Emilia-Romagna: Working with government and the public to deliver a new Climate Pact

While managing the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, Emilia-Romagna has committed itself as a region to placing social, economic and environmental sustainability at the heart of government policies. In practice this is intended to build a better approach to climate action in line with the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Emilia-Romagna intends to develop a Regional Labour and Climate pact together with the local authorities, universities, employers, trade unions and non-profit sector, in order to agree and progress a full employment and green transition. The Pact is a political commitment that will benefit the preparation of programming structural funds, European social funds and rural development funds 2021–2027, as well as ensuring the optimal and complementary use of regional, national and EU funds.

With this Pact, Emilia-Romagna is determined to share its latest ambitious goals of carbon neutrality by 2050 and a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2035. The regional government believes that for active change to occur, ambitions and ideas...
supporting that change must be shared with local institutions and bodies. Only by working together can this change be implemented fully in society.

Emilia-Romagna wants to expand the principles of this work to integrate even more ambitious and complex government objectives such as the fight against inequality and pursuit of a just ecological transition, inclusive growth and developmental policies, compensation for territorial imbalances, and long term environmental and climate sustainability.

Some of Emilia-Romagna’s plans to improve air quality, develop clean energy, fight climate change and build a green economy include:

- Renewing local bus fleets by replacing at least 600 buses with low impact vehicles.
- Improving sustainable mobility by:
  - Injecting over €14 million into bicycle mobility, pedestrianisation and implementing restricted traffic zones.
  - Scrapping commercial vehicles which emit pollutants and increasing greener urban areas by 20%.
  - Coordinating climate work with other regions of the Po Valley through the “Regional Integrated Air Plan 2020” to improve areas including transport, heating and energy.
  - Banning the use of open and low-efficiency wood-powered fireplaces under 300 meters of altitude (from October to March).
  - Banning the use of air-conditioning systems in common spaces of buildings (garages, stairs etc.)
  - Allocating €125.6 million for integrated agricultural production and €117.8 million for organic production.

These developments form part of Emilia-Romagna’s larger infrastructural strategies and plans in order to bring in a greener economy for the region.