

SOIL & PEOPLE

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Carbon neutrality by 2050, respecting the Paris Agreement and ultimately preserving the world's living conditions represents a seemingly insurmountable challenge to the vast majority of decision makers and the general public.

Fueled by quantifications, technicalities, and biased opinions, the abstraction of the goal ultimately acts as an obstacle to progress. The standalone local initiatives on the other hand have been limited in expanding the reach of their influence due to a lack of a clear direction.

To overcome such abstractions, and in order not to add to them by overshadowing the territory with another conceptual master-design, our team will focus on two aspects which we believe are the essential components for- and of- the transition: Soil and People.

We take *soil* as our starting point. Soil is inherently a resource that our food, industries, and cities depend on. It also acts as a space for negotiation between interests and opportunities, policies and initiatives embedded in a geographical territory. Soil forms the common ground among the various actors of society and environment. It nurtures its inhabitants, and it is cared for by them. Generally speaking, as accelerated climate change finds its main cause in carbon extraction out of our soils, one of the key solutions for the climate problem is to reactivate the storing capacities of these soils.

Throughout history and generations to come, soil is the constant component of Luxembourg's socio-political development. It is host to our farming, mining and real-estate and it forms the groundwork of our future carbon-neutral society.

Interconnecting existing local initiatives forms the second layer of our approach. Using soil as a medium, we will closely follow the *people*, the citizens who have been instrumental in driving change in their local communities. These initiatives would be mainly revolving around maximizing the organic carbon content of the soil. They would do so by maximizing the uptake and fixation of carbon and simultaneously minimizing the emission by less invasive and more circular production methods. By proposing processes and common goals that connect and build coalitions among these initiatives and actors we intend to overcome the democratic deficit, reveal opportunities for action and empower collectives in their existing strategies.

By facilitating a transborder, multiscale conversation among neighborhoods and nations we intend to embolden local actions that have global impacts. Adopting Soil & People as the principal focus would help steer a holistic, evidence-based transition. The scale and compactness of Luxembourg's functional region would make this ambitious shared vision a tangible goal.

The core team consists of 2001 (lu, architecture), 51N4E (be, urban transformation), and LOLA (nl, landscape & environment). They are joined by a cluster of experts and specialists listed below:

- Systematica (it, mobility)
- Transsolar (de, environmental sciences)
- ETHZurich (ch, urban transformation)
- Endeavour (be, socio-spatial research)
- TUKaiserslautern (de, transborder cooperation)
- OfficeForCities (uk/fr economy of the city)
- JanGlas/GregorWaltersdorfer (lu, concertation & wellbeing factor)
- MaximeDelvaux (be, photography)