

## 1. Projects



# Carbon rationing for work-related trips? Clarifying an idea for public policy

Ongoing research

Begin: September 2022

End: January 2024

With 45% of distances traveled, work remains the primary purpose of travel (home-to-work trips and trips made in the course of professional activity). Moreover, work-related mobility practices (company cars, air travel, etc.) strongly influence industrial choices. By addressing the issue of rationing, this research will seek to answer a twofold question: how can companies participate in the necessary reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and how can public authorities support them?

### Research participants

- Arnaud Passalacqua
- Nicolas Fourmont
- Maxime Huré
- Antoine Lévêque
- Emmanuel Munch
- Emre Korsu
- Florent Le Néchet
- Marie-Hélène Massot
- Philippe Poinot

The climate goals set in France's National Low Carbon Strategy aim to make the transport sector almost completely carbon free by 2050. The current geopolitical and environmental context is a strong reminder of the need to reduce our energy consumption. Given the magnitude of the challenge, solutions that rely on vehicle transformation and modal shift won't be sufficient. For this reason, the Mobile Lives Forum is exploring the idea of carbon rationing for travel <sup>1</sup>, as a means of enabling a fair management of demand and supporting a complete transformation of the mobility system. Employers have a key role to play in this process. Work accounts for 45% of all distances travelled <sup>2</sup> and remains

the primary reason for travel (commuting and work-related trips). Not to mention that work-related mobility practices (company vehicles, air travel, etc.) strongly guide industrial choices.

## Goals

This project will explore the idea of carbon rationing for work-related trips, by considering how planetary limits can be integrated at the scale of professional organizations and activities, on the question of mobility. This will involve, in particular, identifying the effects of a mobility rationing system on business operations (HR policy, travel organization, etc.) and on commuting (recruitment, remuneration methods...). This exploration will allow us to identify the levers and obstacles to the introduction of rationing, in view of initiating a dialogue with individuals involved in corporate mobility management and instigating public debate around the idea. Ultimately, this research will aim to recommend tools and an area of relevance for carbon rationing work-related travel.

## Methodology

This research will be based on a theoretical framework and empirical case studies. The team will mobilize qualitative methods (interviews with actors, employees, etc.) and quantitative methods (analyzing data associated with employee travel, analyzing the location of jobs in a living area, etc.). There will be three kinds of case studies: an approach by objects (company vehicles, aircraft), an approach by places (an area of activity) or an approach by structures (companies).

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## Notes

1 <https://forumviesmobiles.org/en/opinions/13840/rationing-carbon-travel-fair-efficient-and-realistic-solution>

2 <https://forumviesmobiles.org/en/project/12796/national-survey-mobility-and-lifestyles>

## Mobility

For the Mobile Lives Forum, mobility is understood as the process of how individuals travel across distances in order to deploy through time and space the activities that make up their lifestyles. These travel practices are embedded in socio-technical systems, produced by transport and communication industries and techniques, and by normative discourses on these practices, with considerable social, environmental and spatial impacts.

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### Associated Thematics :

#### Lifestyles

- Work

#### Policies

- Cars
- Ecological transition
- Cities & Territories

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