

SmartGreen

News from the environment

Post

POST-PANDEMIC: IS THE 'GREEN' ERA BEGINNING?

NEWS

Climate fiction: a new literary genre to describe climate change

SCIENCE

SilvaCuore: the App that takes our forests to heart

GREEN TECH

Electric mobility: the die is cast, but opinions remain divided

SmartGreen

News about the environment **Post**

SmartGreen Post is a blog on the green world, from climate change to separate waste collection. You will always be updated on news from Italy and the world, on the environment, green economy and new technologies. In addition, you can find our tips for a more eco-friendly and healthy lifestyle, as well as a section dedicated to sustainable tourism.

SmartGreen Post is part of a larger Green project that includes SmartRicicla, the separate collection app available in Italy, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Canada and the United States of America. You can download the app directly on the Play Store. For more information visit the website www.smartricicla.com

SmartGreen Post wants to be a small contribution to the protection of our planet, because to prevent catastrophe it is necessary to know and then act, each in his own small way, with simple but highly effective gestures.





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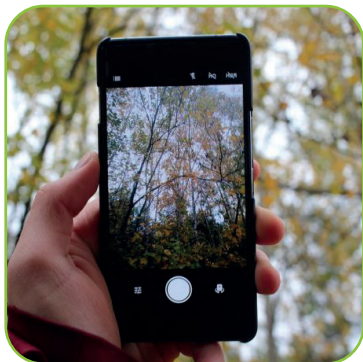
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Post-pandemic: is the 'green' era beginning?

After the summer break, the ninth issue of SmartGreen Post's magazine is finally out. It is dedicated to the ecological socio-cultural transition as the driving force behind post-pandemic recovery and environmental transition. We need to stir the consciences of individuals to create a collective "green" conscience. How can this be done? With the necessary and indispensable support of literature, film, music and art.

Marisa Silvestri

We are now – hopefully – out of the emergency phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and have begun what I would dare to call a new 'era', that of the 'green' socio-cultural revolution. All great events in the history of mankind inevitably cause changes in society: can we perhaps look at the post-pandemic as the beginning of a new cultural era? A 'green' cultural era?

The pandemic changed the geo-political and economic scenarios of the entire planet with unimaginable speed. In a phase of absolute emergency, the words 'urgency' and 'intervention' were the most frequently used. For this reason, Italy will receive about 209 billion Euros from the Recovery Fund, the largest share among the member countries as the first beneficiary of the resources foreseen for the entire Next Generation EU Fund. 37% of the resources allocated to Italy are to be attributed to green, making use of a more transversal concept of sustainability. The main actions of the EU Recovery Fund have the environment as their common denominator: a green revolution that will have to impact above all on the concepts of innovation and maximum exploitation of renewable energy.

Just a few hours ago, the G20 summit in Rome reached an agreement on climate change: the ceiling for global warming has been set at 1.5 degrees and there is a commitment to zero emissions by the middle of this century. Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi commented: "We win or we fail together. As G20 we have the responsibility to show leadership and lead the world towards a more sustainable future".

Translator and interpreter (IT, EN, DE, FR, ES), professor of German language at the University of Basilicata and at the Scuola Superiore per Mediatori Linguistici della Basilicata. She graduated in languages in Italy and in journalism at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen. She wrote for German newspapers, worked as a multilingual copywriter for advertising agencies, collaborated with important publishing houses and with companies in the renewable energy sector. The 15 years of life abroad, in environmentally sustainable countries, such as Switzerland and Germany, shaped her green nature.



To keep faith with this agreement, the hoped-for green revolution must be based, in my opinion, on a solid socio-cultural ecological transition: culture at 360 degrees plays a fundamental role for the recovery after the pandemic and also to promote environmental transition.

Literature turns 'green'

Literature has always had a prophetic function. The narration of a possible future, the creation of an imaginary world, from time to time apocalyptic, fairy-tale or allegorical, is part of the narrative tradition of the world. Reflection on time and tomorrow has produced great masterpieces, and it was not until the middle of the twentieth century that the term science fiction was coined to define a macro-genre.

But what is climate fiction, or cli-fi for short? It is a genre somewhere between science fiction and dystopia, because of its tendency to depict tragic, post-apocalyptic scenarios; but, at the same time, it is a kind of hypothetical realism, because of the political and civil aims with which it recounts a situation to which we can no longer turn a blind eye. We have a stubborn reluctance to accept that environmental catastrophes can really happen. We overlook or ignore scientific predictions. But a few eco-scenarios, confirmed by the reactions of a nature already at the limits of sustainability, have made their way into our imagination through environmental fiction, or rather fantasy-ecology as a sub-genre of science fiction.

However, climate fiction is by no means a radical novelty. Stories about human interference in the climate can already be found in Native American creationist stories, Greek mythology and English Renaissance poetry. What distinguishes climate fiction is the emphasis on humans as the cause of climate change and the catastrophic effects that this generates.

Among the publications that best represent the literary genre is "Solar" (2010) by Ian McEwan, which tells the story of a Nobel Prize winner who tries to obtain renewable energy by replicating the photosynthesis process of plants. The other big name in the genre is Margaret Atwood, author of a trilogy in which a planet increasingly overwhelmed by climate change and in which genetic engineering is widely used is struck by an epidemic. "Oryx and Crake" (2003), "The Year of the Flood" (2009) and "MadAddam" (2013) are the three titles of the dystopian trilogy.



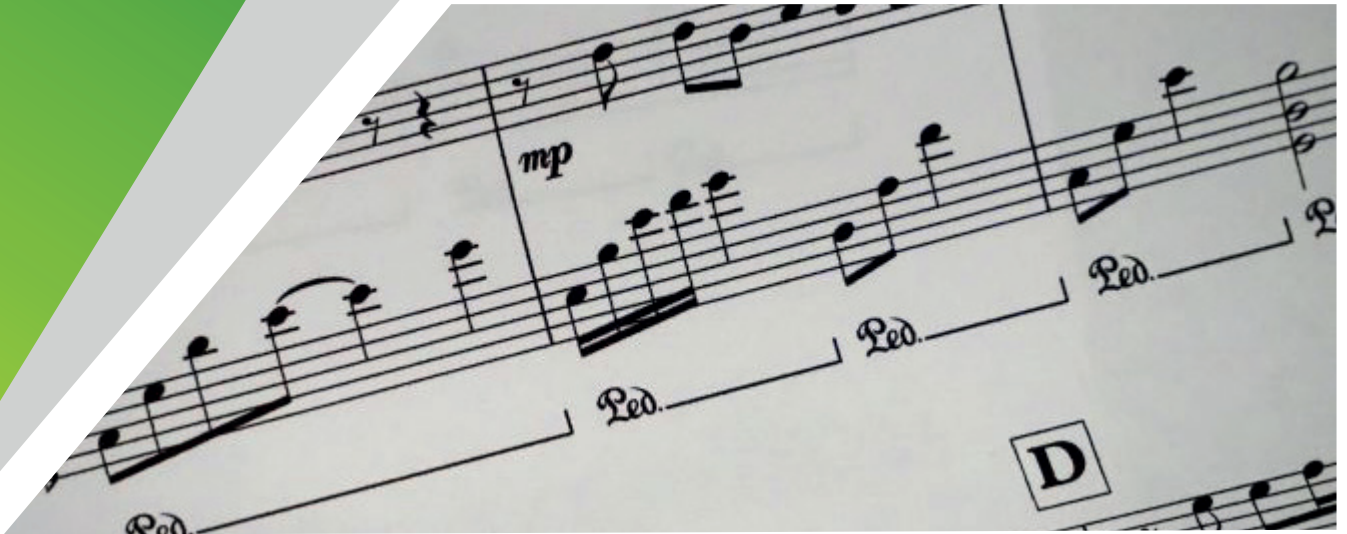
In fact, some writers have dealt with similar themes even before climate change was mentioned. This is the case of Jules Verne in "The Earth Turned Upside Down" (1889) in which the protagonists struggle to return the Earth's axis to its original position. J. G. Ballard published "The Wind From Nowhere" (1961), which tells of the arrival of a hurricane capable of destroying all buildings and human works. In "The Drowned World" (1962), global warming causes glaciers to melt and seas to rise, submerging the major cities of Europe and North America. "The Burning World" (1964) describes a world in which water is scarce due to pollution that has halted the process of evaporation of sea water.

The Anglo-Saxon world is already making the first estimates: the cli-fi genre has increased fourfold compared to six years ago, according to the website Eco-fiction.com. And that's not all: #climate fiction is a much-used hashtag on Twitter; the genre has several pages on Facebook; it is a fully-fledged part of reading group lists. Amazon's search engine returns 4,000 results (half as many last year). A host of novels with which to anchor a renewed environmental debate. With far greater effectiveness.† year there were only 1300). A host of novels with which to anchor a renewed environmental debate. With far greater effectiveness.

... even cinema turns 'green'

But more than literature, the scenario of a future devastated by climate change is the preferred arena of many film and serial narratives. Just think of the world lashed by dust storms in the first part of "Interstellar", "Wall-E", or even certain episodes of "Game of Thrones". Not to mention the last episode of the third season of "Black Mirror", "Universal Hatred", in which the bees, sentinels of biodiversity, have become extinct and have been replaced by robot copies capable of replicating their every action. Or "Okja", a film written and directed by Bong Joon-ho, produced by Netflix and presented at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival, in which a Korean girl becomes attached to a giant pig created in a laboratory to curb the environmental pollution caused by the meat industry.

Leonardo DiCaprio, who is actively involved in environmental issues, has announced that he will produce a film adaptation of Kayla Olson's novel "The Sandcastle Empire", set in 2049, in an Earth devastated by flooding and overpopulation. And the genre has been explored for some time: by films such as "Waterworld", released 26 years ago, with Kevin Costner as a mutant in search of a strip of land in a world



submerged by water; by “Mad Max: Fury Road”, a recent reinterpretation of a 1979 saga starring Mel Gibson, which recreates the same dystopian future where water and petrol are exhausted resources.

There is an obvious showmanship and simplification of the issues in these films. However, I think they are equally useful in raising them and getting people involved to a far greater extent than we at SmartGreen Post, our colleagues and environmental associations can. Environmentalism has been too much in the drawing rooms and too little in the streets. With these books and films, we can reach people in a more direct and evocative way than with our communication, which remains traditional and – alas – sectoral and niche. I strongly believe in the synergy of these narrative formulas.

... even music turns 'green'

Many Italian and foreign artists are making efforts to make their production more sustainable and are trying to raise awareness among their fans through music. Music too has an environmental impact and, more importantly, it can affect people through the power of notes as well as words. Many singers are trying to do something about the environment: writing songs about nature and the environment is not the only option.

The initiative that caused the most stir came from abroad. In 2019, Coldplay announced that they will not tour their new album, “Everyday Life”, until they find a way to drastically reduce the environmental impact of concerts. Just think of the planes, the power plants in stadiums, the single-use plastic used by both the bands and the millions of concert-goers.

The issue of plastic in concerts has also been addressed by Jovanotti, who has always talked about the need to reconnect with nature, ever since his first albums. It is no coincidence that he shot a video-documentary on a bicycle between Chile and Argentina called “I don’t want to change planet.” (original title: “Non voglio cambiare pianeta.”)

The vinyl of singer Elisa’s latest album “Secret Diaries” has totally plastic-free packaging. Elisa is also pursuing her project for a totally eco-friendly recording studio, built according to green building criteria.



The most recent example of a song committed to the environment is “Picnic all’inferno” (Picnic in Hell) by Piero Pelù. In this single, the singer “duets” with Greta Thunberg, the “little warrior from the moon”: her words are interspersed with parts of the speech Greta gave in Katowice in 2018, including the now famous slogan: “You are never too small to make a difference”.

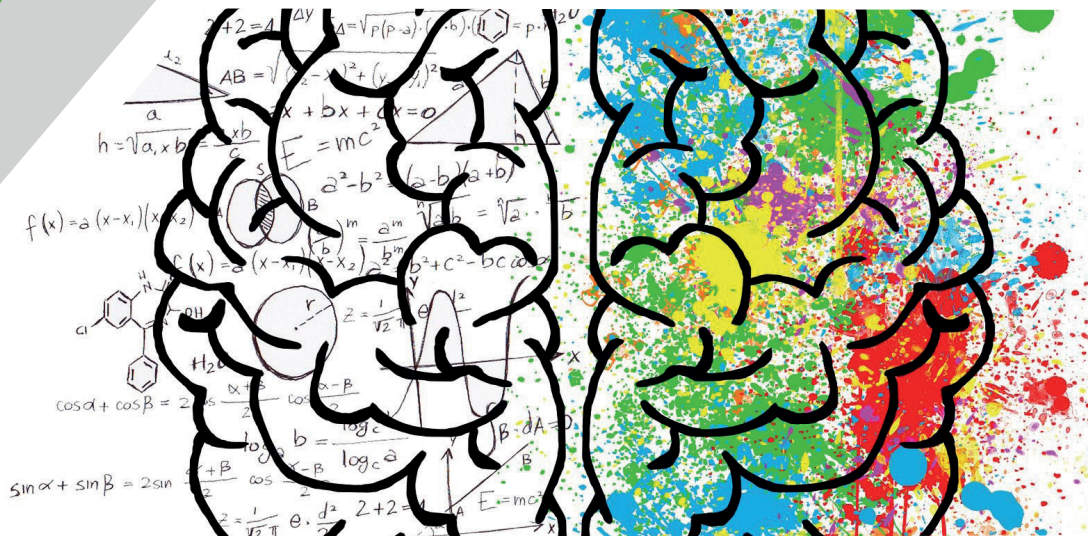
In Paul McCartney’s “Despite Repeated Warnings” (2018), the captain does not listen to what he is told and ignores the repeated warnings of impending dangers: this is McCartney’s bitter dedication to Donald Trump and climate change deniers in general, including Scott Pruitt, who was put in charge of the Environmental Protection Agency despite arguing that atmospheric CO2 emissions are irrelevant to climate change.

Through their voices, singers possess the magic of changing people, changing moods, feelings and habits. It would therefore be desirable for them to fill their lyrics with natural references and use their talent to talk about the climate crisis.

...even art turns ‘green’

Art makes data more accessible to non-scientists and directly conveys the status quo of the climate crisis to those for whom numbers and words are not enough. Some experts even speak of the art of climate change, a form of art inspired by collectivism for the public good and the aim of making the climate crisis conceivable, understandable and close.

A famous example of the encounter between art and nature is Renzo Piano’s “Biosphere”, built in 2001 and located in Genoa’s Porto Antico. The glass and steel structure – covering an area of 1,000 square metres – is an urban tropical garden, open to the public, where birds and reptiles roam freely.



In 2015, on the occasion of the COP in Paris, the same UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate) funded the Artists 4 Climate Paris 2015 initiative, in which artists from all over the world gave their contribution to redefine our relationship with the Planet. It was on this occasion that Olafur Eliasson created the Ice Watch, which consisted of 12 pieces of glacial ice extracted from the Nuuk fjord in Greenland, arranged in a circle in the Pantheon square: a disturbing dying monument!

On the same wavelength, Deanna Witman collected satellite images of frozen landscapes for over 15 years to bear witness to the changing climate, printing them on salted paper so that even the work itself would disappear when exposed to sunlight ("Melt").

There are those who depict climate change as the cause of mass extinction by painting a watercolour rhinoceros with representations of endangered or extinct species inside, such as Laura Ball ("Growing Pains", 2010).

In conclusion, the hope is that literature, film, music, the figurative arts and culture in the broadest sense of the term will contribute synergistically to the formation of a collective 'green' consciousness by reaching – through words, images, notes and colours – the emotional hemisphere of the human brain.

*At a certain point, it was no longer
biology that dominated man's destiny,
but the product of his brain: culture.
(James Clerk Maxwell)*

FOUNDER

**Mario Telesca**

Computer scientist, sensitive to environmental issues, he has carried out various green projects including SmartRicicla, the app for separate collection. He has always been looking for the perfect union between science and art.

SCIENTIFIC BOARD

**Francesco Ripullone**

Francesco Ripullone is Associate Professor at the School of Agricultural, Forestry, Food and Environmental Sciences of the University of Basilicata, where he holds the chair of the course of Ecology and Dasometry. He is deputy coordinator and Erasmus contact for the degree course in Forest and Environmental Sciences. Prof. Ripullone carries out his research in the field of forest ecology, studying the effects of climate change and natural and anthropogenic disturbing factors on forest ecosystems. He is responsible for several research projects to study the possibilities of forest decline and mortality in the Mediterranean environment.

**Maria Castellaneta**

PhD student in “Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences” at the University of Basilicata. The research activity aims to assessing and monitoring the forest vulnerability and its capacity of recovery after the occurrence of extreme climatic events in order to provide informations needed to safeguard the forest systems.

EDITORIAL BOARD

**Pierluigi Argoneto**

Graduated as mechanical engineer, has a PhD in production engineering. He is professor of the “Communication and Enhancement of Science” course and teaches Innovation Management at the homonymous master at the University of Turin. He is a consultant for innovation, technology transfer, territorial development, both for private sector and PA.

**Aurora Chiara Cortese**

Student of Forest and Environmental Sciences at the University of Basilicata. She believes that loving the Earth and respecting it is a duty towards life and everyone, in their own small way, can do their part. She dreams of a world of environmental sustainability and social equality.

**Ingrid Leka**

Ingrid Leka is an asset consultant who helps women in their financial journey with clear and simple language. In her book “La madre di Cappuccetto Rosso era una stronza” she talks about financial concepts through fairy tales. She is very interested in sustainability issues and is committed every day to ensure that her 3 children grow up in a more equitable world represented by both genders. To learn more ingridleka.it

**Maria Carmela Padula**

Nutritionist Biologist and researcher, she carries out her activity in the province of Potenza after a course of high training in the nutritional field and after having obtained the Master in “Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition”.



EDITORIAL BOARD

**Katia Sepe**

Forestry and Environmental Sciences Student at the University of Basilicata. My interests aim to analyze and evaluate the forest role, the management of the anthropic actions in order to increase their values and the dissemination of knowledge about the forest sector with the purpose of rediscovering its relevance for people and vegetation ecosystem.

**Maria Concetta Rizzo**

I'm a chartered accountant and specialized in tax and corporate consultancy for profit companies and third sector entities, innovative start-ups and with a social vocation, social enterprises and benefit companies. In particular, I strongly believe in the role that companies play today in ensuring a more ethical and sustainable world for future generations.

**Claudio Ventura**

He has always cultivated a passion for nature and the environment. Thanks to the degree in business administration he was able to specialize and further deepen the concepts of circular economy and industrial ecology. Its goal is to share as much as possible the knowledge necessary to spread the culture of sustainable development.





One billion children at ‘extremely high’ risk from the impacts of the climate crisis

‘The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children’s Climate Risk Index’ is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from the perspective of children, produced by UNICEF in collaboration with Fridays for Future; Greta Thunberg is among the authors of the report’s foreword.

Editorial Board



According to a UNICEF report launched on 20 August, young people living in the Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau are most at risk from the impacts of climate change, which threaten their health, education and protection and expose them to life-threatening diseases.

‘The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children’s Climate Risk Index’ is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from the perspective of children. It ranks countries according to children’s exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heat waves, as well as their vulnerability to these shocks, based on their access to essential services.

Launched in partnership with Fridays for Future on the third anniversary of the youth-led global climate protest movement, the report finds that around 1 billion children – nearly half of the world’s 2.2 billion

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children – live in one of 33 countries classified as ‘extremely high risk’. These children face a lethal combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks along with high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, health care and education. The findings show the number of children affected today – figures that are likely to worsen as the impacts of climate change accelerate.

The Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI) reveals that:

- 240 million children are highly exposed to coastal flooding;
- 330 million children are highly exposed to river flooding;
- 400 million children are highly exposed to cyclones;
- 600 million children are heavily exposed to vector-borne diseases;
- 815 million children are heavily exposed to lead pollution;
- 820 million children are heavily exposed to heat waves;
- 920 million children are heavily exposed to water scarcity;
- 1 billion children are heavily exposed to extremely high levels of air pollution.

While nearly all of the world’s children are at risk from at least one of these climate and environmental hazards, data reveal that the countries most affected face multiple and often overlapping shocks that threaten to erode development progress and exacerbate child deprivation. An estimated 850 million children – 1 in 3 worldwide – live in areas where at least four of these climate and environmental shocks overlap. As many as 330 million children – 1 in 7 worldwide – live in areas affected by at least five major shocks.

“For the first time, we have a complete picture of where and how children are vulnerable to climate change. This picture is dire, in an almost unimaginable way. Climate and environmental shocks are undermining the full spectrum of children’s rights, from access to clean air, safe food and water, education, shelter, freedom from exploitation and even their right to survive. Virtually no child’s life will be unaffected,” said Henrietta Fore, Director-General of UNICEF. “For three years, children have been speaking out around the world to demand action. UNICEF supports their calls for change with an unmistakable message: the climate crisis is a children’s rights crisis.”

The report also reveals a gap between where greenhouse gas emissions are generated and where children are experiencing the most significant climate-related impacts. The 33 ‘extremely high risk’ countries collectively emit only 9% of global CO₂ emissions. The 10 countries with the highest emissions together produce almost 70% of global emissions. Only one of these countries is classified as ‘extremely high risk’ in the index.

“Climate change is deeply inequitable: no child is responsible for rising global temperatures, but they will pay the highest costs and children in less responsible countries will suffer the most,” Fore said. “But there is still time to act. Improving children’s access to essential services, such as water and sanitation, health and education, can significantly increase their ability to survive these climate dangers. UNICEF urges go-



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vernments and businesses to listen to children and prioritise actions that protect them from impacts, while ac

celerating work to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Without the urgent action needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, children will continue to suffer more. Compared to adults, children need more food and water per unit of body weight, are less able to survive extreme weather events and are more susceptible to toxic chemicals, temperature

changes and disease, among other factors.

"The youth climate activist movements will continue to grow and fight for what is right, because we have no other choice," said Farzana Faruk Jhumu (Bangladesh), Eric Njuguna (Kenya), Adriana Calderón (Mexico) and Greta Thunberg (Sweden) of Fridays for Future, who wrote the foreword to the report and join in supporting its launch. "We need to know where we stand, address climate change as a crisis, which it is, and act with the urgency needed to ensure that today's children inherit a livable planet."

UNICEF calls on governments, businesses and stakeholders to:

- 1) Increase investment in climate adaptation and resilience in key services for children. To protect children, communities and the most vulnerable from the worst impacts of an already changing climate, key services must be repurposed, including water, sanitation, health and education services.
- 2) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis, comprehensive and urgent action is needed. Countries must reduce their emissions by at least 45% (compared to 2010 levels) by 2030 to keep warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- 3) Providing children with climate education and green skills that are crucial for their adaptation and preparedness for the effects of climate change. Children and young people will face all the devastating consequences of the climate crisis and water insecurity, yet they are least responsible for them. We have a duty to all young people and future generations.



- 4) Include young people in all national, regional and international climate negotiations and decisions, including at COP26. Children and young people must be included in all climate-related decision-making processes.
- 5) Ensure that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is green, low-carbon and inclusive, so that the ability of future generations to address and respond to the climate crisis is not compromised.



World Food Day: the agroecological transition is fundamental

On 16th October each year is World Food Day, established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). The theme for this year's edition is "Transforming food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind".

On the occasion of this important event, accompanied by the Global People's Food Summit which aims to promote agro-ecological, organic and regenerative food systems, FederBio stresses the importance of the ecological transition to adopt a more ethical way of producing and consuming food.

"On the occasion of World Food Day we want to highlight the urgency of the transition to socially, economically and environmentally sustainable food systems. We need a paradigm shift and the adoption of agricultural practices that preserve soil fertility and biodiversity, while helping to mitigate climate change and protect human and planetary health. Safeguarding soil fertility and the environment is key to meeting current food demands to feed the world without compromising the ability to meet the needs of the future, as the youth climate movement is strongly advocating at all levels.

A new vision is needed, and it is the FAO itself, with the theme chosen this year, that points to the agro-ecological approach as an essential element for improving world food production and having fairer and more sustainable food systems that respect nature. For this reason, organic agriculture at the global level can offer a fundamental contribution to strengthen the role played by farmers in food production, protection and preservation of the environment and biodiversity," said Maria Grazia Mammuccini, President of FederBio.

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The #GreenWeek at the Venice Film Festival 2021

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Green Drop Award, the environmental prize of Green Cross Italy at the 78th Venice International Film Festival, here are all the events of Green Week

Editorial Board

Green Week 2021, organised by Green Cross Italy with the Sardegna Film Commission and the patronage of the Ministry of Ecological Transition, was inaugurated on 6 September on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Green Drop Award at the Venice Film Festival.

For the tenth consecutive year, the 78th Venice International Film Festival is hosting the Green Drop Award, the prize given by Green Cross Italy to the film, from among those competing in the Festival's official selection, that best interprets the values of ecology, sustainable development and cooperation between peoples.

The event, held at the Hotel Excelsior on the Venice Lido in the hall of the Ente Fondazione dello Spettacolo, was attended by Nevina Satta, Director of the Fondazione Sardegna Film Commission, Elio Pacilio, President of Green Cross Italia, Bepi Vigna, Director of the Green Drop Award, moderated by Marco Gisotti, journalist, Ministry of Ecological Transition.

The 2021 edition was particularly rich in appointments with events and initiatives on the themes of sustainability and ecological transition, aware of the serious climate crisis and looking ahead to the World Youth Conference on Climate, Youth4Climate, and PreCOP 26 which will take place in Milan at the end of the month, in preparation for the 26th United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) on Climate Change which in November will see the city of Glasgow as the protagonist and of which Italy is co-organiser together with the United Kingdom.

These are the highlights of Green Week 2021:

On Tuesday 7th September 2021, at 11 a.m., at the Hotel Excelsior, in the Spazio Incontri of the Venice Production Bridge, the round table "A Better World is possible: our future must be green and sustainable" was held. The cinema of the new generations, between experimental production models and responsible innovation focused on green policies for the entertainment industry; the meeting was attended, among others, by the Ministry of Ecological Transition, the Italian Film Commission, Sardegna Film Commission,





Veneto Film Commission, Trentino Film Commission, Green Cross Italia, Connect4Climate-World Bank, Arpa Veneto, Green Film Shooting.

On Wednesday 8th September, at 10 a.m., at the Italian Pavilion, at the Hotel Excelsior, a conference was held on "Storytelling the ecological transition: all the necessary languages from the ecothriller to film tourism". The meeting was attended by Stefania Divertito, Head of the Press Office of the Ministry for Ecological Transition, Annamaria Granatello, President of the Solinas Award, Elio Pacilio, President of Green Cross Italy, John Woods, writer, Antonio Tiroto, Mayor of Aglientu, Bepi Vigna, cinema and comics scriptwriter and President of the Green Drop Award Jury.

On Thursday 9, at 10 a.m., at the Italian Pavilion, at the Hotel Excelsior, the panel discussion "Sustainable screens 2021" was held to compare data and prospects of the PNRR with respect to the efficiency of cinemas. Participants included: Elio Pacilio, President of Green Cross Italia, Simone Gialdini, Director General of ANEC, Nevina Satta, CEO Sardegna Film Commission and General Secretary EUFCN, Cristina Vajani, Head of Promotion and Assistance to Enterprises GSE, Marcello Salvio, ENEA – Department for Energy Efficiency, Birgit Heidsiek, Green Film Shooting. Moderator: Marco Gisotti, journalist, Ministry of Ecological Transition.

Also on Thursday 9th September, at 3.00 p.m. on Certosa Island, in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Carabinieri Forestry Group, the "Bosco del Cinema" (Wood of Cinema) will be planted, with over one hundred trees dedicated to each Golden Lion Career Artist.

At the end of the initiative there will be a Masterclass on cinema and environment with the finalist students of the Arpa Veneto Contest with the participation of John Woods, author of Lady Cheavy and thriller novels, Nevina Satta, CEO Sardegna Film Commission and General Secretary EUFCN, Bepi Vigna, screenwriter and president of the Centro Internazionale del Fumetto, Giulia Braga, Program manager Connect4Climate-World Bank, Andrea Di Nardo, Laser Film.

The presentation of the Green Drop Award 2021 took place on Friday 10th September 2021 in the Sala Tropicana of the Hotel Excelsior at the Fondazione Ente dello Spettacolo in the presence of popular testimonials.

The Green Drop Award 2021 trophy was awarded to the film in the official selection that best interpreted the values of ecology and cooperation between peoples. As always, it contains land from a place of particular importance for the environment, this year from Glasgow, where the World Conference of the Parties on Climate Change will be held in November.

The all-female committee of honour for the Green Drop Award is made up of Claudia Cardinale, Paola Comin, Simona Izzo, Ottavia Piccolo, Stefania Sandrelli and Chiara Tonelli.



Climate fiction: a new literary genre to describe climate change

The Source, the literary competition that will choose the best Italian climate fiction stories describing the world to come, began on 22nd September and will end on 30th November. The initiative, which takes its cue from the podcast of the same name, is promoted by Gruppo CAP, manager of the integrated water service for the Milan metropolitan area, in collaboration with Libromania, a subsidiary of the publisher DeA Planeta Libri. The challenge: to imagine tomorrow's world in the light of climate change. The winning stories will become an anthology book.

Editorial Board

Looking for Italy's Cormac McCarthy. The Source, the literary competition that will choose the best Italian climate fiction short stories, is now underway. The initiative, promoted by Gruppo CAP, manager of the integrated water service for the Milan metropolitan area, in collaboration with Libromania, a subsidiary of the publisher DeA Planeta Libri, is inspired by the podcast of the same name, The Source, released this summer and available free of charge on all the most important platforms, which recounts the effects and consequences of climate change in an Italy that for 15 years has ignored the warnings of scientists, suddenly finding itself the victim of the first water crisis in history.



The competition, which began on 22nd September and ends on 30th November, poses a new challenge to writers and aspiring writers: to write an unpublished story in the literary genre known as climate fiction (Cli-Fi), i.e. the branch of science fiction that deals with climate change.

Indeed, cinema, theatre and literature have always had a prophetic function. The narration of a possible future, the creation of an imaginary world, from time to time apocalyptic, fairy-tale or allegorical, is part of the world's narrative tradition. Reflection on time and tomorrow has produced great masterpieces, and it was not until the middle of the twentieth century that the term science fiction was coined to define a macro-genre.

Climate fiction, on the other hand, is a much more recent label. Among the illustrious names that have measured up to it are, to name but the most famous, James G. Ballard (*The Drowned World*), Ian McEwan (*Solar*), Margaret Atwood, famous for *The Handmaid's Tale*, (*The Maddaddam Trilogy*) and, most famous of all, Cormac McCarthy, author of the post-apocalyptic novel *The Road*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 2007.



Climate change is an issue that is now high on the agendas of governments and major international institutions. Melting ice, rising ocean levels, precipitation and extreme weather phenomena are becoming increasingly widespread, while vast areas of the planet are suffering from unprecedented droughts and heat waves. This summer in Italy, 158 hectares of land literally went up in smoke, an area equal to the cities of Rome, Naples and Milan combined. The floods that devastated central Europe in July claimed more than 180 lives in Germany alone.



According to scientists, these phenomena are set to intensify: consider that the decade 2010-2019 was the hottest since reliable and regular temperature records have existed. Changes that make hydrogeological instability, crises in agricultural systems, water crises, the spread of epidemics and the extinction of animal and plant species increasingly frequent. The aim of The Source is to make a contribution in terms of raising awareness and to do so through the medium of imagination and storytelling.

Until 30th November, it will be possible to send a climate fiction story of between 20 and 30 thousand characters, uploading it on the official website thesource.gruppocap.it. The best entries, selected by a jury, will be collected in a book-anthology edited in collaboration with Libromania, which will be published in spring 2022.

The Source is just the latest of many initiatives to raise awareness of environmental issues devised by Gruppo CAP. Last year the public company promoted the operation Let's Green!, a competition created with the aim of rewarding the good sustainability practices of citizens and associations by electing the greenest municipalities in the Metropolitan City of Milan.

For more information, to listen to the episodes of The Source, and to consult the competition rules: <https://thesource.gruppocap.it>



Sustainable development: the social role of business

Maria Concetta Rizzo

Promoting and disseminating a global economy for fair, sustainable development underpinned by ethical principles and values requires co-planning and collaboration of all social, civil and institutional actors.



In Italy, we are waiting for the principle of environmental protection and sustainable development to be enshrined in the Constitution; this would strengthen existing and subsequent legislation, which would have to comply with the Constitution and oblige the legislator to no longer ignore sustainability.

Promoting and disseminating a global economy that is fair, sustainable and underpinned by ethical principles and values requires the co-planning and collaboration of all social, civil and institutional actors. One of today's main challenges is to foster greater awareness among companies of the impact of their economic activity in terms of social and environmental sustainability. New sustainable business models need to be adopted; today, many companies show less defined boundaries than a traditional, shareholder-oriented, profit-generating enterprise; Some are characterised by a more hybrid management as their mission includes both social aspects to generate a social impact for communities, local areas, rural areas and environmental aspects on how the company can be a source of generation of positive environmental impact and therefore a resource to combat climate change, pollution, or how it can move away from an "extractive" way of doing business to a "generative" way of shared value.

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In its ecosystem and in its relations with institutions and governments, business takes on a primary but also 'social' role, since it is able to respond to primary and sometimes latent needs that are not satisfied by public action. In this sense, business becomes subsidiary to the state, working alongside it to solve the problems and needs of citizens.

In this historical period there is an awareness of the need to reconcile the economic and social world with the environment, with its ecosystem. For decades, companies have acted according to the idea of capitalism inspired by economist Milton Friedman, according to which the ultimate goal of a company is to create value for its shareholders. Today, however, the current scenario calls for some reflection on how to tackle issues such as growing inequality, increasing environmental risks and the difficulties of governments in pursuing adequate welfare policies. The turning point for ethical capitalism is the Green New Deal, the Next Generation EU, the NRP, but above all the spread of new ways of doing business, thus enabling companies to take on a responsible social role.

Now more than ever, we need to rethink our everyday behaviour so that virtuous behaviour prevails, both towards ourselves and others and towards the environment. Everyone becomes an active part of a new process aimed at achieving more sustainable economic, social and environmental development. First and foremost, political measures are needed immediately to support businesses in terms of demand and consumption, in order to trigger a virtuous circular path. But implementing policies are also needed to encourage companies to adopt new business models with an approach to sustainability and social responsibility in their commercial operations and in their relations with stakeholders.

It is necessary to give legal force to sustainable development by definitively enshrining it as a principle in our Constitution, as already provided for in a draft law no. 240 of 23 March 2018. It is also necessary to make it binding for all companies to commit to integrating certain sustainable development objectives, the SDGs set out in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, into their economic strategies. SDGs envisaged by the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda, and then highlighting them by drawing up a social report.

In Italy, two first "timid" initiatives in this sense have been introduced: the Legislative Decree of 30 December 2016 on Non-Financial Information and Law 208/2015 with the admissibility of the legal qualification of the Benefit Company.

The adoption of the EU Directive 95/2014 with the Legislative Decree of 30 December 2016 on Non-Financial Disclosures requires listed companies, banks and insurance companies to attach a report to their financial statements containing information on how the company operates with regard to environmental, social, personnel-related, human rights issues, and the fight against active and passive corruption.

In the Italian legal system, a pioneering role has been recognised for companies that choose to impact positively in a deliberate and conscious manner. In fact, in 2016, Law 208/2015 introduced the legal status



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of the benefit company, which represents a for-profit business that combines the purpose of making a profit with the additional aim of improving the environmental and social context in which it operates by means of a statutory provision. This legislation gives legitimacy to this new way of doing business and innovativeness to the company, which for the first time can commit to measuring the impacts that its activities generate for the territory and the community.



Today, the benefit society is undoubtedly one of the valid legal instruments for bringing about that reconciliation between the economic, social and environmental worlds from which we must start again after this health emergency. The benefit society has in its DNA the determination and self-denial to take care of the common good, which is essential today to overcome the post-Covid-19 crisis and prevent future crises if concrete action is not taken immediately. Corporate social responsibility is the winning lever to overcome crises. It is clear today that the economy, detached from human values, leads the entire social system to catastrophe and that we must work for the common good by combining ethics and sustainability with profit.

Another important signal came with the new Corporate Governance Code for listed companies, approved in January 2020 by the Corporate Governance Committee, according to which the role of the administra-



tive body of the listed company is to “guide the company by pursuing its sustainable success”. Sustainable success ‘is the creation of long-term value for the benefit of shareholders, taking into account the interests of other stakeholders relevant to the company’.

At European level, in April 2021, the European Commission adopted a series of measures on sustainable finance, including the draft “CSRD” (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive) on corporate sustainability reporting. The CSRD extends the scope of the reporting obligation to all large companies (whether listed or unlisted) and, from 1 January 2026, to all listed SMEs, excluding micro-enterprises. In addition, the recipients of this obligation will have to publicly report on the “impacts of the company on sustainability issues”, i.e. environmental, social and governance profiles.

The pandemic has certainly reignited the debate on the need to pursue sustainable development that is driven, not only by activists, but also at the level of political institutions and policy makers.

The global socio-environmental seriousness of the current situation, aggravated by the pandemic, demands, therefore, an awareness and consciousness-raising on the part of everyone, both governments, institutions and businesses as well as individual citizens and civil society. Only with the awareness of proactive sharing and collaboration will it be possible to become changemakers to create a new economy all together.

To illuminate a city
in one year we produce
about 10,000 tons of CO₂.

Don't waste energy.

SmartRicicla

The App for waste collection



Photo: by Carlotta Roda

Ingrid Leka

A hand holding a fan of Euro banknotes (500, 100, and 10 Euro) over a vast green field under a cloudy sky. The image is a full-page background for a document.

"We are laying the foundations towards a clean and decarbonised economy, Europeans want healthier living and economic growth but without harming nature. I will put all my weight and strength into making this happen, I am convinced that we can make this leap forward with innovation and investment. Transport

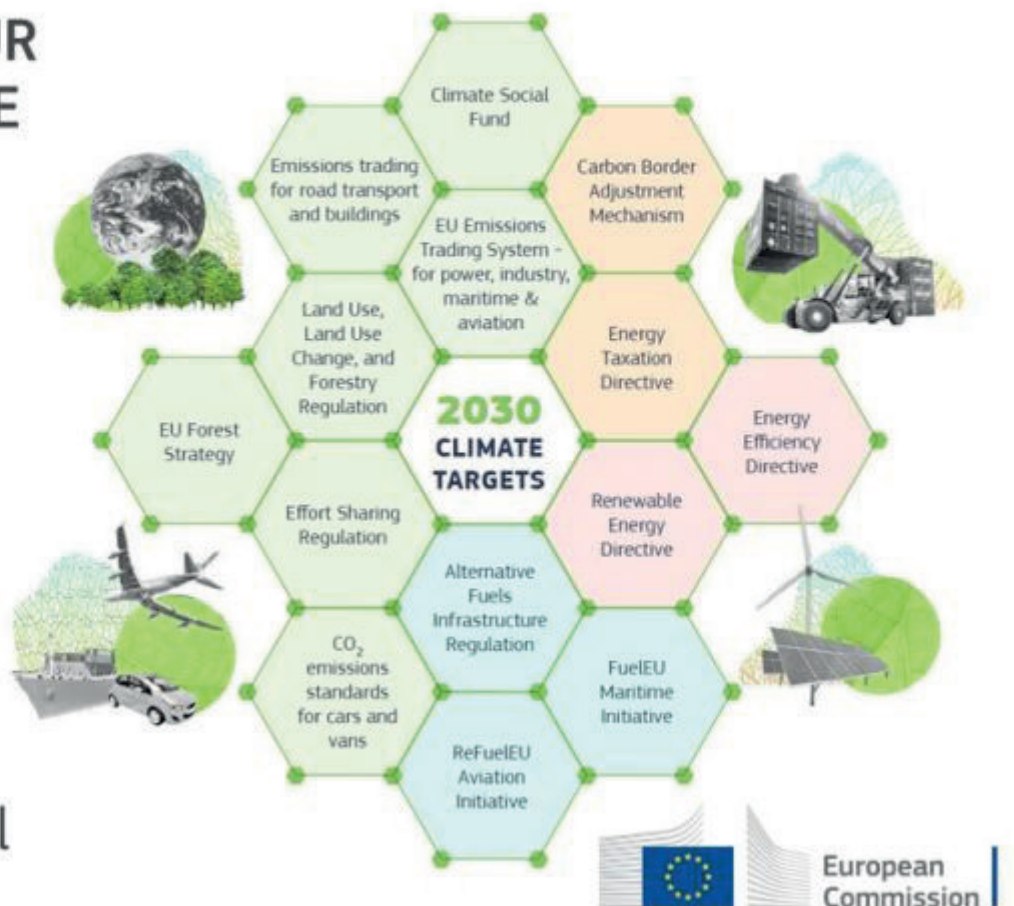


and energy must be accessible to all, but the road transport sector is the only one where emissions have increased in recent years. We must reverse this trend.”

In one of its statistics updated to 2021, the Commission states that 75% of greenhouse gas emissions in

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

REACHING OUR 2030 CLIMATE TARGETS



the European Union come from the energy sector. This is why it will become a focal point for ESG actions and even investments in the coming decades.

Paolo Gentiloni, European Commissioner for Economic Affairs, during the G20 Venice 2021 spoke about a sort of 'carbon-tax': "For a 'green' taxation it is now or never", and explained that we need to "find a balance between ambition and the need for global cooperation. Both are necessary and it is up to us to find a balance.

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Alongside the revision of the current system of allocation of emission allowances by companies, the new package includes a proposal for a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which aims to “tax” those who import cheaper energy from non-renewable sources. Of course, many believe that the EU could do more to combat climate change (see the WWF’s response to the Fit for 55 plan [here](#)) and others fear that the costs of this transition could fall too heavily on end consumers, households (for whom the Commission has set up a Social Climate Fund). Let us not forget, however, that the work done by the Commission in this year and a half is truly enormous and lays the foundations for what will also be the ESG investment landscape in Europe.

So what can we expect from the corporate side in terms of green transition? With these new mechanisms (which will be implemented gradually over time – the CBAM is only a proposal, it has to be voted by the European Parliament to become operational), a shift towards renewable energy sources and ESG business and environmental practices becomes increasingly important. It should be noted that the pandemic has greatly accelerated people’s awareness of climate change issues and positive social, corporate and environmental impact practices. If companies do not adapt quickly on this front, they expose themselves to significant reputational risk, resulting in losses in the stock market value of their shares.

This is why I believe that investing today in instruments with a high ESG rating lowers overall investment risk because you are potentially less exposed to negative price changes as a result of (increasingly stringent) legislative changes to protect the environment and combat climate change.

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Is consumerism compatible with sustainability?

Claudio Ventura

Consumerism inevitably raises economic, social and environmental debates. The production of disposable or easily damaged and perishable goods encourages consumers to replace them in ever shorter times. So, are sustainability and mass production incompatible?



Consumerism as a socio-economic phenomenon

Consumerism can be considered as the fuel of the modern economic system. Each of us tends to keep savings to buy a good that will have to satisfy our need. If globalization and consumerism are the pillars of the modern economy, all of us, with their respective needs to be met with more or less essential purchases, are the protagonists, together, obviously, with the manufacturing companies. From a social point of view, the phenomenon of consumerism tends to enhance the figure of those who buy certain goods. In other words, the possession of particular goods will increase the "value" of those who own it.

For a purely social issue, most consumers will want to buy goods of specific brands, which will replace the products previously owned, not because they are malfunctioning, but simply because they are considered obsolete.

For these reasons, consumerism is a fundamental phenomenon for the world economy, but at the same time an uncontrollable phenomenon, which conflicts with the concept of ethical and moral purchase.

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The environmental impact of consumerism

From an environmental point of view, consumerism has extremely negative effects.

The logic of disposable or the production of not very durable goods doesn't guarantee an efficient and optimal use of resources. In this way, an increase in polluting emissions and in the consumption of resources is inevitable to make mass production possible. In the past years, in particular, the design of a new asset was not considered a crucial phase, as the required quality of the products was lower than the current demand. For this reason, the companies' goal was to produce goods without considering their environmental impact and without evaluating possible disposal and recycling solutions once their life cycle is over. Furthermore, the goods were manufactured without considering repair or maintenance opportunities. Consumerism and the modern economic system, therefore, seem to make the very idea of sustainable development impossible. However, there are solutions to be able to modify the phenomenon making it more controllable and less impactful.

The solutions for a more... sustainable consumerism

In recent years we have been moving from mass production to mass customization. Currently, companies, taking advantage of artificial intelligence, are able to offer specific, customized and tailored products to the consumer's profile. It is a new frontier of marketing with enormous potential. In this way, production is no longer unrelated, but extremely dependent on demand. Since the products are made to measure for the customer, resources are no longer wasted, but are used efficiently, avoiding waste. In this way, by optimizing the use of resources, the environmental impact of production is reduced. In addition to mass customization, another valid solution is to concentrate research, innovations and investments in the design phase.

When a new good is produced, in order to minimize its environmental impact, it would be advisable to design it in such a way as to make it easily repairable, recyclable and extending its duration. In this way, the environmental impact of production will be significantly reduced, since the product will be designed and manufactured to extend its life cycle as much as possible and favoring its recovery, recycling and reuse. The last solution and, probably the most important, does not apply on the supply side but on the demand side.

The solution is, in fact, represented by our own behaviors. The biggest changes were introduced by the increasingly demanding demands of customers who were no longer satisfied with standardized products, but demanded higher quality. This means that companies have always adapted to the demands of consumers, who are effectively able to revolutionize business strategies, assuming a role that is no longer passive, but active.



ECONOMIA SOSTENIBILE >

With the growth of ethical consumers who are attentive to environmental issues, the number of companies focused on more sustainable strategies and making products that are much longer lasting, optimizing the use of resources, will inevitably grow (as is already happening). Assuming future consumer choices that are more “ethical” and not influenced by social consensus, companies will also be forced to change strategies, creating goods with a longer life cycle, in order not to lose important market shares.

So if each of us is the true protagonist of consumerism, then it can also be to stimulate change. Given that the changes in the market and production processes have been triggered not only by producers, but also by consumers, then it is possible, through the commitment of each of us, to modify this phenomenon, making it less uncontrollable, but more sustainable and efficient.



The two sides of the coin: looking at the green transition with a disenchanted eye

Pierluigi Argoneto

While on the one hand there are those who promote the green mythology, that of good nature disfigured by bad man, on the other there are still those who deny the climate and environmental crisis and openly oppose certain choices, including economic ones, that are made with a view to protection.



Let's start from the beginning: I have decided to try to put down on paper, in this space made available to me, some thoughts on the topic of man-technology-environment-energy because I think it is urgent to become aware of some issues, and not because there is no one to do it, but because I believe that very often we do it in the wrong way. While on the one hand there are those who promote the green mythology, that of good nature disfigured by bad men, on the other there are still those who deny the climate and environmental crisis and openly oppose certain choices, including economic ones, that are made with a view to protection. So here I am, trying to argue on these issues on the thin edge that separates these two sides of the coin. I think there is no better way to begin than by starting from some commonplaces that we have introduced without much critical spirit and which, if we want to do ourselves a favour, we must get rid of as soon as possible.

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First cliché: Mother Earth is a fairy tale for small children

It makes no sense whatsoever to talk about Mother Nature, Mother Earth, etc. Every time you hear this phrase, you raise your antennae of distrust. The conception of nature, the Earth, as a benevolent subject towards us, almost endowed with a will of its own, is a vision dictated by our Christian cultural heritage, according to which everything we see has been created for us, so that we can use it as we like. According to this view, we human beings are at the centre of creation (sic!). The truth is very different, and Leopardi also sensed this when he spoke of Nature as a Stepmother, and not as a benevolent Mother, but in reality he was wrong too. Because, if it is true that Nature is not benevolent towards us, it is equally true that she does not nurture any antipathy towards ours or other animal or vegetable species. Quite simply: a) it was not created by any god for us, b) we are both the result of the evolution of our universe that originated with the Big Bang.

The Earth, then, our planet, follows its natural evolution, and we have managed to evolve, grow and prosper in a particular – and exceptional – parenthesis in its history. A parenthesis in which environmental and climatic conditions were favourable to our species and not to others.

But let us go into a little more detail, just to measure up to our boundless egos: our planet has existed for about 4.5 billion years, we human beings for a few hundred thousand. If the history of the Earth were as high as the Eiffel Tower, we human beings (from primitive man via the Romans, Napoleon, to Lady Gaga) would have a history that could be encapsulated in the thickness of a few millimetres of paint on its tip.

a trifle, far from being at the centre of the Universe.

Second cliché: the Anthropocene is not an invention

On Earth, over more than 4 billion years, climate change has been the order of the day: these developments have caused extinctions of various animal species, even mass extinctions, but the Earth, she, is still here. And she will be here even after our species goes extinct (yes, it will happen sooner or later). The causes of these changes are due to various factors: the variation of the tilt of the Earth's axis, various ocean currents, but above all solar activity.

So man is not to blame for what we are experiencing now? Are those who say that the changes we are seeing are completely 'natural', that they would have happened anyway, and that we should not worry too much about them, right? No.



No, because something has changed precisely because of mankind, and that something is the speed at which those changes are taking place. It is no coincidence that many scholars have begun to call this era of ours the 'anthropocene'. Particularly in the last century, especially following the industrial revolution, man has become the main cause of influence on climate change: the planet continues to heat up more and more abruptly than in previous eras. It is as if we are throwing petrol on the fire: we are accelerating the process in a worrying way, but we pretend not to notice and, whistling, look the other way.

Third cliché: paradoxically, we need to be more selfish

It is our species that is at risk, not the Earth. So, also in terms of communication, all those who deal with these issues more and better than I do should try to focus more on this aspect, perhaps it would appeal more to a wider segment of the population. When the evidence/urgency of climate change is communicated to us with speeches such as "Let's save nature", "Let's save the planet", "Let's respect the environment", and so on, two mistakes are made: one scientific, the other communicative.

In fact, it is in man's interest to ensure that the climatic parameters that have allowed the birth and evolution of our species remain as long as possible within the tolerable range that allows us to live and prosper. To survive. If these parameters get out of control, we, our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will pay the price, not the Earth. She does not need to save herself, she adapts, she evolves. We, on the other hand, will become extinct more quickly.

Apocalyptic and integrated

The difficulty, when talking about the environment, climate change and so on, is that of ending up, or being labelled, in one of the two opposing factions. In the words of Umberto Eco, there are the apocalypics, who see or proclaim the end of the world (and here we return to the point I was making earlier, perhaps it would be more correct to speak of the end of our species!) at every turn. Catastrophic and self-destructive ecologism is, in my very personal opinion, a cult for people in search of emotional relief and spiritual satisfaction. A secular religion to give its followers a sense of purpose and transcendence. In the best tradition of religious sects, this distorted environmentalism also cultivates apocalyptic fanaticism. It does so with announcements as peremptory as they are anxious that 'billions of people are going to die'. Here, I honestly don't think it is helpful to the cause.

On the other hand, there are the integrated ones: those who do not question at all or who believe that climate change is not real, despite all the scientific evidence to support it.



The healthiest path, the one we should all try to pursue, should instead be to take note of the problem of climate change, and of man's impact on the environment, and to understand that this dynamic must be contextualised with respect to the development of our society, to the technology that is and will be available, and to the ability to precipitate that technology into concrete activities and into economic phenomena, which means innovation. Social and technological.

And this, at least I will try, will be the attempt of my interventions.



Electric mobility: the die is cast, but opinions remain divided

Katia Sepe

The future of pure electric cars and the consequent disappearance of internal combustion engines is looking increasingly concrete. However, there are still conflicting views on the supposed sustainability of zero-emission cars.



In 1886 the German engineer Karl Benz registered, at the German Empire Patent Office, Patent Motorwagen, renamed by the press "Velociped": the first car in history with three wheels and powered by ligroina (oil ether), a sort of "light petrol". The amazing invention of the car has revolutionized man's life bringing several benefits, but also the unresolved problem of air pollution generated by the internal combustion of the engine. In fact, the resulting exhaust gases can cause respiratory diseases, eye irritation, but they are also responsible for universal problems – smog, acid rain, greenhouse effect – today no longer abstract and that raise concern and controversy about the way to solve them. With the recent decisions of the European Community, the solution would seem to be the electrification of engines.

Electric cars, often initialed B.E.V. (Battery Electric Vehicle) are vehicles without fuel tanks, that is characterized by an electric motor, therefore fully powered with electricity: it's given by a pack of rechargeable lithium batteries (the lightest metal). The discussion interposes between the supporters of electric cars and the

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opponents of them, who highlight deficits, inconsistencies, impossibility. What are the motivations of both?

For the supporters there are many advantages that can be derived from the transition to pure electricity. As there is no combustion, the machine in analysis does not emit pollutants from the exhaust and is therefore called “ecological”; if the power plant from which energy is derived is fed from renewable sources the emissions are zero. The passenger car can be recharged at the charging stations and service points: common public places, conveniently at the domestic outlet, hotel, garage wallboxes, shopping centers.

Noise pollution would decrease due to the silence of the electric motor. They would also have modest maintenance prices and several administrative advantages (the car tax is not paid for 5 years and is reduced by 75% – purchase incentives – free access everywhere). To confirm the providentiality of pure electricity competition the Italian limited company RSE (Energy System Research) with the study of parameters Well-to-wheel and Life Cycle Assessment to compare exhaust emissions electric cars with those of traditional vehicles.

The WTW approach would indicate that electric cars emit less Co₂eq than internal combustion cars and LCA analysis, by virtue of the many and complex variables considered (Energy mix used to recharge the battery – Comparability of power and performance – Estimate of consumption – Life of the car and battery – Co₂eq emissions related to the production of batteries) would confirm that the electric vehicle is always the one with the least “external environmental costs”. In essence, the savings of Co₂eq, in LCA and in urban driving cycles, would vary between 55% and 40% compared to petrol versions and between 40% and 22% compared to diesel ones.

However, those who argue the inconsistencies underlines that the car should not be defined as a “zero emission” since, compared to the combustion car, it would emit CO₂ emissions lower by at least 25-30% over long distances, but not zero. According to the independent German research institute IFO, the electric car does not emit pollutants during its use, but the total pollution is provided by the source that feeds the batteries and emissions generated by the disposal of accumulators at the end of life; the Institute proves that in Germany the complete life cycle of a Tesla Model 3 produces between 156 and 181 g/km of CO₂, compared to 141 g/km of a Mercedes C220d. And what is the fate of exhausted batteries? To date there is no answer, even if the EU is studying how to create supply chains that can dispose of this particular waste.

In addition to the non-existence of a recovery center in Europe, there is the instability and high flammability of lithium: the ion and lithium batteries would be more difficult to demolish in comparison to the traditional ones and the elements contained in them (Co, Mn, Ni) would be more dangerous, pollutants and explosives. In addition, at the moment there is no plan to regulate the methods of demolition and recycling of the multiple components of vehicles that will end up in landfill. Among the critical issues are the reduced availability of charging stations and prohibitive purchase costs on a large scale. From the analysis of the



latest data of the Eafo (European Alternative Fuel Observatory) it emerges that in Italy there are 17,397 charging points, of which over 70% is public, but the Italian infrastructure is still behind Europe and most of the installations are centralized in the Central North. In addition, the obvious obstacle for the buyer would be the excessive market cost, which is a reason for the inability of the mass company to purchase: in many cases the price list starts from 23,500 euros of the simplest models up to 150,000 euros of the most technologically advanced ones.

In recent months, the multinational Toyota has raised a number of doubts about the real sustainability of electric cars because, to be defined "zero emissions", should assess all stages of the product. It would be



reckless to aim only for pure electric according to the vice president of the company Shigeki Terashi, who claims the advantage of a "multi-technological approach".

«We have to be realistic, the ecological transition does not happen in a moment», says Minister Roberto Cingolani, putting into place the problems, in particular the increase in costs and the limited presence of columns, that would hinder the electrification of cars in Italy.

With the same hypothetical advantages and disadvantages, it would seem that there is no absolute truth. Est modus in rebus? Beyond all relativism, the objectives, unequivocally, remain the same: reduction of pollutants, fight against climate change, improvement of air quality.

In conclusion, the European Commission has established that from 2035 it will no longer be possible to





register gasoline or diesel cars in order to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, arousing “Bewilderment and strong concern” of ‘Anfia (the National Automotive Industry Association). In Italy we will say goodbye to traditional vehicles by 2040; the Minister of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility, Enrico Giovannini, said that the car manufacturers are working on the product offer, on the reduction of battery costs and their disposal and recovery regulations in order to minimize the pollution that could result from them. Synergically, the minister assures, the renewal of the “circulating park”, one of the oldest in Europe, will be promoted and incentives issued to raise awareness of the use of engines that would help to “breathe”, not only the planet, but the community itself.



The social life of trees

Trees are supportive beings, making close connections with each other, making friends and helping each other.

Aurora Chiara Cortese



Contrary to what one might think, the life of trees is not only based on individualism and competition, but also on cooperation and solidarity, as the 20th century French writer and academic Henry Bordeaux also stated with his famous phrase “trees, like man, are refined in society”.

Peter Wohlleben, German forester and writer, in his book “The secret life of trees” (Macro Edizioni, 2016) takes us on a journey of discovery into the secret and hidden world of trees, showing how they are social and supportive beings, able to make friends, feed each other and communicate with each other. Peter tells us how research carried out by Vanessa Bursche of the Aachen Polytechnic Institute has revealed the existence of an underground fungal network that connects trees to each other like a real “social assistance system”.

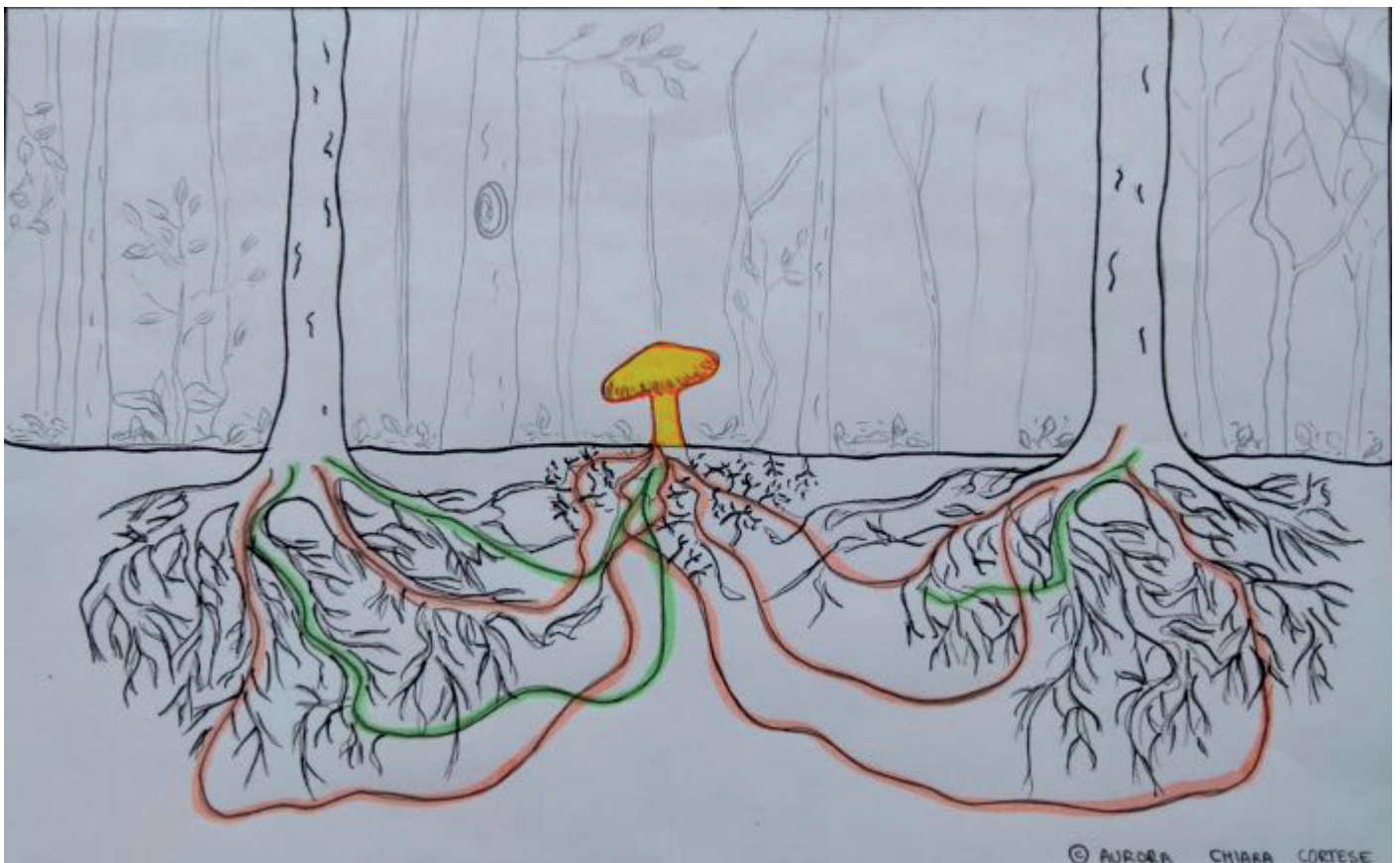
It is in fact underground that an exchange of nutrients and even information (e.g. about an impending



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insect attack) takes place via the roots, enabling 'stronger' trees to help 'weaker' ones, thus compensating for their respective strengths and weaknesses. This discovery would prove that trees are able to tune into each other in such a way that they all provide the same performance. However, this only happens between trees of the same species, such as beech trees, which are able to form friendships and even feed each other.



Diseased trees also receive help and nourishment from their healthy neighbours until they recover. At a later stage, the situation may be reversed and the trees that have provided support may need help themselves. In short, a continuous give and take. This behaviour of the beech trees is, in fact, somewhat reminiscent of that of a herd of elephants: the herd also cares for its members, helps those who are weak and sick, and even organises funeral vigils by gathering around the body of the deceased member to touch it with their trunk as a sign of respect and greeting, and then return to that place to visit the bones, as if to ensure that it is really dead.



Some foresters in Lübeck, explains Wohlleben, have discovered that a beech forest in which the trees are densely spaced is even more productive. The health of a tree depends on the health of the surrounding forest: if the weakest trees decay and die, the others suffer as well. This is because when the forest is no longer closed, the sun and strong gale force winds reach the ground, making it dry and altering the cool-humid microclimate.

According to Wohlleben, trees 'choose' whom to help on the basis of their degree of attachment or perhaps even affection. A pair of 'friendly' trees is careful not to form branches that are too bulky in the direction of the other tree, and instead turn the thicker, thicker branches outwards, in the direction of the 'non-friends'. These pairs are sometimes so closely interconnected by their roots that they even die together.

However, such friendships are usually only found in natural forests and seem to be common to all species (beech, oak, fir...). On the other hand, the roots of trees in planted forests, having suffered permanent damage from planting, seem unable to rebuild and form a network. Trees in these forests are usually solitary and lead a rather difficult life, Wohlleben concludes.

Since the beginning of their existence, trees have "chosen" to stay together, they have evolved and adapted to different latitudes, organising themselves into plant communities and colonising a large part of our planet, making it liveable for thousands of animal species and for man. We can therefore say that the first form of associated and organised life is the forest and that trees have always been subject to the rules on which the society they have built and continue to foster is based.

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.
(native american proverb)

Protect our environment.

SmartRicicla

The App for waste collection.





SilvaCuore: the App that takes our forests to heart

Maria Castellaneta

A team of researchers from the University of Basilicata has developed an ambitious project to safeguard Italian forests. The aim is to combine scientific research and active participation of the community through the use of new technologies in order to better monitor and manage the Italian forest heritage.

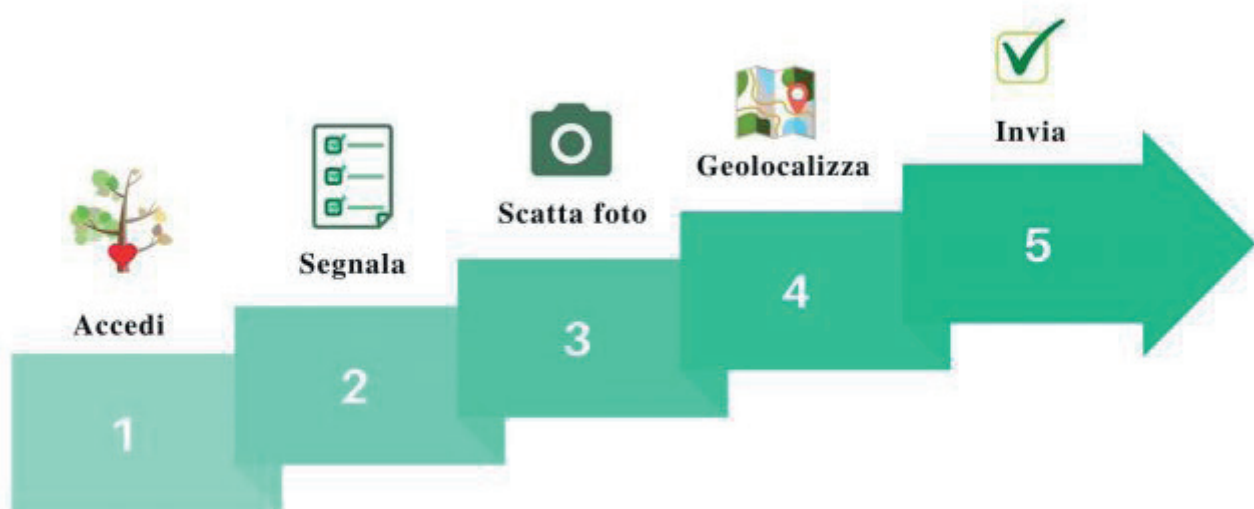


The health of forests is becoming increasingly vulnerable. The causes of this phenomenon are different: from the increasingly frequent and intense extreme climatic events to human mismanagement. In recent decades the forest decline phenomena have been reported across the globe, both at regional and local level. In Italy too, forest dieback has been observed in several cases. The widespread forest mortality and the growing interest to understand the forest conditions in our environment: these assumptions have led to the creation of SilvaCuore.

SilvaCuore is a new App designed to survey declining forest areas in Italy and collect data that can be used as a baseline for the future management of such areas.



“Forest decline is nowadays a very alarming phenomenon with severe environmental consequences – says Prof. Francesco Ripullone, Professor of Ecology and Dasometry at the School of Agricultural, Forestry, Food and Environmental Sciences of the University of Basilicata as well as co-founder of the SilvaCuore app – so it is essential that we understand and monitor the evolution of this phenomenon over time to be able to plan measures for improving the resistance and resilience of our forests”.



The choice of a heart as the App’s logo is no coincidence, because the intention is to awaken, especially in the younger generations, a love for our forest heritage and the desire to actively contribute to its protection.

SilvaCuore allows both scientific specialists and citizens to contribute to the monitoring of the forest health. This is, indeed, a Citizen Science project, which focuses on citizens’ direct engagement, thus enabling them to become the real protagonists of scientific research.

Our App, developed and realized in co-operation with the spin-off company Effetreseizero of Trento, is now available for smartphones, tablets and PCs. The graphics are designed to offer a user-friendly and intuitive interface, and the application leads the user step by step in the alerting process.

“Saving our forests with a click, or if we prefer, by pushing the touchscreen of our smartphone: that’s all you can do with SilvaCuore” – explains Prof. Ripullone – “the challenge of this project is to develop a forest monitoring network with the contribution of an active users’ community”.



Several bodies are supporting the initiative, which is funded under the PON OT4 Clima project: the University of Basilicata, but also the “Forests, between Mitigation and Adaptation” working group of the Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the National Research Council.

Indeed, it represents a relevant chance aiming at combining and integrating the efforts carried out over the years by the different institutions: all sharing the same goal, namely the purpose of understanding the widespread forest decline in Italy, so as to be able to plan the necessary monitoring and managing measures.

The App, the promoters of the initiative explain, is also linked to a website, which provides more information about the project, the reasons that have led to the app’s implementation and the research activities carried out by the Silvacuore team. Therefore, it is crucial to improve the approach to nature and environmental issues: a more aware citizen is a citizen much more attentive to the environment and its protection.

The reporting results will give us a concrete idea of the current forest health. All you need to do is to sign in to the App, and then proceed to submit your report.

Through everyone’s contribution, our forests and their health status will be restored.



Green party favours for your events

Five simple, creative and eco-friendly wedding favour ideas made using natural and sustainable elements to make your event special

Katia Sepe



With the easing of restrictions, implemented to counter the spread of the COVID-19 infection, a gradual return to the longed-for normality is taking place. As every year, with the arrival of summer, there are numerous events that involve families and friends in moments of joy together: weddings, christenings, communions, confirmations, graduation parties.

We have a lot of things to do and often, with the choice of dress and the various arrangements, we run out of ideas for thanking our guests with a wedding favour. How many times have we had doubts about the choice of an ornament or a kitchen utensil? How many times have we come across an unusable duplicate, stored for years in the cupboard and then thrown away? You can avoid this waste too by choosing a green wedding favour. To start with, all you need is an eco-idea to impress your guests with simplicity and creativity, while respecting the environment.



Here are 5 simple suggestions:

1. Germination pencil

Made from birch wood, the germination pencil is 100% biodegradable thanks to the presence of a capsule at the end containing the seeds of aromatic plants (mint, parsley, thyme, basil) or flowers (sunflower, daisy, forget-me-nots). Its use is simple: when it becomes too short to be used, it is planted in a pot containing soil in a sunny place and watered regularly. In contact with water, the capsule degrades and releases the seeds which, depending on the variety, will produce their first shoots in a few days or weeks.



2. Herb jar

Another green idea for gadgets or favours is the herb jar. You need to dry the aromatic herbs you like beforehand and then put them in pretty jars, which you can keep in the kitchen and use if necessary to enrich your dishes.



3. Succulent plant

Even if you don't have a green thumb, the succulent plant needs little care: the structure of succulents allows the plant to store water and release it when needed. Suitable potting soil, a bright environment and moderate, regular watering are all that the plant needs to thrive. When it has grown up, it can be moved to the garden or transplanted into a larger pot and the lucky (and patient) ones can even enjoy its elegant flowering!

4. Honey pot

The more romantic can choose a jar of honey to savour its sweetness at any time. A simple but essential idea to support and enhance the excellent Italian honey production and the incessant and vital work of bees: our existence depends on their unstoppable work.



5. Organic soap

Delicate and fragrant, organic soaps are made with only plant ingredients and natural essential oils: goji berries, calendula flowers, coconut oil and organic olive oil are examples. Free of animal fats and 100% plant-based, the soaps are customisable, skin-friendly and environmentally friendly.

Ecological wedding favours are useful, original, customisable and eco-friendly. Surprising your guests with a creative idea and protecting nature (by reducing waste) is as simple as it is fundamental. Your guests will remember in time not only the special green favour, but also the strong initiative: respect for the environment and its protection starting from small daily choices.



Why doesn't diet go on holiday?

The answer to this question is to be found first and foremost in the etymology of the word "diet" and is intrinsic to it, but it must also be investigated starting from another question, "why do we eat?"

Maria Carmela Padula



"Diet" from the Latin "diaeta", in turn from the Greek "δίαιτα" (diaita), means "way of life". This etymological meaning places diet, our way of eating, in the much broader and more valuable chapter of lifestyle. However, we are witnessing a distortion of this authentic meaning, since the word "diet" is often combined with other words, such as "restriction", "hunger", which move away from dietary balance and lead to the deprivation of acceptable foods and freedom in food choices.

Nothing could be more wrong if we are clear that, in the light of the diet-health combination, just as health does not go on holiday, so does diet. It is true that aperitifs, trips out of town, days at the beach and convivial occasions are an integral part of summer days, but these events will not invalidate correct eating habits maintained during the rest of the days or moments of the eating day characterising the hottest season of the year.



We eat, in fact, even in summer and we eat mainly because we need to eat in order to live: every day it is necessary to satisfy our energy and nutrient needs through the intake of a certain amount of food, which varies from person to person, depending on various factors, including gender, age, body composition and energy expenditure.

Eating the right way is essential for our survival, but it is also necessary to consider that we introduce not only calories but also molecules into our bodies. Fats, proteins and carbohydrates are the three main sources of energy (macronutrients) in our diet. Vitamins and minerals (micronutrients), on the other hand, do not have an energy function, but are nevertheless indispensable for the activation of our organism and for the maintenance of certain substances in our body.

Eating is therefore a necessity linked to the maintenance of our bodies and state of health, as well as the pathway to prevention, i.e. the set of measures aimed at preventing the onset of diseases by acting on the reduction of risk factors, which have to do with the lifestyle of each individual. In fact, it is important to eat properly to prevent certain chronic degenerative diseases, in respect of which proper diet (and nutrition) represents a significant modifiable (environmental) risk factor. Food is able to provide our bodies with bioactive substances with healthy properties, antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties for example, guaranteed by conscious food choices, also based on the quality of the products we bring to the table.

Quality and quantity are closely linked: eating too little or in an unbalanced way affects our health and the functioning of our body. When we eat too much, excess energy and therefore calories are converted into fatty tissue (fat). This is why too many calories lead to weight gain. On the contrary, when we eat properly, the body will use all its fat reserves, thus reducing weight and fat mass.

We also eat for the pleasure of it: in fact, when we ingest something particularly pleasurable, our brain releases dopamine, the molecule of reward and pleasure. The dining experience is perceived as pleasurable and remembered as pleasant, leading to a tendency to repeat it.

Feeding is also "love" and sharing from the earliest stages of life: breastfeeding, in fact, encompasses a relational exchange and conveys emotional messages as well as nutrients. Through this act, the unborn child is nourished and perceives its mother's love, so that this first exchange between mother and child becomes a true form of communication.

The act of eating takes on social values, through which one can recognise, accept or reject the other, share with the other. And here is where the convivial meaning of food comes to the fore, together with the celebration of traditions, which are conveyed precisely through sharing at the table: during festivals, events such as weddings and birthdays, the act of eating becomes the mainstay of the meeting with others, the exchange of words, smiles and emotions among the participants.



However, let us not forget that the summer season lends itself well to giving us moments of relaxation and a break from the fast pace of everyday life like no other season: an early morning walk by the sea or in the water, which is difficult to repeat for the rest of the year, is a unique opportunity to contribute to the well-being of mind and body, while also helping to increase energy expenditure, in order to minimise or eliminate the effect of the calorie surplus that can result from eating out.

Let's bring all the positive values of food to the table throughout the year, with the awareness that every act of eating can be a step towards a state of well-being and health even in summer!



Cycling on Oscar-winning cycle routes

Editorial Board

In Trentino, Calabria, Emilia Romagna, Marche and Basilicata on the winning roads of the Italian Green Road Award 2021 with itineraries suitable for everyone thanks also to e-bikes.



Bicycle tourism knows no seasons: it is always the right time to get on the saddle and discover the beauty of the Italian territory, riding in harmony with the nature that surrounds us. An excursion of just a few hours in the parks outside the city, a weekend on two wheels along the wine roads, a bike trip with friends or family, but always at a slow pace, coming into contact with the cultural, historical, scenic and gastronomic riches of our regions. Each season offers unique views, opportunities and moments. And thanks to the e-bike, the experience of cycling tourism is truly within everyone's reach.

And what could be better than a holiday along the cycle routes that have won the Italian Green Road Award 2021? Also known as the Italian Cycling Tourism Oscar, the prize is awarded each year to the "green roads" of those Italian regions that have distinguished themselves in their attention to "slow" tourism and that have been able to enhance the value of their cycle paths by completing them with services suitable for the development of cycling tourism.

The choice is between five Italian regions. The Autonomous Province of Trento and Calabria took first place ex aequo with the Water Green Road and the Parks Cycle Route respectively; Emilia Romagna came

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second with the Sun Cycle Route; the Marche Region came third with the GABA-Grande Anello dei Borghi Ascolani and, finally, Basilicata received a special mention from Legambiente with the Da Matera alle Dolomiti Lucane cycle route.

These are the “Oscar cycle routes” which, naturally, can be covered in stages or even just for a stretch, depending on the type of excursion you want to undertake.

IN TRENTICO on the Green Road of Water



The Trentino region is renowned for its decades-long commitment to green tourism and the promotion of cycling routes. The Green Road dell’Acqua (first prize, ex aequo with the Ciclovía dei Parchi in Calabria) is a 143 km long cycle-pedestrian ring-route, born from the ambitious project of the Autonomous Province of Trento to unite a selection of already existing sections of other cycle-pedestrian and cycle routes to create a more complete itinerary through the valleys, rivers and lakes of lower Trentino, whose common denominator is water. Most of this route, moreover, is built on river banks, as well as disused roads and railways: a respectful recovery and an important enhancement of the territory.

Well signposted and equipped, the Water Green Road begins at the border with the province of Bolzano, at Cadino di Faedo and, after crossing 20 municipalities, ends in Trento. Water is the protagonist of the



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route, which winds between the Adige River and Lake Garda and other lakes and streams, skirting vineyards and panoramic points. In addition, part of this itinerary is served by an efficient extra-urban public bike sharing system, perhaps the most extensive in Europe, with 90 cycle stations, 1000 parking spaces and 60 kilometres of connected network.

More info: The Water Green Road

IN CALABRIA discovering the Parks Cycle Route



The victory of the Ciclovie dei Parchi della Calabria (ex aequo with the Green Road dell'Acqua in Trentino) at the 2021 edition of the Italian Cycling Tourism Oscar recognises the Region's commitment to a new project to enhance sustainable tourism and slow mobility through an itinerary that links the four main nature areas in the region, converting the extensive network of paths, Apennine routes and minor roads with low traffic into a cycle route to be explored.

The Ciclovie dei Parchi della Calabria is a green road that crosses the entire 545 kilometres of the regional Apennine ridge; it starts in Laino Borgo (in the province of Cosenza) and ends in Reggio Calabria, covering a very large protected area of about 350,000 hectares along four natural parks – Aspromonte,

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Sila, Pollino and Serre – and through more than 60 cities, towns and villages that embody the “Calabrian spirit”. The type of paving alternates between asphalt and gravel and many kilometres are for the exclusive use of cyclists and pedestrians. The route is signposted and equipped with water fountains, bike centres, places to stop and hospitality. For those who want to cycle a stretch of the Ciclovía dei Parchi, a dedicated website is very useful, presenting the tour divided into various stages, with detailed information, route lengths, maps and GPS tracks: www.cicloviaparchicalabria.it.

IN EMILIA ROMAGNA at a slow pace along the Ciclovía del Sole



Inaugurated on 13 April 2021, the 46 km section of the Ciclovía del Sole (on the former Bologna-Verona railway line) linking 10 municipalities in the provinces of Modena and Bologna, from Mirandola to Sala Bolognese, came second at this year’s Italian Green Road Award. An Oscar-worthy route for the recovery of disused railway premises and the reconversion of the track with an intervention considered “textbook” among the best practices of cycle tourism.

Signposted and equipped with rest areas – equipped with e-bike and mobile phone recharging points,



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water fountains and repair kits – the cycle path is interconnected with the existing local road network and, thanks to the ease of the route, is perfectly suited to families and budding cyclists. The itinerary, through the evocative landscapes of the Emilian plain, fully interprets a new idea of travel capable of combining slow and careful discovery of the territories with greater environmental sustainability.

The Ciclovia del Sole is part of the wider European route Eurovelo 7, which connects Cape North in Norway to Malta along 7,400 km. In Italy, the Brenner-Verona section has already been completed, while Emilia Romagna is the lead region for the Verona-Bologna-Florence section of about 400 km, 154 of which are in Emilia Romagna.

For further information on the route: cicloviadelsole.it

IN THE MARCHE region on the Great Ascolan Boroughs Ring (GABA)



Wanted by the Marche Region in response to the growing demand for outdoor tourism in the aftermath of the first Lockdown 2020, the Grande Anello dei Borghi Ascolani (GABA) is a new cycling and pedestrian route with a historical and naturalistic theme that won 3rd place in the Italian Cycling Oscar 2021.



The itinerary is a ring of 100 kilometres – divided into 7 stages of 15 kilometres each – that links Ascoli Piceno to the most characteristic places of the pre-Apennine hinterland, highlighting its naturalistic, cultural and eno-gastronomic peculiarities. A journey through the magnificent hillside villages at the foot of the Ceresa and Monti Gemelli mountain ranges, including the municipalities of Ascoli Piceno, Venarotta, Roccafluvione and Acquasanta Terme. The paving is mixed and alternates between dirt roads and paths, especially mule tracks used by the inhabitants to move from one village to another, and paved sections. The route is signposted and equipped with bicigrilles, water fountains and assistance, as well as refreshment points and accommodation in the towns crossed.

Info: www.grandeanellodeiborghiascolani.it

IN BASILICATA from Matera to the Lucanian Dolomites



At the 2021 edition of the Italian Cycling Tourism Oscar, the Legambiente special mention went to the Basilicata Region for the cycle route from Matera to the Lucanian Dolomites. From the City of Sassi, UNESCO World Heritage Site and European Capital of Culture 2019, the route crosses the Murgia Materana park and, skirting the extraordinary ecosystem of the WWF San Giuliano oasis, reaches the Piccole Dolomiti Lucane, through the Gallipoli Cognato park. A total of 114 kilometres of nature reserves and perched



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villages along a route that is mainly paved, marked and equipped with bicigrill, water fountains, assistance and the possibility of refreshments and hospitality in the municipalities crossed.

For info: basilicataturistica.it

The 2021 Oscar-winning cycle routes will enrich the medals list of the Italian Green Road Award. In the past five editions the following have won the Oscar: UMBRIA with the Assisi-Spoleto-Norcia cycle path, FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA with the Alpe Adria cycle path, VENETO with the Friendship cycle path, ALTO ADIGE with the Via Claudiana Augusta and ABRUZZO with the Bike To Coast.

The Italian Green Road Award was born six years ago with the idea of enhancing the territories, and in particular the small villages, and their investments for the development of cycle tourism along the green routes. The bicycle tourist is a zero-impact itinerant traveller who respects the environment, uses tourist services, visits museums, buys thematic tours, wine and food products and contributes to the tourist upgrading of the territories.

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< TIME TO RECYCLE



Separate collection: how to recycle metals: steel and aluminum

What can you throw in the metal container? The answer in our section in collaboration with SmartRicicla



When we talk about recycling, we cannot fail to mention metal recycling, a very important process for the protection of the environment and for the economy. Metal objects, like plastic ones, occupy an important role in our daily life: we think of cutlery, jars, jars, cans and caps. In addition, metal is widely used in construction and industry.

The most commonly recycled materials include, in addition to gold, silver and platinum which are precious metals, iron, steel, copper, brass, aluminum, nickel, palladium, cobalt and various other ferrous and metallic alloys, in addition to the so-called "rare earths" ", Chemical elements indispensable in the most modern technologies, including scandium, yttrium, neodymium, europium, gadolinium, cerium, lanthanum, dysprosium and lutetium.

Metals can be turned back into raw materials and reused to build other objects almost 100%. An extraordinary yield that avoids wastage of resources and guarantees significant environmental and economic savings. The separation of metal parts occurs according to two different processes: ferrous metals such as steel are separated thanks to the use of powerful magnets, while for metals such as aluminum, separation is possible thanks to the use of electronic currents.

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Italy is a country at the forefront of the reuse of metals and alloys, as evidenced by the excellent results obtained in many related sectors, including that of aluminum packaging. The Cial (Aluminum Packaging Consortium) has estimated that 70% of the raw materials introduced into the market are recycled to take on new forms depending on the industrial sector of destination.

Just aluminum, together with steel, is the most present metal in our homes and therefore the one that most interests the domestic collection of waste. Aluminum is easily recyclable by fusion and has a yield of 100% and with the use of only 5% of electricity necessary for the production of the primary one.

The numbers of savings are remarkable: if 15 kWh are needed to produce 1 kg of primary aluminum, 0.75 is enough for secondary aluminum, with the consequence that more and more common objects are made with recycled material. This is the case of some commonly used objects: the coffee makers produced in Italy are now made of 100% recycled aluminum, while for the pots we are 90%.

Let's see in more detail what it is possible to put in the metal container or what not with our list created in collaboration with SmartRicicla, always remembering that some rules may vary depending on the municipality. In many municipalities, in fact, aluminum and steel are collected together in the metal bell or in the multi-material one, together with plastic.

WHAT YOU CAN THROW IN THE METAL CONTAINER

Aluminium:

- beverage cans with the symbol AL or Alu
- aluminum foil for cooking
- chocolate wrappers and yogurt foil lids
- aluminum trays and containers
- tubes for preserves, creams and cosmetics
- capsules
- metal closures and caps for bottles (wine, spirits and soft drinks)

Steel:

- coffee makers
- chains, padlocks, keys
- pots
- tinsplate food containers
- lids for the glass jars of preserves
- crown caps
- spray cans
- milk cans
- boxes (liqueurs, sweets and gift items)

WHAT YOU CAN'T THROW IN THE METAL CONTAINER

- lead crystals
- containers for dangerous substances (paints, enamels, stain removers, solvents, acids, glues and insecticides)
- jars with residues
- electrical and electronic equipment

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