



UNITED FOR THE CLIMATE - CHANGING PERSPECTIVE: THE ONLY WAY FOR THE FUTURE

The event, organized by ENGIE Italia, energy and services player, along with experts in the field and institutional representatives, highlights the need to change perspective and behavior to win the fight against the climate emergency.

Milan, September 28, 2018 – Today took place the forum "**UNITED FOR THE CLIMATE - Changing perspective: the only way for the future**", organized by ENGIE Italy, a global player in energy and services sector, along with the University of Milan Bicocca. On the occasion, experts in the field, such as Luca Mercalli, and representatives of the institutional world (University of Milan Bicocca, ENEA, City of Milan, Lombardy Region, Government) have discussed about the issues related to the impacts of **climate change and highlighted the need for urgent action and concrete actions**.

STUDIES AND OPINIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

According to Luca Mercalli, President of the Italian Meteorological Society, the climate change is a phenomenon already underway, unstoppable, whose consequences appear not only in Italy but more widely worldwide. The average global temperature in the last century has risen by 1°C, with concrete repercussions on the environment that affect on one hand, the decrease in the extent of the glaciers (the Mont Blanc glacier from 1897 to 2015 has withdrawn by 800 meters and the Alpine ones have reduced by more than 50% in a century) and, on the other, the increase of the sea level.



Recent researches underline the need to quickly implement a reversal of the trend to protect the environment. Otherwise, in 2100 in Italy there will be an increase in temperature of +8 ° C, with consequences on the sea level putting at risk the Venetian lagoon, the Po delta, and all coastal areas that must necessarily be adequately protected.

"The climate and environmental crisis is progressing at a great pace, but is still too underestimated by politics, economy and citizens. The solutions to reduce the impact of our activities on nature and limit greenhouse gas emissions exist, but are still too slow to spread," stressed Luca Mercalli - "We need a great cultural and technological breakthrough to avoid making the planet unlivable for future generations. Energy efficiency and sobriety, renewable sources and electric mobility are among the most important options to achieve environmental sustainability.

The studies carried out by the Bicocca University in the field of climate change also confirm the need to intervene promptly to stem the effects that they are triggering at several levels: air, wind, glaciers and sea.

According to the research carried out by the University, the effects of climate change can already be observed in northern Italy. The increase of 1°C in the average spring temperature causes the beginning of the growing season of plants in the Alps to be brought forward by 8/9 days, with repercussions also on the fauna (Busetto et al., 2010 Global Change Biology).

There is also a clear correlation between climate change and atmospheric pollution in the Po Valley. In the last 15 years, winter rainfall has shown a stronger reduction than in the rest of Europe, so much so that the episodes of severe drought that affect this area of our country in the cold semester have now become increasingly recurrent, (Source: Epson Meteo Center) which results in a higher concentration of particulate matter in the winter season, with the same emission sources (Bolzacchini et al.).

Professor Marco Orlandi, Director of the Department of Environmental and Earth Sciences, Delegate of the Rector for Sustainability University of Milan-Bicocca stressed: as the *Sustainable Development Goal 13 of the United Nations Agenda 2030* is "Adopting urgent measures to combat climate change and its consequences" and is therefore necessary to immediately reduce as much as possible both greenhouse gases and pollutant emissions, through the use of less polluting energy sources and the adoption of sustainable mobility, at the same time it is necessary to reduce the risks due to the effects of climate change already in place through an appropriate work of protection and consolidation of the territory. In this way it will be possible to combine development and environmental sustainability.

In this context of general alarm about the environment, energy and new methods of production and use represent the keystone for sustainability.



THE POINT OF VIEW OF ENGIE ITALIA, PLAYER IN ENERGY AND SERVICES

ENGIE, which works alongside territories, enterprises, buildings, communities, and even individual citizens, is committed to building a **harmonious progress** that aims to **reconcile environmental** interests, both collective and individual, for the **benefit of a more sustainable world**.

*"The time has come to say enough! We have to change our perspective and we must do so. Perhaps we still have a chance to give a future to our planet and next generations. **Olivier Jacquier, CEO of ENGIE Italia, commented:** "As a player in this sector, I cannot help but feel a strong responsibility to act and react in a strong way, and as a parent I cannot help but feel the weight of the outcome of my possible indifference. A challenge of this size requires the commitment of all and we will be determined and tireless in our actions as a catalyst and aggregator of all those who want to contribute with us to build a new narrative that puts the common good at the center. We must create awareness of the immense risk that we are running, of the sense of urgency that requires us to change our behavior immediately. I repeat: changing perspective is the only way for the future."*