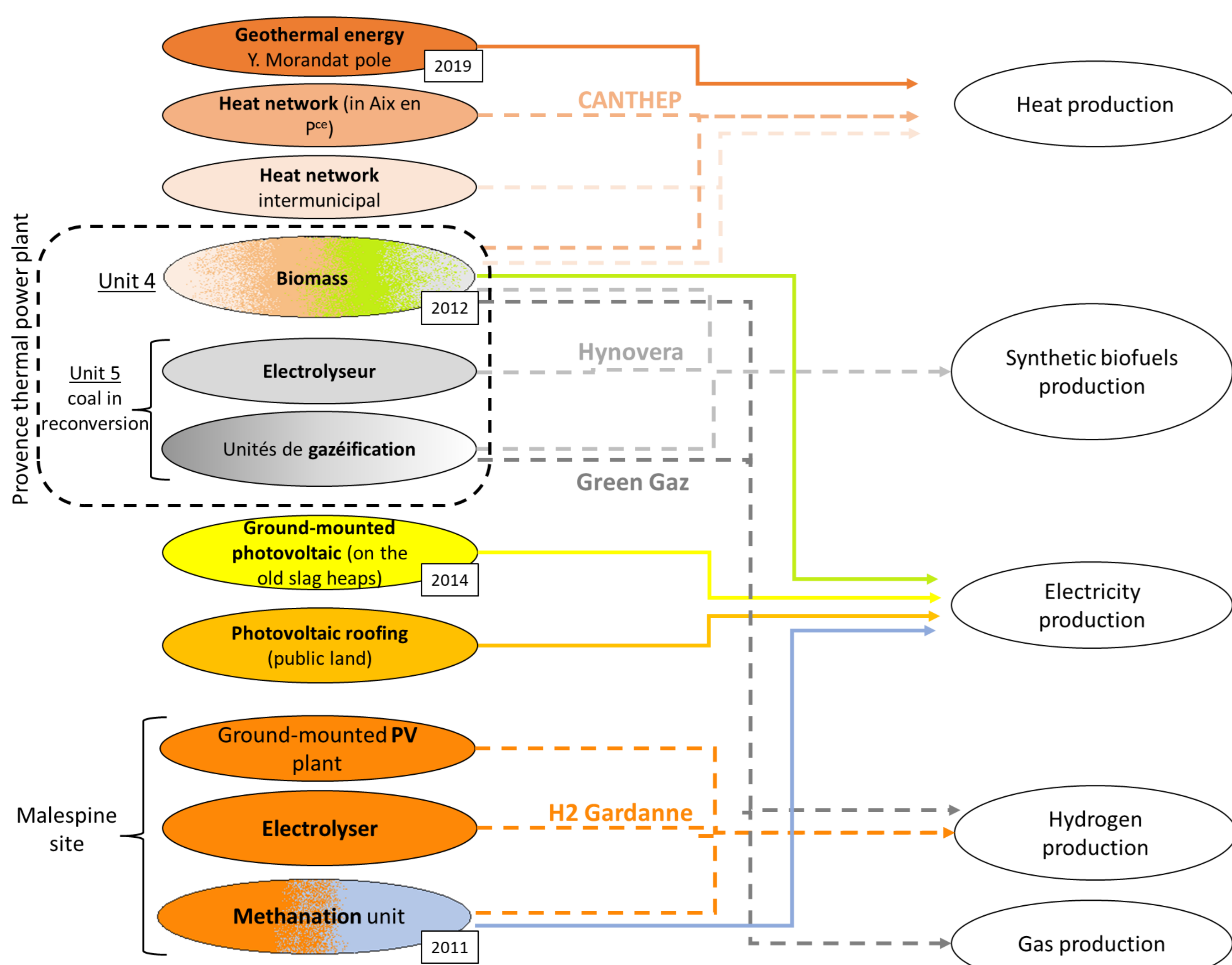
2. Closing to territorialise



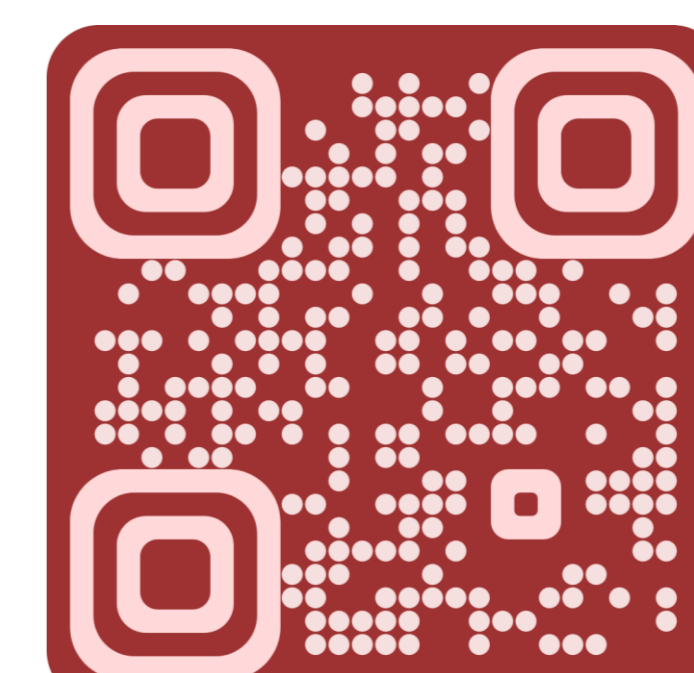
3. Closing to diversify

Although focused on the municipalities of Gardanne and Meyreuil, the territorial pact also takes into account the 15 other municipalities of the former **Provence Coal Basin**. Since the closure of its last mine in 2003, this territory has converted some of its **assets** - inherited from its industrial and mining past - into **innovative energy projects**.

With the closure of the thermal power station, the page of coal is definitively turned, and new projects are being studied. Energy then appeared to be a genuine **territorial resource** with **new development possibilities** (Gumuchian, Pecqueur, 2007).



- 1 Diversity of energy end products : heat, biofuels, electricity, hydrogen, gas.
- 2 The biomass unit (converted in 2012) is at the heart of a new localised energy system.
- 3 The new projects (dotted lines) complement the projects that have existed for the last twenty years (solid lines).
- 4 A diversity of implementation scales: local (H2 Gardanne), metropolitan (CANTHEP), regional (Green Gaz, Hynovera).
- 5 An acceleration in the emergence of energy projects since the signature of the territorial pact in December 2020.



Want to know more ? (in French)

- DURAND, L., PECQUEUR, B., & SENIL, N. (2015), La transition énergétique par la territorialisation. L'énergie comme ressource territoriale. In Groux, Leducq, Scarwell (Ed.), Réussir la transition énergétique (p. 29-36).

- GUMUCHIAN H., PECQUEUR B. (2007). La ressource territoriale, Economica, 252 p.

