

When It Rains, He Pours... Solutions!

Cédric FONTAINE truly lives up to his name and to his ambition.

This becomes clear the moment you visit his website www.fontaine-ingenierie.fr, where his motto proudly states: “Making people happy when it rains.” To pull off such a feat, he boldly sums up his mission on his LinkedIn banner: “Turning rainwater into a resource.” But before you can make use of it, rainwater has to be captured, managed, and then re-injected into a household system or a shared building network.

Cédric FONTAINE shared his vision in a one-hour interview with our President, Thierry GESSET-PARMENT. As a roofer and zinc specialist, Thierry knows better than anyone that rainwater usually ends its journey in the sewers—sliding down roof tiles, through gutters, and into drainpipes. The challenge, as Cédric explains, is to break that cycle and keep rainwater from being wasted. Surprisingly, he doesn’t see himself as a revolutionary. Instead, he works alongside building trades—roofers, plumbers, masons—to integrate rainwater harvesting into construction projects, right down to installing underground tanks.



Puncturing the old belief that France could “never run out of water,”

Cédric recalls how, in 2017, the city of La Roche-sur-Yon came within just four hours of running completely dry. Add to that the 2022 heatwave, with fears of Paris baking at 50°C, and the paradox he witnessed in Guadeloupe—where it rains three times a day, yet flushing a toilet can mean waiting 24 hours—and the urgency becomes clear. Inspired by this reality, he positions himself both “upstream and downstream” of the water cycle, orchestrating solutions much like Mickey in Disney’s Fantasia.

Still, there’s nothing fanciful about his work. At the head of his engineering firm, Cédric stresses the importance of careful planning before breaking ground, especially as more commercial buildings are now designed to integrate rainwater harvesting from the outset. His collaborative method is supported by “the iceberg,” as he nicknames his open-access calculation software.



On the residential side, he highlights **QUALIPLUIE**, **ATEP**, and **CNATP**. Beyond labels and associations, he emphasizes the growing demand for rainwater recovery across France. Unlike renewable energy, the payback here isn't financial but existential: the guarantee of never running out of water. With the support of local subsidies and training programs, Cédric is building a nationwide network of trained professionals certified under the QUALIPLUIE label—already promoted by CAPEB Grand Paris. For homeowners, it's a stamp of trust that can cut water use by up to 50% while helping the planet.

On www.qualipluie.fr, visitors can explore ten illustrated solutions for parcel-level rainwater management. The challenge goes beyond urban density: non-collective sanitation, water treatment, and even greywater reuse all come into play. Bamboo filtration systems, showcased in CAPEB Grand Paris's OASIS project video, highlight how natural solutions can be integrated into construction. Narrated by Carole LABAUDINIERE and filmed by Ronald DAIZO, this European initiative—linking Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, and France—illustrates the kind of environmental symbiosis we now need to build, with water as a central element.