

Press release

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Inauguration of the methanization unit at the Verdié wastewater treatment plant: the Saur group and Grand Montauban accelerate the region's energy transition

On Thursday, September 18th 2025, Grand Montauban and the Saur group, with its entities Saur France and Stereau, will inaugurate the methanization unit at the Verdié wastewater treatment plant. This commissioning marks the culmination of an ambitious project driven by a shared desire to accelerate the region's ecological transition, against a backdrop of water scarcity and climate emergency.



A structuring project for the region's water and energy transition

Designed and built by Stereau, then operated by Saur France, the methanization unit now recycles sludge from wastewater treatment by producing biomethane that is injected into the GRDF gas network at a rate of 5 GWh/year, **equivalent to the consumption of 1,200 households**. The site now has a treatment capacity of 103,500 population equivalents, in line with the demographic dynamics of the region.

At the same time, the treated water reuse system (REUT) saves up to **100,000 m³ of drinking water per year**, which is reinjected locally for irrigation of the golf course and racecourse. This is a concrete response to growing pressure on water resources.

Designed as a **showcase for environmental transition**, the site features an educational trail and a digital monitoring tool. This initiative aims to raise awareness among the general public, schoolchildren, and local stakeholders about the preciousness of water and the importance of eco-friendly practices throughout the year.



Collective action for a sustainable future

This €15 million project was made possible thanks to the support of Grand Montauban and the Adour-Garonne Water Agency. It illustrates the long-term commitment of the urban community, a CAP'CITERGIE-certified local authority, to the objectives of its Territorial Climate-Air-Energy-Water Plan (PCAET), which aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The collaboration between Grand Montauban and the Saur group is part of a long-standing partnership. In 2012, the dedicated company GEM (Gestion de l'Environnement de Montauban) was created to support the Montauban contract. Then, in 2021, with the transfer of water and sanitation responsibilities to the Grand Montauban Urban Community (GMCA), a new milestone was reached with the creation of the O'dalba service brand, dedicated to the management of collective and non-collective sanitation and stormwater. This development reflects a shared desire to ensure continuity of service while strengthening local roots and environmental innovation.

The unit was inaugurated on Thursday, September 18, in the presence of **Patrick Blethon**, Executive Chairman of the Saur group, and **Marie-Claude Berly**, President of Grand Montauban, with the support of **Brigitte Barèges**, Mayor of Montauban and President of Grand Montauban until August 2024, and municipal councilor.

Patrick Blethon, Executive Chairman of the Saur group, said: *"The Montauban anaerobic digestion plant embodies our commitment to working with local authorities to develop practical, sustainable solutions to water and energy challenges. We are proud to be supporting Grand Montauban in this exemplary ecological transformation."*

Marie-Claude Berly, President of Grand Montauban, states: *"This methanization unit is part of our commitment to addressing the challenge of water resources while continuing to build the future of our region. It demonstrates our commitment to accelerating the ecological transition of Grand Montauban."*

About Saur:

In 2024, Saur became the first water company to issue blue bonds, combining environmental responsibility with financial innovation to drive sustainable transformation in water management.

Operating in over 25 countries, the Group serves 20 million consumers and partners with 9,200 local authorities and industrial clients. It delivers high-quality services in drinking water distribution, wastewater treatment, and smart water management—supporting small towns and major cities alike.

Guided by its purpose — "advocating to restore water to its true value" — Saur is a committed player in the ecological transition. In 2024, the Group generated over €2.3 billion in revenue and employed 12,000 people worldwide, with operations in Cyprus, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

www.saur.com



About Grand Montauban:

Located in the heart of southwestern France, Grand Montauban is a region where economic development, quality of life, environment, housing, and leisure activities come together in perfect harmony. It is home to nearly 90,000 residents across 12 municipalities: Montauban, Albefeuille-Lagarde, Bressols, Corbarieu, Escatalens, Lacourt-Saint-Pierre, Lamothe-Capdeville, Léojac, Montbeton, Reyniès, Saint-Nauphary, and Villemade. The urban community has a long-standing commitment to a policy that aims to build a region that is livable, sustainable, and resilient: a sustainable region.

Through its Territorial Climate-Air-Energy-Water Plan, Grand Montauban is investing in green energy, virtuous waste management, and water resource conservation. With so many concrete and coordinated actions to mitigate climate change and adapt the region to its challenges, in a context of demographic growth.

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