

PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, 22 January 2021



## Be Planet and Elia join forces to support sustainable development in eastern Liège Province

Following on from last June's call for projects from private individuals and associations, the Be Planet foundation and Elia today presented the 13 projects that will benefit from the community support fund in connection with the second phase of the East Loop ('Boucle de l'Est') project.

- The thirteen projects will advance the region's biodiversity and sustainable development
- The total budget for the support is 158,000 euros, divided over the five municipalities
- The funds will be provided during the second phase of the "East Loop" project and will come from Elia's Community Support Fund

Elia has been working with the Be Planet Foundation since 2017 to develop and support grass-roots ecological transition initiatives that promote the ecological transition. Be Planet's role as a public utility foundation is to ensure compliance with the fund's general objective and with the criteria for selecting grass-roots projects. Each project supported must have a positive impact on the ecological transition and must contribute to sustainable development.

### 13 winners selected

Back in June, Be Planet launched a call for projects in the eastern part of Liège Province. The various winners from the towns of Malmedy, Stavelot, Stoumont, Trois-Ponts and Spa were announced on 19 January. These projects were selected by an independent jury of six experts selected by the Be Planet foundation.

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*Thanks to our partnership with Elia, the Be Planet Foundation can support grass-roots initiatives and local associations in their projects promoting the ecological transition, a growing movement across Belgium. This long-term partnership makes it possible to implement dozens of grass-roots initiatives that can have a positive impact locally and nationally."*

**Laurence de Callatay, Partnership Manager – Be Planet**

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*Elia's partnership with Be Planet is important since they are the ones, as a public utility foundation, who have the expertise and know-how needed to best support projects promoting the ecological transition. We are delighted that this initiative means that these 13 new locally sourced projects can make a real contribution toward improving sustainable development in the region"*

**Igor Lefebvre, Environment and CSR Manager - Elia**

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**The following projects were selected for Malmédy:**

- La Grande Maison – a local socially aware and engaged incubator
- Unis Verts Paysans – Outlet for local producers and awareness-raising workshops
- Cap Terre (also in Stavelot)

**The following projects were selected for Spa:**

- Citoyens et Réfugiés des Fagnes Solidaires (CIREFASOL) – an initiative to welcome refugees
- Commission de Gestion du Parc Naturel des Sources – Wood chip composting toilet as an alternative to chemical toilets
- Le Comité de Quartier du Waux-Hall – intergenerational orchard and vegetable garden

**The following projects were selected for Stavelot:**

- Cap Terre – neighbourhood convenience store
- Viens! – agroecological micro farm and orchard
- Les Amis du Domaine de Burnenville – development of organic market gardening projects
- Les Potagers des Petites Communes – community permaculture vegetable garden

**The following projects were selected for Stoumont:**

- Chez Monique - mobile sustainable eatery
- Le Chemin de la Résilience – independent media and web documentary on local ecological transition

**The following projects were selected for Trois-Ponts:**

- Kaléo - green discovery garden at the château, a natural educational space
- Centre Culturel de Stavelot - Trois Ponts – views of the countryside, activities involving the local way of life, the Ardenne forest and local tourism

A total of €158,000 divided among the five municipalities (in proportion to the number of kilometres the East Loop project crosses on their territory) will be allocated to the development of projects promoting the ecological transition and sustainable development.

**EcoFirst helps municipal authorities improve landscape quality and biodiversity**

In parallel with these projects driven by grass-roots initiatives and local associations, the EcoFirst cooperative is supporting the five municipalities by helping them to deploy projects that aim to improve local landscape quality and biodiversity. This kind of collaboration ensures that the funds specifically allocated by Elia to the municipalities are efficiently and effectively managed.

For more details about the projects, you can find the press kit and photos at the following link: [https://we.tl/t-](https://we.tl/t-VPkwpq84BE)

[VPkwpq84BE](https://we.tl/t-VPkwpq84BE)



## About Elia

### One of Europe's top five players

Elia is Belgium's high-voltage transmission system operator (30 kV to 380 kV), tasked with transmitting electricity and ensuring that generation and consumption are balanced at all times. We supply power to the whole of Belgium and manage 8,495 km of high-voltage connections (overhead lines and underground cables). Through its activities in both Belgium (Elia Belgium) and Germany (50Hertz), our group ranks among Europe's top five system operators. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

### We make the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. The Elia Group is also innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid. In this way, the Elia Group is making the energy transition happen.

### In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We are constantly adapting our transmission grid to the rapidly changing energy mix, incorporating ever more renewable energy. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget and guarantee maximum safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties from the outset. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to help build the energy system of the future.

### International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that is building the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and Great Britain. The Elia Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

For more information, visit [elia.be](https://www.elia.be)

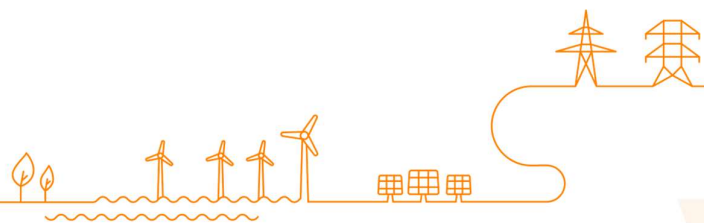
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## About Be Planet

Be Planet is a Belgian public utility foundation created on the initiative of multiple environmental federations and public figures. Be Planet is a response to the need to support grass-roots initiatives and associations in a variety of areas relating to the ecological transition and the fight against global warming, including food, energy, mobility and biodiversity.

One of the original aspects of Be Planet is that it builds bridges between all players active in the ecological transition – residents, businesses and public authorities – by involving them in the dynamic grass-roots process. Since its creation in 2015, the Be Planet Foundation has provided support for 103 grass-roots projects totalling €780,000 via 15 partnerships with various companies (Elia, Van Marcke, Vitra, IBA, etc.) and municipal authorities (Antwerp, Ixelles, Turnhout, Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve, Andenne, Namur, etc.).

**For more information:** [www.beplanet.be](http://www.beplanet.be)

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