


Setting up a Local Community



https://wiki.lowtechlab.org/wiki/Monter_une_Communit%C3%A9_Locale/en-gb

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 Difficulté **Moyen**

 Durée **6 mois**

 Coût **0 EUR (€)**

Description

A methodological step by step tutorial guide to show local communities how to spread the philosophy and the know-hows of low-tech in your region

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Étape 1 - Role world-wide

"The islands of a growing archipelago"

Establishing a link between territories, as close as possible to needs is the be-all and end-all of the low-tech approach.

Digital distribution channels help to raise awareness and to get to know this approach, however then you have the people who put it into practice.

Local communities made up of beginners, experienced and/or expert citizens play this leading role in local dissemination, collaborating with the actors in their territory.

They are equally interlinked with each-other in order to share and exchange resources, ideas, discoveries and sound practices.

"Map from this post- available in HD"

<https://lowtechlab.org/fr/actualites-blog/l-archipel-low-tech-en-france-illustre>



Étape 2 - What to expect from a local community?

"From doing, in a dense and resilient local network"

Workshops to experiment with low-tech on oneself, to help citizens become more self-sufficient and to bring out their DIY side!

A detailed knowledge of the players in its territory, the sources of reuse resources, the craft skills of its region, etc.

Strong links with public, academic and entrepreneurial structures in order to spread the low-tech approach to various levels and to help transform these players.

If you are motivated, love to communicate, meet people, and talk about low-tech, then this is a very good start!

"Photo: Low-tech Tour of Grenoble 2019- Sunflower Farm"



Étape 3 - Discover more about low-techs

"The basics of an evolving concept"

If you are here, then you probably already have a decent amount of information on the topic.

When setting up a local community, you will be lead to answer many questions on your project and low-techs. It is always a good idea to get information beforehand in order to fully understand the issues at stake and to put your vision and ideas on paper in order to share them more easily.

If you haven't done it yet, we invite you to consult our website to discover projects driven by the Low-tech lab, other existing structures, additional references if you wish to go further as well as definitions other than ours!

- www.lowtechlab.org
- MOOC du Low-tech Lab (Cours en ligne - 3h)
- Note de la Fabrique écologique, 2019
- A "Tech" Error, Gauthier Roussilhe, 2020
- The Age of Low-Techs, Philippe Bihouix, 2014

Utile. Accessible. Durable.

Étape 4 - Explore your surroundings

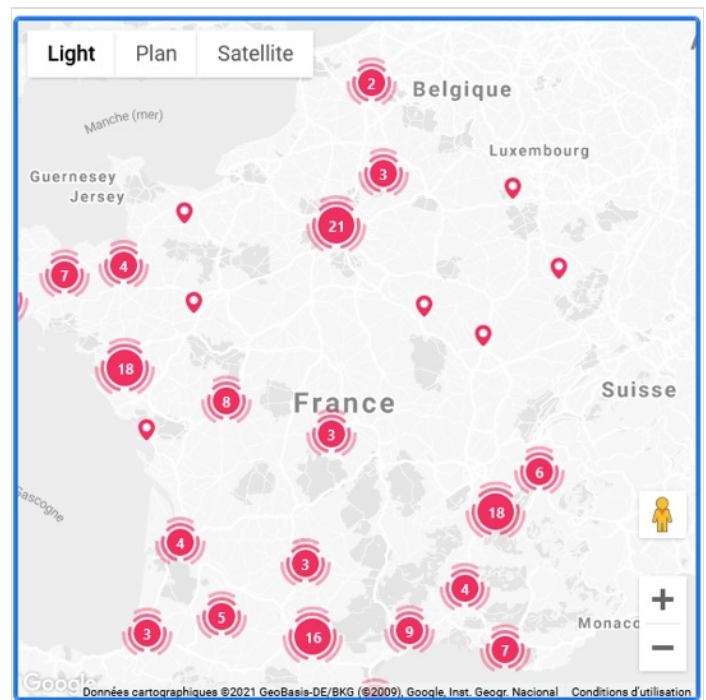
"Hello, is there anyone here?"

Some convinced people may have already started to work together to spread the low-tech approach in your region. How can you find them?

Our directory can help you search for what is existing near you. If not, there may be a Facebook group like "Low-tech Gironde" or even "Low-tech Lab Grenoble" with the name of your locality. If it doesn't exist, don't hesitate to create it!

- Directory of low-tech Actors
- Low-tech Lab France Facebook Group

Beyond social networks, talk about it to your friends, colleagues and other associations, the grain of low-tech may already be present in other people.



Étape 5 - Make yourself known!

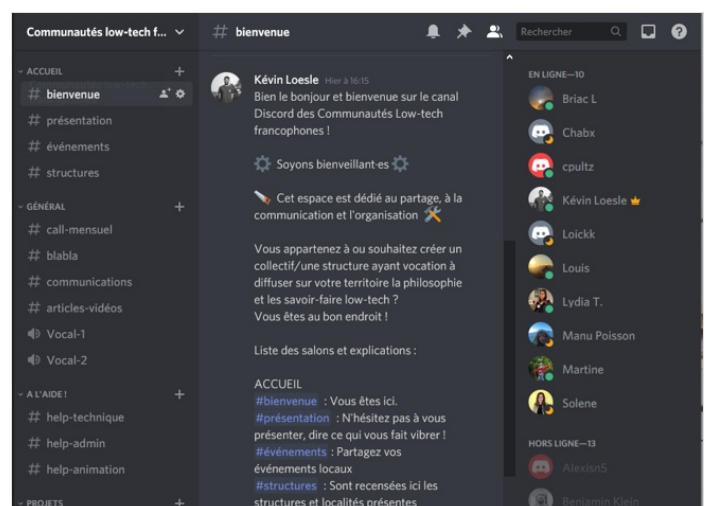
Hey I'm here!

We are currently working with the platform Discord to host local communities and the network of shared common grounds!

Come take a look, introduce yourself, and tell us that you are setting up a project!

- Access link for French-speaking Discord

There you will find an FAQ and specific channels to ask for help for technical or administrative questions for example.



Étape 6 - Reach out to existing communities

The humans behind the screens

This is once again the basis of the approach, to create links, to meet people who are active in this field, and to have a good time with nice people!

There are already existing communities, get in contact with one of them, find out if you can meet them, allow them to share their experience with you!

Then when your structure is setup, other people will be happy to benefit from your own feedback.

Photo : Low-tech Tour Grenoble Takeoff -



Étape 7 - Organise your first meeting

"Champagne time ! "

Once you have gathered a team using whatever platform (Facebook group, Whatsapp, Framateam, Discord, local newspaper adverts...), it's time to meet! Over a beer in a bar, in a park, a meeting room, at your local association's house, any place will work. And don't forget to celebrate this first meeting, it is the beginning of a great adventure.

Throughout this event and the following ones (meetings, workshops, stands...), don't hesitate to take pictures! This can always be come in handy when promoting projects and communicating on your activities. Be careful, however, make sure to gain permission and rights in order to use images with identifiable people present.

Photo : The Inauguration of the local Low-tech Lab of Grenoble, 2020"



Étape 8 - Your first workshop

"Heads up!"

Many people are joining the low-tech movement to make use of their hands (maybe this is your case!). Many workshops can be easily carried out with only a few materials, tools, and quick results! These few guides can help you to organise one, but if you have other ideas, don't hesitate to share them!

For all your workshops open to the public, we advise you to add them to the agenda.

You will find under the tutorials section this list "exhibition sheets" in the "File" tab next to the "Tools and Materials" paragraph.

Photo : Stoves workshop / rocket stove, Low-tech Lab Grenoble



Étape 9 - What kind of structure?

It's not about the name

If you are starting from scratch, we obviously encourage you to build an association with your collective, this is the easiest way for the basic formalities: looking for a space, collecting memberships, buying material/tools...

We provide a graphic charter to build the Low-tech Lab Local identity that correlates with your region, as well as support for administrative issues.

If you already have an association/identity/name or you want to create one using another name, and you also have the objectives of promoting and spreading the word about low-tech, no problem!

There are already a couple that are part of our network.

- Charte Graphique of communities
- Discord Channel #help_admin



Étape 10 - The Low-tech Lab charter

'''Bringing together energies

We suggest that new and existing communities wishing to join the network download and send back signed to us (at community@lowtechlab.org) the Low-tech Lab Charter, which highlights our values, and our principles of behaviour. It can be found in the "Files" tab at the top of the tutorial.



LA CHARTE DU LOW-TECH LAB

L'association du Low-tech Lab s'adresse à tous.e.s les citoyen.ne.s ou organisations souhaitant rejoindre la révolution low-tech !

Vous adhérez à cette Charte :

- soit en tant que Projet du Low-tech Lab,
- soit en rejoignant la Communauté (communauté Low-tech Lab locale, Low-tech Explorer, etc.),
- soit en devenant notre Partenaire (opérationnel, technique, financier, etc.).

Cette Charte vise à clarifier et unifier notre engagement commun. Elle assure un fonctionnement cohérent et fidèle aux valeurs du Low-tech Lab et contribue à homogénéiser nos actions et discours. En signant cette Charte, vous vous engagez à partager la vision du Low-tech Lab, à contribuer à sa mission et à respecter ses principes d'action.

► **Vision**

Le Low-tech Lab croit au pouvoir de l'innovation utile, accessible et durable pour répondre aux enjeux d'aujourd'hui et de demain :

- les low-technologies offrent à tous et partout, les moyens de répondre à ses besoins dans le respect des Humains et de la Planète !

La démarche low-tech est déterminante pour l'avenir, pour gagner en **résilience** et développer un nouveau rapport au progrès technique.

Ainsi, l'exploration de ces questions est essentielle pour le Low-tech Lab :

Comment donner l'envie et les moyens au **plus grand nombre** d'un mode de vie sobre, en harmonie avec l'environnement ?

Comment consommer, produire et créer de manière **simple et responsable** ?

Comment faire des choix technologiques adaptés et appropriés qui contribuent à un monde où chacun peut être **acteur** ?

Comment faciliter et contribuer concrètement au changement, à la transition sociétale et à un progrès orienté à l'échelle des individus et des communautés ?

► **Mission**

Le Low-tech Lab s'est donné pour mission de partager les solutions et l'esprit low-tech avec le plus grand nombre, afin de permettre à chacun de répondre à ses besoins de base de manière autonome et durable.

Pour cela, le Low-tech Lab mène des projets d'**expérimentation** et d'**inspiration** : ces expériences concrètes éprouvent et démontrent la pertinence de ces **solutions** technologiques dans divers contextes et domaines.

Ces retours d'expérience et témoignages sensibilisent en montrant que des **alternatives** et un **mieux-vivre** existent.

Le Low-tech Lab rassemble et accompagne des initiatives en capitalisant et en agrégeant leurs savoirs et savoir-faire et en facilitant la **transmission** et le passage à l'action.

Les Communautés Low-tech Lab locales contribuent dans le monde entier à la diffusion de ces solutions et de cet esprit low-tech à l'échelle des territoires et de manière adaptée aux **spécificités locales**.

Les Low-tech Explorers partent à la rencontre de pionniers et à la **découverte** de leurs solutions low-tech, pour les dénicher, les référencer et les documenter de manière open-source.

► **Principes d'action**

- CC** le **partage open-source** : Parce que l'intelligence commune doit revenir au commun, parce que chacun doit pouvoir accéder à ces solutions et parce qu'il est nécessaire et urgent d'encourager l'innovation incrémentale, le fruit des actions est partagé de manière libre sous des licences Creative Commons.
- la subsidiarité et adaptation au contexte local** : Pour être adaptées et appropriées, les actions doivent être portées au plus proche des problématiques concrètes, et des besoins des communautés et acteurs du territoire.
- la cohérence** : Parce que nos valeurs humanistes de simplicité, de partage, d'équité et d'écologie doivent être intégrées, incarnées et réelles, la cohérence est essentielle entre le Pourquoi et le Comment, entre le Discours et l'Action.
- la collaboration** : Pour encourager l'échange de compétences et d'expériences, pour catalyser les engagements d'acteurs et citoyens d'horizons divers, pour impulser une synergie autour des low-tech, le Low-tech Lab travaille de manière apaisante et laïque, ouverte et collaborative.
- une alternative positive** : Parce qu'il est préférable de changer par envie avec le sourire plutôt que par peur, le Low-tech Lab a choisi de mettre en avant les solutions constructives plutôt que les problèmes !

"LA PERFECTION EST ATTEINTE NON PAS LORSQU'IL N'Y A PLUS RIEN À AJOUTER, MAIS LORSQU'IL N'Y A PLUS RIEN À ENLEVER." A. DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

► Nom du signataire Nom de l'organisation et qualité du signataire (si applicable) Date Signature

Étape 11 - What's next?

More champagne...?

We're sure that you'll soon be flooded with ideas from your members in your community and with requests from people who will hear all about you!

Many different actions are relevant , from raising awareness through stands at events, conferences, workshops, setting up projects with local partners, creating informative lessons to tutorials in order to feed the platform starting from low-tech tested at home or discovered in your region...

In any case, don't forget to continue to enjoy yourself and organise meetings and festive events with your community, this is what builds the strongest teams and the most beautiful friendships!

Photo : Stoves workshop / rocket stove, Low-tech Lab Grenoble



Étape 12 - Joining the global community

The more the merrier...

If you haven't already done so, it's time to come and talk to others about your community, to share your successes, your failures, your technical, administrative and economic questions... Others have perhaps already experienced or are experiencing the same thing, and would be delighted to work with you through these issues!

=> Register your structure and the one that you discover in your region at l'annuaire.

=> Register your events at l'agenda.

=> Participate in monthly calls (follow the announcements on a Discord channel linked)

Photo : Weekend Communities Low-tech Lab 2019 - Grenoble



Étape 13 - Stay patient

'Like a good wine'

Building a community isn't just a weekend activity. But it is well worth the effort, gain personal experiences, make new friends, step by step, ask for help, and celebrate your successes!

These documents show the erection and evolution of several structures over the years. They are examples among many others, but can give you an idea of how just long the different important milestones in the lifetime of these associations have taken!

#Organiser une Journée Vision

#MakingOf_Low-tech_Lab_Grenoble

#MakingOf_Low-tech_Bordeaux

#MakingOf_Low-tech_Lab_BBGP (under construction)



Notes et références

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