

Call for  
applications

# FRENCH NATIONAL LANDSCAPE AWARD



MINISTÈRE  
DE L'ÉCOLOGIE,  
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT  
DURABLE  
ET DE L'ÉNERGIE

Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

[www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

In September 2014, Ségolène Royal, the French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, launched a national action plan for the revival of landscapes and nature in towns and cities. One of the 10 measures on which this plan is based consists of relaunching the French National Landscape Award (Grand Prix National du Paysage). The purpose of the French National Landscape Award is to promote the value of landscape initiatives and philosophies in regional transformation processes.

The National Landscape Award is presented by the French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy which implements the government's landscape policy. This policy is directly inspired by the European Landscape Convention and is based on the definition of the extended landscape as an "area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". It revolves around three major aims:

- to maintain and promote the quality and diversity of landscapes at the national level;
- to make the landscape an operational component of regional development strategies and a tool for tackling issues relating to sustainable development and energy transition;
- to raise people's awareness of the value of their landscapes as a common heritage, a resource for the local economy and a source of individual and social well-being.

The Ministry aims to use the National Landscape Award as a way to acknowledge the value of an innovative landscape initiative at the regional level, which must have given rise to concrete actions carried out in France or in cross-border areas. The award-winning initiative must be the fruit of close collaboration between a contracting authority embodying an ambitious regional aspiration and an inventive and creative project management team in which the landscape architect plays a fundamental and prominent role.

The award-winning initiative and its creations must be exemplary both in terms of the results obtained and their implementation. They shall bear witness to a particularly noteworthy development in ways of approaching regional development and in taking account of the natural resources, the regional assets and specificities of local landscapes. They shall reflect the innovative nature of the proposed solutions and shall have the potential to spawn new ways of envisioning regions on the basis of their landscapes. The National Landscape Award 2015 shall be presented by the Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

A special "Energy transition and green growth landscape" award may be presented by the judging panel in recognition of an exemplary project that is particularly innovative in this field.

## **THE LANDSCAPE – A MEANS OF INTERVENTION IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL**

French landscapes, whether outstanding or ordinary, are unique assets due to their diversity and quality. They may effectively contribute to the consideration of sustainable development and circular economy-related issues and to the success of energy transition through:

- measures to combat global warming;
- alternatives to urban sprawl and spatial homogenisation;
- the recognition of natural risks;
- the optimised management of space and natural resources, especially soils and water resources;
- the sustainable use of local resources for the production of renewable energy;
- the integration or maintenance of agricultural areas in the urban or peri-urban fabric, etc.

### **WHO CAN ENTER?**

The National Landscape Award is open to joint applications from:

- public contracting authorities (departments of regional authorities or consortia thereof, government agencies and their public or paraprofessional institutions situated in metropolitan

France or in French overseas territories), or from private contracting authorities (private developers, contractors, associations and unions)

- and public or private project managers, regardless of their nationality, and in which the landscape architect plays a fundamental and prominent role.

### **WHAT TYPES OF INITIATIVES ARE CONCERNED?**

Landscape initiatives at the regional level are eligible (e.g. ideas concerning a global regional strategy, landscape plans, planning approaches, etc.). Such initiatives must be reflected in physical and concrete transformations of the region and must have led to the implementation of one project or a series of projects completed at least one year before the application date.

The initiative and projects must take place in an urban, peri-urban, rural or natural area within France or a cross-border area.

### **NATIONAL AWARD OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS**

The National Landscape Award is presented by the Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy based

on the recommendations of a judging panel. To guarantee the excellence and diversity of participants, the National Award is open to French, European and international project managers and contracting authorities. The project must take place in a French or cross-border region.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The judging panel shall pay particular attention to the following criteria:

- the original, innovative and creative nature of the initiative;
- the potential to generate new uses and positively change the ways in which people perceive and relate to their landscapes and living environments;
- the consideration of peoples' aspirations;
- the pertinence of the project with regard to its continuity
- the quality of the dialogue and consultations between the contracting authority and project management, which involves:
  - the scope and precision of the order formulated by a contracting authority with a dynamic and forward-thinking perception of its region, envisaged as the host environment for a local project;
  - the pertinence of the project manager's response and the originality of the approach and landscaping ideas implemented;

- the ability to take account of the current issues relating to sustainable, socially responsible and balanced regional development and to adapt to the local context.

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

A technical committee shall perform an initial analysis of the applications, which shall then be examined by a judging panel.

## AN INTERNATIONAL JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel, chaired by the Minister or her representative, shall consist of qualified personalities, representatives of regional authorities and representatives of professional bodies.

## PROMOTION OF THE AWARD WINNERS

The award-winning project in the National Landscape Award 2015 shall be promoted in a publication and through the organisation of a dedicated event. Representatives of the award-winning team shall be asked to participate in events organised by the Ministry (debates, colloquia, workshops and working parties). The award-winning team shall be automatically entered as the French representative in the next edition of the Council of Europe Landscape Award.

## HOW DO YOU APPLY?

All of the information concerning how to apply can be found on the Ministry's website:

[www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/gpnp2015](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/gpnp2015)

Applicants must:

**A/ fill in the online information form on the Ministry's website;**

**B/ submit the following documents electronically:**

- **a presentation report on the initiative and the projects carried out** (maximum of 20 pages including illustrations; A4 format; maximum size of 200 MB), explaining the chosen solution with regard to the characteristics of the region and the site, the order and the key issues to be addressed. The report shall specify the roles of the stakeholders involved, with particular emphasis on the role of the landscape architect(s) in the project. It shall set out the landscaping choices made and shall include the information required to develop a proper understanding of the site and of the chosen solution: a

site plan and cross-sections shall show the topography and volumes; graphical representations (diagrams and block diagrams, axonometric projections, perspectives, etc.) and photographs shall make a positive contribution to highlighting the assets of the initiative and its resulting creations;

- **a scientific biography of the contracting authority\*** (maximum of 4 pages in A4 format). This biography must contain a concisely drafted statement of intent and clearly show the project management's philosophy with regard to the landscape at the time of the application, and how this relates to the contracting authority's initiative, thinking and vision;

- **a questionnaire, duly completed\*;**

- **a signed authorisation\*** comprising the transfer, free of charge, of the reproduction and exhibition rights to the French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, and an undertaking to provide, under the same conditions, any documents with their legal notices if necessary, that may be required for the production of advertising and promotional materials for the National Landscape Award.

This authorisation must be signed by one representative of the contracting authority and one representative of the project management;

**C/ send an illustration in A1 format by post:**

- **one illustration in A1 format**, in two copies, on rigid backing material, showing all of the aspects required to develop a proper understanding of the project, such as: a general site plan, illustrations of the initial situation and the project, before/after photographs with keys and locations, etc.

**Optional:** applicants may submit a video presentation of the project, lasting between two and five minutes. This must be sent electronically in one of the following formats: \*.avi, \*.mpeg4 or \*.flv.

**All documents shall be drafted in the French language.**

\*To be downloaded from the Ministry's website.

## SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The required documents must be submitted **before midnight on Monday 4 May**.

- **Electronically via the Melanissimo file transfer platform:**

<https://melanissimo.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

for the attention of [gnp@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:gnp@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

**Important :** documents sent electronically MUST be compatible with Adobe Acrobat Reader© and illustrations must be at a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

- **By post**

The two copies of one illustration in A1 format shall be sent by post with the postmark attesting to the date, to the following address:

Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie

Direction générale de l'aménagement, du logement et de la nature

Sous-direction de la qualité du cadre de vie

Bureau des paysages et de la publicité

Grand Prix national du paysage 2015

Tour Sequoïa

92055 La Défense Cedex

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit the Ministry's website at the following address [www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/gnp2015](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/gnp2015)

## CONTACTS

For any questions concerning the general organisation of the National Landscape Award, please send an e-mail to [gnp@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:gnp@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

In the event of any difficulties or technical problems concerning the transmission of documents, please send an e-mail to [assistance.gnp@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:assistance.gnp@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

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