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Thematic Seminar for Exchange of Experiences

Albertville city - Resilient schoolyards

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Background description



- Alpin environment
- 20,000 inh.
- 90 municipal buildings (13 schools, 1 central kitchen, several gymnasiums)



Problem addressed

A large part of the community's heritage is made up of schools. Their courtyards, which have been concreted over for many years, are hot spots. They also need to be modernized.

Implementation of the good practice

Developing the solution: Objectives, Targets, Expectations

*The municipality decided a multi-year action plan for the **renaturation** of these schoolyards, to turn them into **islands of coolness**, in line with **sustainable management of green spaces** **new management of water** (drainage valley, rainwater recovery, use for watering), use of already available **recycled materials** in public works.*

***Sustainable modernization** : also includes redevelopment of children's play areas, creation of educational vegetable gardens, new furniture adapted to new outdoor activities, and pedagogical boards.*

*It is partially supported by **national subsidies**.*

Implementation of the good practice

Timescale

Key milestones :

- 1 year before : discussion with Ministry of education*
- dec-jan : definitive school choice*
- jan-may : definitive project and public purchase*
- july - aug : works*

Significant issues which delayed the implementation :

- lack of strongest relationship between the ministry of education and the city*
- municipal budget adoption procedure (4 – 6 months)*

Implementation of the good practice

Human Resources needed



*In-house conception,
after discussion with the teachers.*

*The work is mainly **carried out by different municipal departments** in charge of maintaining public property (green spaces, buildings, roads, metal works), which reinforces the team's cohesion.*

*The staff are very **happy** to be carrying out these projects for the children and their families,
And **proud** to be innovative for the carbon transition project.*

*A nature schoolyard is **much more maintenance work** (watering, plant pruning, land subsidence,...).*

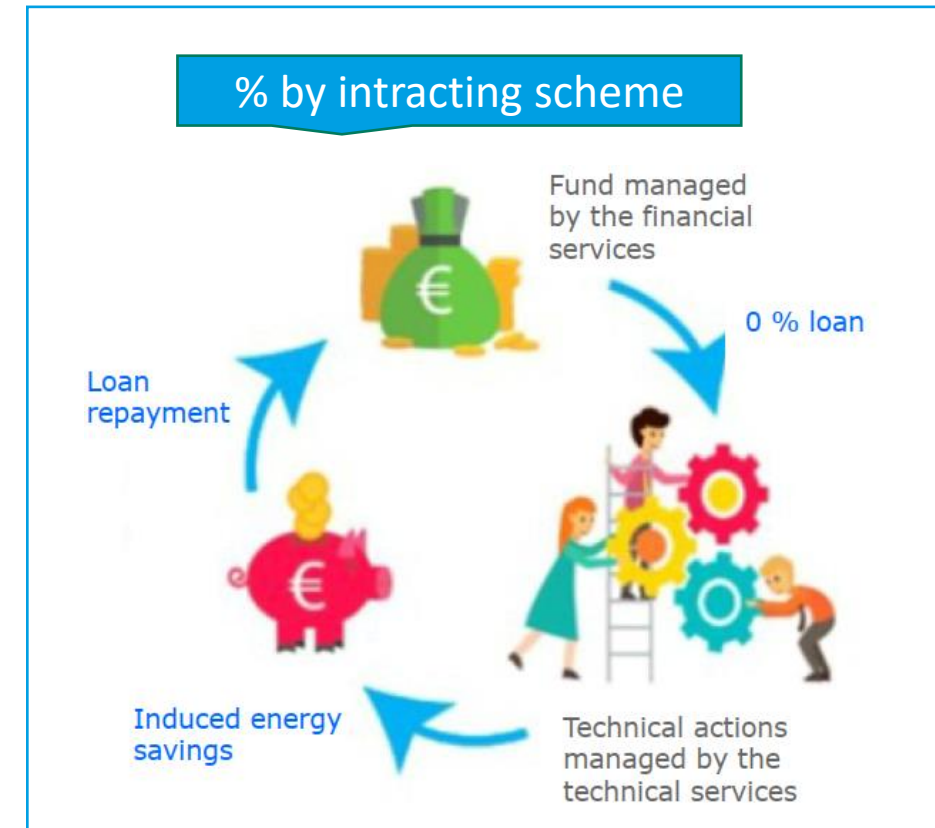
Implementation of the good practice

Financial Resources needed - Budget

Schoolyards project 2020-2026 :
100 000 € / year

Schoolyard project 2024 :
1 school with 3 schoolyards – 52 000 € subsidies

DESIGNATION	MONTANT HT			TOTAL exc VAT
	Enterprises	In-house work		
		Materials purchase	Human ress and vehicles	
Network disconnection (3 schoolyards and roof)	87 500 €			87 500 €
Trees, shrubs, plants for the 3 shoolyards		4 400 €	1 777 €	6 177 €
Compost bin yard 1		100 €	95 €	195 €
Insect hotel		292 €	250 €	542 €
Végétable garden construction yard 1		1 417 €	800 €	2 217 €
Wood fence and gate yard 2		417 €	400 €	817 €
Playground layout on sport field yard 2	2 917 €			2 917 €
Bike shelter under the courtyard – yard 2		667 €	1 000 €	1 667 €
2 wooden walways - yard 3 (includind recycled materials)		1 250 €	1 500 €	2 750 €
2 book boxes - yard 2 and 3		208 €	390 €	598 €
garbage can shelter at a distance from the school (to make it safer)		167 €	250 €	417 €
Removal of gas connection – yard 3	3 167 €			3 167 €
Paint and lighting – yard 2		2 167 €	2 110 €	4 277 €
Furniture and games for children – yard 3		4 733 €	1 150 €	5 883 €
Various materials for landscaping (Japanese steps, valleys, etc.)		642 €	950 €	1 592 €
Explanatory boards on the development project - 3 yards		694 €	500 €	1 194 €
TOTAL	93 584 €	17 154 €	11 172 €	121 910 €

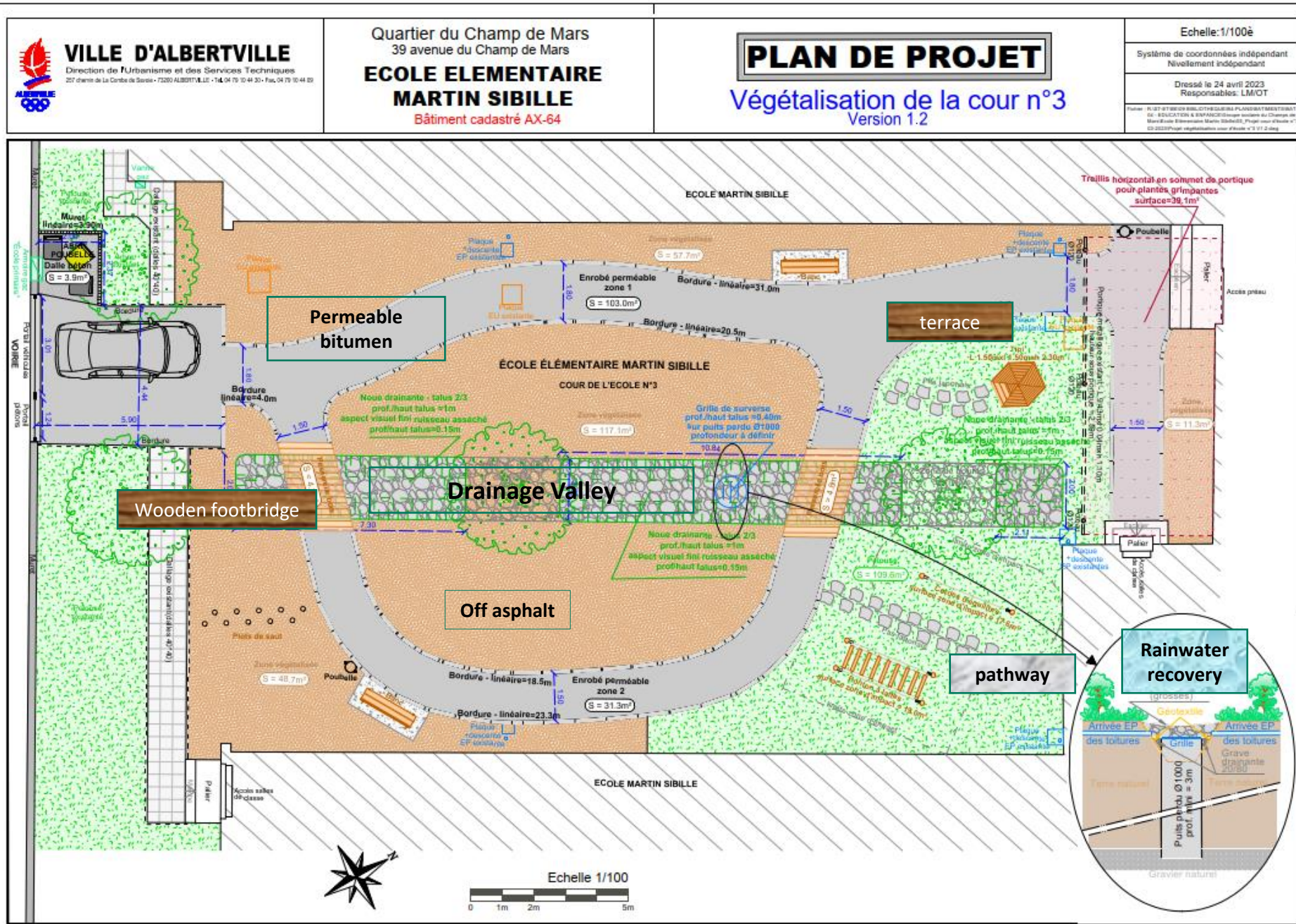


Implementation



of the good practice

Implementation



of the good practice

Implementation



of the good practice

Implementation



of the good practice

Evidences of success

Results achieved

The most spectacular is the renaturation of the schoolyards and its modernization, with new game areas, more tools for outdoor activities.

Schoolyards as islands of freshness.

The dedicated “carbon” actions :

-less asphalt, much more vegetation

-some edible plants, permanent and reproducible seeds, selection of local seeds

-rainwater recovery and use for watering

-use of recycled materials or at least not transformed materials for fittings (wood, stones, courtyard replaced in another schoolyard...).

The social impacts :

-more relax atmosphere at school, opened on outdoor environment

-calmer and more attentive students in class

-new team cohesion thanks to this cross-sectoral and innovative project, in-house conceived

Lessons learnt

Challenges – the past

A long time approach

Sensitive agenda in connection with the scholar one to avoid nuisances caused by works
Tensions on human resources in terms of **availability** during summer

Choice of plants for optimum durability and compatibility with children, local seeds more expensive but more adapted

Time for work in summer but we have to **wait till autumn for planting**

Kitchen gardens progressively abandoned – not fit in with the school timetable for production – Replaced by fruit trees and shrubs

Challenges – the future

We should have a **greater involvement of children** in design projects and choice of play equipments, but all the users are satisfied till now

The users still **see the need for work on the school building** itself

Use of recovery rainwater is forbidden for school toilets by now

Lessons learnt

Back to the future in Albertville schoolyards

1881-1882 – Jules Ferry's laws : « **garden for use of children** » are required in each school, especially for boys ones.

*They allow natural sciences teaching with practical education (crops, vines and fruit trees).
Perceived as fostering attachment to one's terroir.*

19th century – 1945 : large gardens and playgrounds in each schools. Gardening is part of mathematical, historical, geographical and scientific learning. The pupils learned the basis of horticulture, plant cultivation, soil management, garden maintenance. 1h exam on this. Clearing and 1st installation under the city's responsibility, maintenance by pupils under the responsibility of the teachers.

50% of the produce for the teachers, 50% for the school fund.

Lessons learnt

1950 : start to asphaltting of the schoolyards, especially in the new schools : a sign of modernity and cleanliness, with less maintenance work.

But trees remain (esp. lime and plane trees : fast growing, tolerate poor soil), especially in the nursery schoolyards, to regulate sunlight and temperature

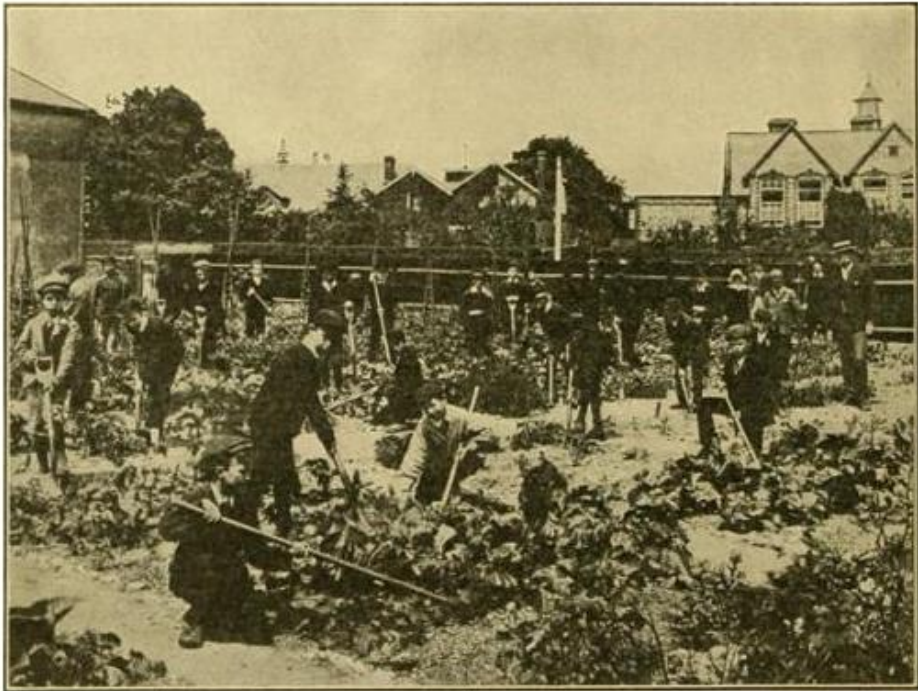
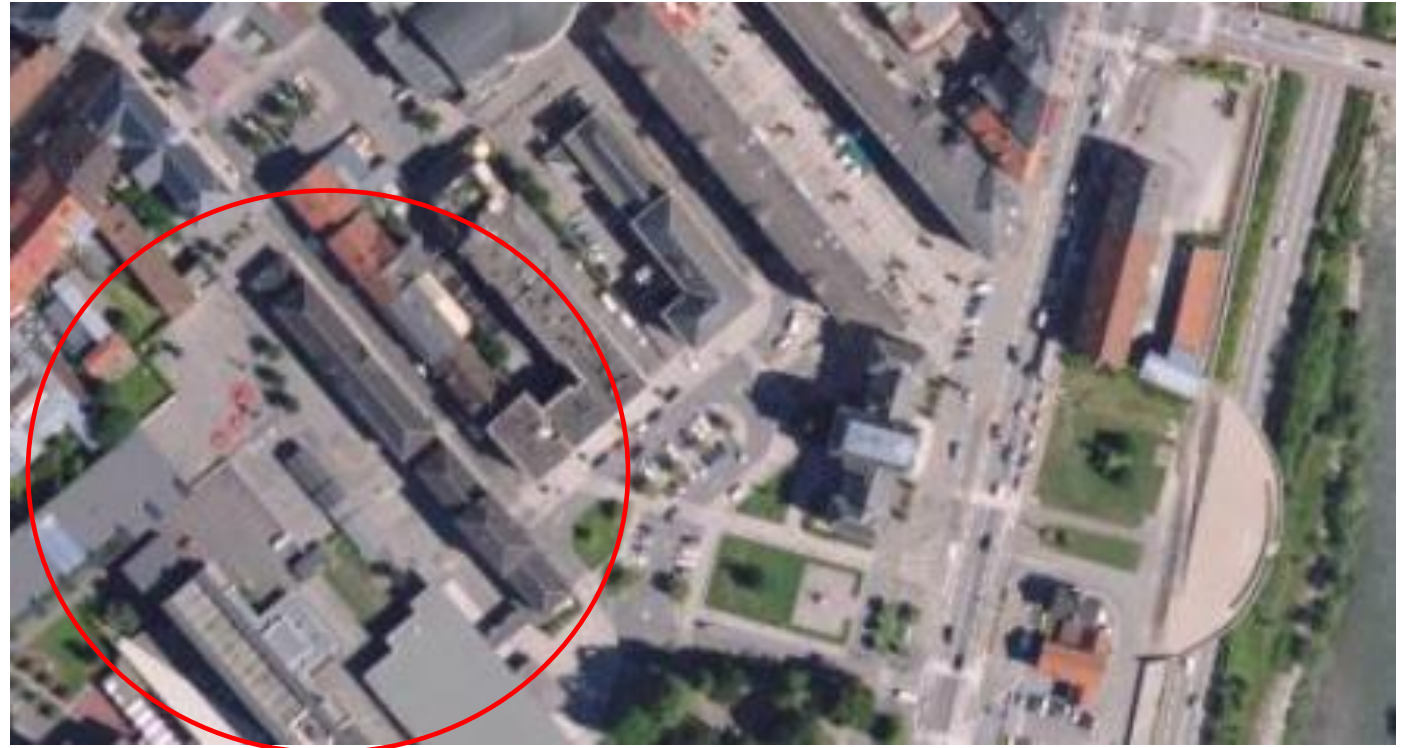


Illustration 1 : Elèves jardinant dans une école rurale en Angleterre, dans le Surrey, v. 1909 (auteure : Susan Bender Sipe, Library of Congress, Wikicommons).



Sources : EHNE.fr, Remonterletemps.ign.fr

**Time for
questions**

