

Environmental Literacy Networking Project

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Sustainable Development Investments and Policy Recommendations: Italy Good Practices

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2020, we launched the Environmental Literacy Networking Project in partnership with YUVA and Kyoto Club (Italy). Within the scope of the project funded by the European Union, we established the Environmental Literacy Network (ELN) with the participation of non-governmental organizations and local authorities from Türkiye and the European Union. ELN has 80 members and is still recruiting new members.

The aim of ELN is to strengthen the cooperation of non-governmental organizations and local authorities from Türkiye and the European Union in the field of environmental education and thus contribute to the increase of "globally literate" individuals who can look critically at nature and human relations, develop ideas for solving these problems and exhibit responsible behavior and understanding in this context.

This document presents the good practices on sustainable development investments and solutions that were developed as a result of the study visit to Rome, Italy on 23-27 January 2023 and to Bologna, Italy on 3-7 April 2023 as representatives of ELN member organizations within the scope of the Environmental Literacy Networking Project

During the study visit to Rome, we met with ECCO (Italian Climate Change Think Tank), Legambiente, Greenpeace Italy, ISPRA (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), WWF Italy, FREE (Coordination of Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency), ASviS (Association for Sustainable Development) and AzzeroCO2. During the study visit to Bologna, we visited Scambi Europei, Camilla Food Cooperative, Kilowatt, CEFA Onlus, DumBo (Bologna's Multifunctional Event Space), Centro Antartide, Emilia-Romagna Regional Parliament, Municipality of Bologna, FIU (City Innovation Foundation), Caracò, Hayat Onlus, Bologna Climate Assembly, Legacoop Bologna and Piazza Grande Social Cooperative. During both visits, we learned in detail about good practices and approaches in the field of sustainable development in Italy, especially in Rome.

The overall objective of this document is to contribute to the dissemination of good examples of sustainable development investments and solutions that will contribute to local policy-making in Türkiye.

Environmental Literacy Networking Project

Environmental Literacy Networking Project is a project implemented by Yuva Association (Türkiye) and Kyoto Club (Italy) within the framework of the European Union Civil Society Facility and Media - Support to Civil Society Networks and Platforms in Türkiye. The Support to Civil Society Networks and Platforms in Türkiye aims to contribute to the development of an active civil society by promoting a more active democratic participation in policy and decision-making processes, fundamental rights and a culture of dialogue, and to strengthen active citizenship and civil society. Funded by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II (IPA II).

YUVA ASSOCIATION

YUVA is an organization that has set out with the vision of creating a sustainable life and a fair, equal, poverty-free future that respects the rights of all living beings and the generations after us.

It carries out activities for the promotion of sustainable lifestyles, poverty reduction and democratization through adult learning and supports participatory education methods.

Areas of work can be summarized as follows:

- Development and implementation of ecology, human rights and civic education and intercultural learning programs,
- Developing cooperation with adult learning institutions to increase participation in non-formal adult learning activities in Türkiye,
- Employment programs to enable disadvantaged communities and individuals to become self-sufficient and build a better future.

YUVA organizes public discussions and events to promote a way of life that is aware of the interdependence of people and all living beings, values diversity, is peaceful and inclusive, and actively advocates equality, justice and solidarity between people and all living beings.

KYOTO CLUB

The Kyoto Club is a non-profit organization founded in February 1999. Its members are non-governmental organizations, companies, local authorities and governments working to achieve the 2030 greenhouse gas reduction targets set by EU countries under the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The Kyoto Club aims to promote the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency at all levels, increase the culture and good practices of environmental and sustainable development of business companies and local authorities, and advance greenhouse gas reduction strategies, sustainable mobility and climate finance.

It promotes awareness-raising initiatives, knowledge sharing and training to promote energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy sources, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable agriculture and mobility in order to achieve its objectives and support biological, green and circular economy models.

Kyoto Club is a member of the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE) and the European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ECEEE) and has observer status at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

2. EUROPEAN UNION ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE LEGISLATION

The European Union's (EU) sustainability and climate change strategy is based on the following key elements. It is based on the cooperation and commitment of all EU Member States, as well as the involvement of the private sector, civil society and citizens. In addition, these legislations serve as an example for all countries that have a relationship with the EU.

2.1. European Green Deal

The European Green Deal¹ has been adopted as a comprehensive and ambitious plan to make the EU economy sustainable and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. It covers all sectors and policies, from energy to transport, agriculture to biodiversity, and sets a roadmap and targets for a green transformation.

Climate action: The EU has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. This includes policies promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean transport.

Circular economy: The EU is working to promote a circular economy where resources are used more efficiently and waste is minimized. This includes initiatives to promote recycling, reduce food waste and encourage sustainable production and consumption.

Biodiversity: The EU has set targets to protect and restore biodiversity, including restoring at least 25,000 km of rivers and planting three billion trees by 2030.

Farm to fork strategy: The EU promotes a sustainable food system through the Farm to Fork strategy, which includes targets to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, promote organic farming and reduce food waste.

Sustainable finance: The EU also promotes sustainable finance, which includes encouraging investment in sustainable projects and ensuring that financial institutions take environmental and social risks into account in their decision-making.

2.2. European Climate Law

The European Climate Law² makes the 2050 climate neutrality target binding legislation and sets a new 2030 target to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels. It also establishes a framework for regular monitoring and review of the EU's progress towards its climate goals.

2.3. European Union Adaptation Strategy

The European Union Adaptation Strategy³ aims to increase the EU's resilience to the inevitable impacts of climate change by 2050. It outlines policies and a long-term vision at all levels and in all sectors, from local to global. It also supports the development and implementation of national, regional and local adaptation strategies and plans.

2.4. European Union Climate Diplomacy

European Union Climate Diplomacy⁴ aims to shape global action on climate change and promote the EU's leadership and interests in international negotiations and cooperation. The EU is a key partner in

¹ [European Green Deal](#)

² [European Climate Law](#)

³ [EU Adaptation Strategy](#)

⁴ [EU Climate Diplomacy](#)

implementing the Paris Agreement, which aims to keep the global temperature rise well below 2°C and is working to limit it to 1.5°C. The EU also supports developing countries in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change through financial assistance, capacity building and technology transfer.

These legislations are some of the key components of the EU's sustainability and climate change strategy aimed at aligning with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. ITALY AND ROME ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE LEGISLATION

Italy is implementing its own sustainable development strategies in line with EU policies. These strategies are based on the following key elements.

3.1. Italy National Energy and Climate Plan

Italy has developed its own national strategy for sustainability and climate change called the National Energy and Climate Plan⁵ (NECP). The NECP is aligned with the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement on climate change. It sets several targets and actions for Italy to achieve a low-carbon economy and climate goals. Some of the key elements of Italy's NECP are:

Renewable energy

Italy aims to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy supply to 30% by 2030. This includes expanding the use of solar and wind energy, as well as promoting energy efficiency and the use of electric vehicles.

Energy efficiency

Italy aims to reduce energy consumption by 30% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. This includes improving the energy efficiency of buildings and promoting sustainable urban planning.

Sustainable mobility

Italy aims to reduce emissions from the transport sector by promoting sustainable mobility, including the use of electric vehicles, public transport and cycling.

Circular economy

Italy aims to transition to a circular economy where resources are used more efficiently and waste is minimized. This includes promoting recycling, reducing food waste and encouraging sustainable production and consumption.

Carbon pricing

Italy plans to introduce a carbon pricing mechanism to incentivize the private sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The NECP is a comprehensive strategy that addresses Italy's energy and climate challenges in a holistic way. Its success depends on the availability of resources and technological innovation, but also on the cooperation and commitment of all stakeholders.

3.2. National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy⁶, adopted in 2014, provides a framework for assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities, identifying adaptation priorities and actions, and enhancing coordination and engagement across different actors and sectors.

3.3. National Climate Change Adaptation Plan

⁵ [Italy's National Energy And Climate Plan](#)

⁶ [Strategia Nazionale di Adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici](#)

Submitted in 2017 for public consultation and expected to be finalized soon, the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan⁷ defines targets, measures, indicators and resources for the implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy at national and regional levels.

3.4. National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR)

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan⁸, submitted to the European Commission in April 2021, outlines how Italy plans to use funds from the EU's Next Generation EU Recovery Plan to support Italy's post-pandemic recovery. The PNRR allocates around 37% of the total amount (€222.1 billion) to green transition projects such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, circular economy, biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation.

3.5. Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy⁹ is a voluntary initiative involving more than 10,000 local authorities across Europe who have committed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 and to increase their resilience to climate change by adopting an integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation. Italy is one of the most active countries in this initiative, with more than 4,000 signatories representing around 85% of its population.

3.6. Rome Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan

Rome has developed the Rome Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan¹⁰ (SECAP), which addresses sustainability and climate change, outlining the city strategy. The plan aims to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and increase the share of renewable energy in the city's energy mix. SECAP includes a wide range of measures to promote sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in various sectors such as transportation, energy, waste management, and building and land use. Some of these measures include:

Promoting public transportation and cycling: The city is investing in expanding its public transportation system, including metro, tram and bus networks. It also encourages cycling by developing bike lanes and bike share schemes.

Improving energy efficiency: The city is implementing measures to improve the energy efficiency of public buildings, street lighting and public transportation. It also promotes energy efficiency in the residential and commercial sectors.

Promoting renewable energy: The city promotes the use of renewable energy such as solar and geothermal energy in public buildings and the residential sector.

Waste minimization: The city is implementing measures to reduce waste generation and increase recycling rates. It also promotes the use of composting and biogas production.

Adapting to climate change: The city is developing measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as heat waves, flooding and sea level rise. This includes measures such as increasing the resilience of infrastructure and green spaces and developing early warning systems for extreme weather events.

⁷ [Piano Nazionale di Adattamento ai Cambiamenti Climatici](#)

⁸ [Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza](#)

⁹ [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#)

¹⁰ [Piano D'azione Per L'energia Sostenibile E il Clima Di Roma Capitale](#)

Overall, the SECAP plan reflects the city's commitment to sustainability and climate action and provides a roadmap to achieve a more sustainable and resilient future for Rome.

The Metropolitan Municipality of Rome has also designed the Rome Sustainable Development Fund to finance sustainable development projects in the city related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable mobility and urban regeneration. The Rome Sustainable Development Fund aims to attract private investment and promote public and private partnerships to finance sustainable development projects in the city.

The Metropolitan Municipality of Rome is committed to promoting sustainable investments in its procurement policies. The city's procurement policy includes criteria for assessing the environmental and social sustainability of goods and services, as well as the sustainability of suppliers and production processes.

The Metropolitan Municipality of Rome has established a Green Bond Framework to issue green bonds to finance sustainable development projects. The Green Bond Framework outlines criteria for selecting eligible projects, as well as reporting and monitoring requirements for the use of proceeds from the bond issue.

Overall, Rome takes a proactive approach to promoting sustainable development investments, recognizing the importance of sustainable investment for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the city.

4. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES IN ITALY

4.1. Energy Efficiency

In 2010, the Rome City Council adopted the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, which includes measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the city. This plan is an important step towards Rome's goal of becoming a more sustainable city in the future, demonstrating its commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible urban development.

One of the main focuses of the plan is on building renovations, as buildings account for a significant share of energy consumption and are a major cause of emissions. By promoting energy efficient buildings, the city aims to reduce overall energy demand and environmental impact. By promoting the use of renewable energy sources such as solar panels and geothermal energy, the plan aims to reduce Rome's dependence on traditional fossil fuels.

A notable aspect of the Plan is its emphasis on improving the energy performance of existing buildings. This approach considers not only the importance of implementing green technologies for new buildings, but also retrofitting and optimizing the energy efficiency of existing infrastructure. Thus, Rome is taking a holistic approach to sustainable urban development while maximizing efforts to reduce emissions.

In addition to focusing on buildings, the plan extends to other critical sectors. Rome recognizes the vital role of public transport in reducing carbon emissions and therefore the plan allocates resources to develop and promote sustainable transport options. By encouraging the public's use of public transport and investing in environmentally friendly means of transport, the city aims to reduce the environmental impact of daily journeys and encourage citizens to choose greener alternatives.

The plan also focuses on waste management and recognizes the importance of responsible waste disposal and recycling practices in mitigating environmental damage. Through effective waste management policies, Rome aims to minimize landfill waste and maximize the recovery and reuse of valuable resources. In this way, it aims to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

In addition to these measures, Rome offers financial incentives to encourage the adoption of energy efficient technologies, demonstrating its commitment to supporting individual and collective efforts towards sustainability. By making these technologies more accessible and economically viable, the city is encouraging residents and businesses to actively participate in a greener future.

The Plan also emphasizes the importance of a proactive approach to managing energy consumption in public buildings such as schools and hospitals. Through the implementation of specific policies promoting energy conservation and efficiency, Rome is setting an example for responsible resource use within its administrative units. This exemplary effort demonstrates the city's commitment to mobilizing change at all levels of society.

In conclusion, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan is a far-reaching effort taken by the Rome City Council. By focusing on building renovations, public transport, waste management and renewable energy, Rome offers a holistic strategy to realize sustainable development and reduce its environmental impact. Thanks to this plan, the city is setting an example for other urban centers, inspiring a global movement for a greener and more sustainable future.



Photo 1 Our visit to Legambiente

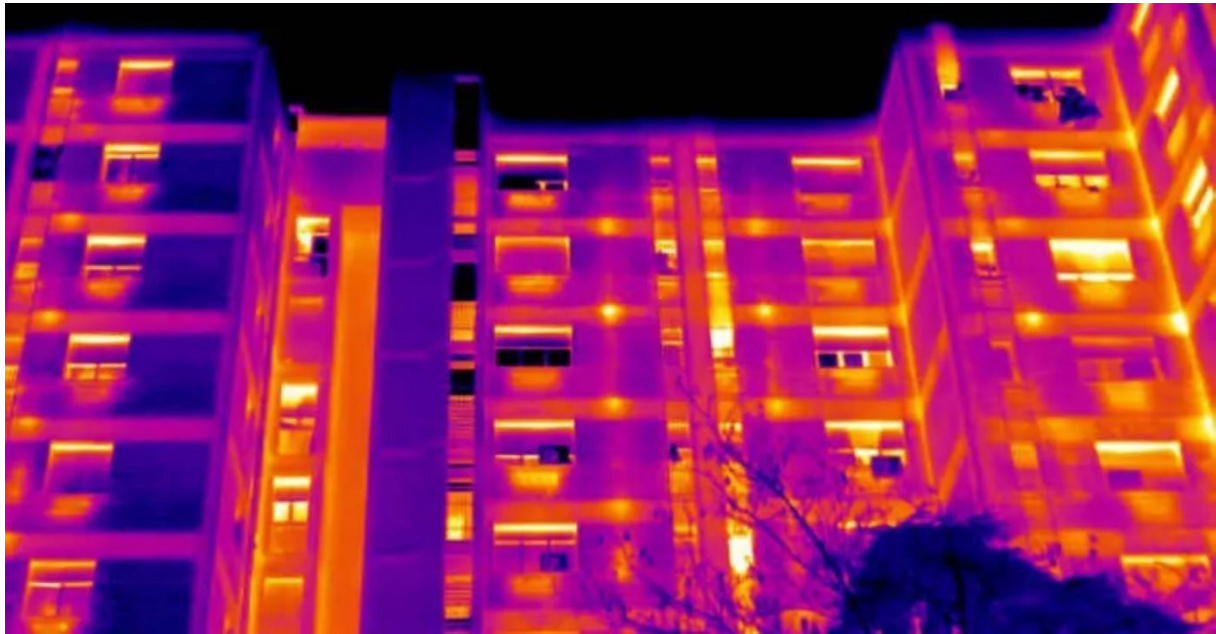


Photo 2 Legambiente's monitoring of thermal losses in buildings, involving citizens through citizen science (Legambiente photo archive)

[Legambiente](#), one of the civil society organizations we visited in Rome, and our project partner [Kyoto Club](#) play an important role in energy efficiency.

Legambiente works to inform citizens about energy efficiency and raise awareness, monitors energy efficiency and publishes reports.

The report "**Civic 5.0: Living in Class A**"¹¹ from Legambiente on energy efficiency can serve as an important resource highlighting the steps that need to be taken for the energy transition, especially in the residential construction sector. This report can provide guidance on issues such as constructing energy efficient buildings and improving the energy performance of existing buildings. It can also highlight measures to be taken on energy efficiency, encouraging the adoption of new green technologies and the implementation of sustainable building standards.

Similar efforts by civil society organizations can increase public participation in energy efficiency and raise awareness and public support to achieve a more sustainable energy future. By raising awareness on environmental issues, civil society organizations contribute to a more informed public awareness on energy efficiency and sustainability. They can also play an important role in the formulation and implementation of energy policies by collaborating with local authorities and other stakeholders.

4.2. Energy Communities

Energy communities are a new type of social movement in which citizens who voluntarily participate in renewable energy projects and/or engage in energy efficiency projects participate in more inclusive and democratic processes. These communities can bring together different concepts, such as the provision of energy production from renewable sources and the decentralization of the "production and consumption" system.

¹¹ [Rapporto Civico 5.0: Vivere in Classe A](#)

The ECCO think tank, which works on climate change and produces strategic reports on the issue, which we visited for good practices in Rome, also provided us with an example of a working class energy community in Italy. The working class community in the neighborhood of El San Giovanni a Teduccio in Naples has established a "just energy" community to provide free and clean electricity to families living below the poverty line through a system of 166 solar panels on the roof of the Maria Family Foundation. This exemplary initiative is an important work that harmoniously combines social justice and environmental justice. Through this initiative, citizens gain valuable insights into the functioning and benefits of clean energy and energy communities.



Photo 3 Maria Family Foundation roof, East Naples Energy and Solidarity Community solar panels (Legambiente photo archive)

In Italy, the legal framework for energy communities is defined by Legislative Decree 28/2011 implementing the European Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. This legislation defines energy communities as organizations created by natural or legal persons who participate voluntarily and on a non-profit basis in the production, management and consumption of energy from renewable sources.

In 2019, Italy enacted Law 8/2019, which further strengthens the legal framework for energy communities. This law establishes a simplified procedure for the creation of energy communities, reduces administrative burdens and encourages the participation of citizens, local authorities and small and medium-sized enterprises in the energy transition.

The law also provides incentives for energy communities, including access to financing for the development of renewable energy projects and exemption from certain taxes and duties. In addition, the law mandates the creation of a national register of energy communities and sets targets for the participation of energy communities in the national renewable energy mix.

Overall, the legal framework for energy communities in Italy aims to promote the participation of citizens, local communities and small and medium-sized enterprises in the transition to a more sustainable and decentralized energy system.

Energy communities are legal entities that empower citizens, small businesses and local authorities to produce, manage and consume their own energy. They can cover various parts of the energy value chain, such as production, distribution, supply, consumption and collection. Energy communities are defined and regulated by the EU Electricity Directive (2019/944), which distinguishes between two types of energy communities: renewable energy communities (RECs) and citizen energy communities (CECs).

Italy has recently transposed the EU Electricity Directive into its national legislation by adopting Legislative Decree 199/2021, which entered into force on December 15, 2021. The decree defines RECs and CECs in line with the EU directive, establishes rules and some general principles for their operation and participation in the electricity market. However, the decree also delegates the adoption of more detailed and specific provisions to subsequent ministerial decrees, which are currently under preparation or consultation.

On November 28, 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition launched a public consultation on a draft ministerial decree for energy communities, open until January 28, 2022. The draft decree aims to provide more clarity and guidance on the following issues:

- Criteria and procedures for the establishment and registration of energy communities.
- Rights and obligations of energy communities and their members or shareholders.
- Technical and economic conditions for the connection, access and use of electricity grids by energy communities.
- Mechanisms for charging and sharing electricity generated by energy communities among their members or shareholders.
- Incentives and support measures for energy communities to promote their development and participation in the energy transition.

The draft decree is expected to be finalized and adopted after the completion of the public consultation process and after taking into account comments and suggestions from stakeholders. The draft decree is also subject to the approval of other relevant authorities, such as the Energy, Networks and Environmental Regulatory Authority (ARERA) and the Italian Competition Authority (AGCM).

The information kits available on the European Commission's website¹² offer a range of resources on energy communities, from technical reports and scientific studies to *podcasts* and practical tools. These comprehensive resources provide in-depth information on the principles, practices and impact of energy communities. As these communities become more widespread in EU countries, supported by relevant regulations, they promote sustainable initiatives and play an important role in shaping a greener future.

4.3 Carbon neutral approach

In Rome, we visited the Climate Office of the Rome City Government, which provided detailed information on the important steps the city has taken to combat climate change and achieve carbon neutrality. In 2019, the Rome City Council declared a climate emergency and committed to carbon neutrality by 2050. To achieve this goal, the city has developed a Rome Sustainable Energy and

¹² [European Commission Energy Communities Resource Pool](#)

Climate Action Plan (Piano d'Azione per il Clima e l'Energia Sostenibile del Comune di Roma), which includes a series of commitments to promote renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This plan provides a clear framework for 2030 with a target of 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It is important that this plan includes measures to reduce emissions from the transportation sector and green solutions such as the promotion of electric vehicles and the improvement of public transport. Likewise, improving energy efficiency and promoting the use of renewable energy sources to reduce emissions from buildings are important steps in reducing the city's environmental impact.

In addition, the Rome City Council has launched several initiatives, such as the "Rome Carbon Credits" project, which aims to offset the city's carbon footprint by purchasing carbon credits from certified projects to promote sustainable development and reduce emissions.

Overall, Italy is taking a comprehensive approach to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, focusing on reducing emissions from buildings and transportation while promoting renewable energy and sustainable development. It also allocates funds in this area to achieve the carbon neutrality target. It invests in sustainable development projects, environmentally friendly technologies and research and development to reduce carbon emissions. These efforts are helping the country move towards carbon neutrality and setting an exemplary model.



Photo 4 We get information from AzzeroCO2 representatives about their work

Another organization we visited, [AzzeroCO2](#), is an initiative founded by Legambiente and Kyoto Club and offers consultancy services in the field of sustainability.

AzzeroCO2 collaborates with municipalities to conduct sustainability assessments and provide sustainability trainings to municipal employees. In this way, it is aimed for municipalities to take more conscious and effective steps towards sustainability. At the same time, impact assessments are conducted through consultancy services and carbon reset efforts are encouraged.

Despite the lack of legal regulations on carbon zeroing, AzzeroCO2 is pioneering zeroing activities. In particular, it focuses on zeroing activities such as tree planting and carries out zeroing activities by mapping emissions.

AzzeroCO2 also provides consultancy services to its clients to meet the criteria for ecological labels such as Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Environmental Footprint, DEF EU Label (EU sustainable food products), PEF Label (Product Environmental Footprint Label), Green Marketing. These eco-labels help to identify products and services that reduce environmental impact and raise consumer awareness.

These various consultancy services and reset efforts of AzzeroCO2 contribute to raising awareness on sustainability and moving towards a carbon neutral future. Such innovative and effective initiatives can set an important example for local authorities and institutions and support their sustainability efforts.

4.4. Sustainable Agriculture

During our visit to [WWF Italy](#) in Rome, we had the chance to witness the "Food 4 Future" campaign focused on sustainable agriculture. It was also an opportunity to discover Rome's progressive policies on this important issue.



Photo 5 We get information about WWF Italy's work

Rome has a long history of agriculture and is known for its traditional food products such as olive oil and wine. In recent years, the city has been working to promote sustainable agricultural practices and support local farmers.

One of the initiatives launched by the city is the "Campagna Amica" program, which promotes the sale of local and regional agricultural products through direct marketing. The "Campagna Amica" program aims to reduce the distance between producers and consumers and increase the consumption of local products by promoting the sale of local and regional agricultural products through direct marketing. In this way, the origin and quality of the food consumed can be better traced and local farmers are supported, promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

In addition to promoting local agriculture, Rome has also launched several initiatives to encourage sustainable agricultural practices. For example, the city has implemented an organic waste recycling program to produce compost, which is used to fertilize farmland. The city has also taken measures to reduce the use of pesticides and promote organic farming practices.

Rome has also established a number of urban agriculture projects such as community gardens, rooftop gardens and urban farms. Such projects allow residents in the city to use natural resources more efficiently and contribute to a sustainable model of food production.

Overall, Rome takes a comprehensive approach to promoting sustainable agricultural practices, supporting local farmers and encouraging the consumption of local and seasonal products. The city's initiatives aim to reduce the environmental impact of agriculture and promote sustainable food production in the city. Rome's efforts in this area can serve as inspiration for other cities and regions.



Photo 6 WWF Italy Food 4 Future campaign image (WWF photo archive)

The main objective of WWF Italy's [Food 4 Future](#) campaign is to make people understand the impact of the choices they make at the table on nature and human health. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the link between dietary choices and the current ecological crisis, emphasizing

the deep connection between nature and human health. This connection includes the relationship between human demand for food resources and its environmental impacts. Food production, agricultural practices and consumption patterns can have significant impacts, such as depletion of natural resources and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Food 4 Future campaign offers people the opportunity to contribute to a more sustainable and healthy food system by raising awareness. Individuals paying more attention to their daily dietary choices and supporting the protection of natural resources by showing environmental awareness will be an important step in creating a more livable world for future generations.

4.5. Food cooperatives

Food cooperatives in Rome are community-based initiatives that aim to promote sustainable food production, support local farmers and provide affordable and healthy food options for residents. These cooperatives are often organized as associations or groups of individuals who come together to buy food directly from local farmers and producers.

One example of a food cooperative in Rome is Cooperativa Janas, a non-profit organization founded in 2014. The cooperative buys food directly from local farmers and producers and sells it at affordable prices to cooperative members. Members pay an annual fee to be part of the cooperative and gain access to fresh, local and organic produce.

Another example of a food cooperative in Rome is the [Cooperativa Agricola Giuseppe Garibaldi](#), founded in 2013 and located in the Garbatella neighborhood. The cooperative buys food directly from local farmers and producers and sells it through a community supported agriculture (CSA) program. Members of the CSA program pay a fee to receive a weekly share of fresh, local and organic produce.

In addition to these examples, there are many food cooperatives and community-based initiatives in Rome that aim to promote sustainable food production and support local farmers. These initiatives offer an alternative to the traditional food system and promote a more sustainable and equitable food system in the city.



Photo 7 Our visit to Camilla Food Cooperative

During our study visit to Bologna, Italy, we had the opportunity to visit [Camilla](#) food cooperative. Camilla food cooperative stands out as a sustainable and socially responsible business model. Unlike traditional businesses, it operates as a self-managed cooperative. Customers are also the owners and employees of the cooperative and take turns to manage the cooperative on a monthly basis.

One of Camilla's core principles is to promote transparency and sustainability in product choices. Cooperative members actively evaluate the environmental and social sustainability criteria of the products they offer. They assess the products' compliance with their sustainability commitments, taking into account sourcing, production methods and their impact on the environment and communities.

Making the relationship between nature and human labor visible is of great importance to Camilla. Recognizing the efforts of farmers and emphasizing the importance of producing food and other products sustainably helps build a strong connection between consumers and producers.

Fair pricing and supporting working conditions are other important principles of Camilla. The cooperative contributes to ethical treatment and biodiversity conservation by sourcing its products from peasant, organic and biodynamic farming methods.

The Camilla food cooperative takes a holistic approach to sustainability and social responsibility. Through its cooperative structure, it encourages its members to make sustainable choices and make a positive contribution to society and the environment by selecting products that meet environmental and social standards. Camilla's business model is an inspiring example for other businesses because it promotes sustainable consumption while strengthening a sense of community and shared responsibility.

The Camilla food cooperative told us during our study visit that they do not receive direct support from the municipality, but emphasized the importance of municipal support. The cooperative does not receive direct financial support from the local government as it adopts a self-managed business model. However, they stated that local government support is important to achieve their goals, such as sustainable agriculture and social responsibility.

4.6. Participation

Rome has a range of stakeholders involved in sustainable development investments, including government agencies, private sector organizations, civil society and international organizations. The City has adopted a participatory approach to sustainable development investments that involves involving these stakeholders in the planning, implementation and evaluation of sustainable development projects.

An example of a participatory approach to sustainable development investments in Rome is the Rome Sustainable Mobility Plan¹³ (PUMS), developed in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, including government agencies, transport operators, civil society groups and citizens. PUMS aims to promote sustainable transport in the city and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to involving stakeholders in the development of sustainable development plans and policies, Rome works with private sector organizations and international organizations to attract sustainable investment in the city. For example, the city has established partnerships with organizations such as the European Investment Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme to promote sustainable development investments.

Overall, Rome adopts a participatory approach to sustainable development investments by involving various stakeholders in the planning, implementation and evaluation of sustainable development projects. The participatory approach allows for the design and evaluation of sustainable development projects taking into account the views, needs and priorities of stakeholders. In this way, projects can be better adapted to the needs of city residents and more successful outcomes can be achieved with the participation of a broad cross-section of society.

Rome's participatory and inclusive approach is a model for other cities and regions and emphasizes the importance of different actors of society working together to achieve sustainable development goals. In this way, it is possible to find more effective and impactful solutions in the areas of sustainability and environmental protection.

¹³ [Piano Urbano della Mobilità Sostenibile](#)



Photograph 8 Our visit to Fondazione Innovazione Urbana Foundation

In Italy, we visited the [FIU \(Fondazione Innovazione Urbana\)](#), an organization established in Bologna with the aim of fostering relationships between local government, universities, companies, the third sector and citizens.

FIU is a foundation focused on promoting urban innovation and sustainable development through collaborative approaches involving diverse stakeholders. The foundation operates at both national and international level to foster local partnerships, provide experiences of civic engagement and support the creation of public policies that respond to global challenges.

FIU's work is based on a methodology that emphasizes civic imagination and research design. The Foundation designs methodologies and develops tools for projects that aim to promote civic engagement, support collaborative work and involve diverse local stakeholders in decision-making processes.

One of the important projects initiated by FIU is the "Bologna Climate Citizen Assembly". This project is supported by the European Commission's "Public Participation for Good Governance" fund and serves as a pilot project for citizen participation. Through this initiative, the Bologna City Council adopts climate protection as a programmatic objective.

With this project, FIU, together with the Municipality of Bologna and with the support of the Emilia-Romagna Region, is developing policies and strategies for climate protection and just ecological transition by creating a citizens' assembly based on the call for participation provided by the regional law of the same name. Citizens who use municipal services in different regions are randomly selected and invited to join the citizens' assembly. The citizens who accept are trained and

joint, transparent, participatory and democratic policies and strategies are produced. In this way, they ensure the preparation of climate protection and fair ecological regional policies. Detailed information can be found in the "Citizen Participation Playbook for the Emilia-Romagna Region"¹⁴ .

5. THE SITUATION IN TÜRKİYE

Türkiye is implementing various investments and policies in the field of climate change adaptation and sustainable development. These investments and policies focus on areas such as environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, green economy and reduction of carbon emissions.

However, issues such as financing investments, technology transfer, strengthening institutional capacity are among the major challenges in Türkiye. There is also a need to establish a more comprehensive and integrated policy framework for combating climate change at the national level.

Therefore, it is important for Türkiye to do more work on climate change and sustainable development and develop stronger policies and practices in cooperation with various stakeholders. With support from international organizations such as the EU and other partner countries, it is possible for Türkiye to move forward in combating climate change and sustainable development.

As an EU candidate country, Türkiye is undertaking a series of legal, administrative and economic reforms to adopt the membership criteria and policies. These reforms aim to bring Türkiye's existing laws and institutions in line with EU policies and standards.

In this harmonization process, the EU's policies and targets for combating climate change are an important source of reference for Türkiye, especially since it is a party to international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on a global scale and works towards common goals in combating climate change, and Türkiye is trying to integrate these policies and targets into its national policies and action plans.

However, since Türkiye's energy production and consumption are largely based on fossil fuels, reforms in these areas need to be more comprehensive and faster.

In this framework, it is important for Türkiye to update its climate change policies and action plans and focus on more sustainable practices. At the same time, it should increase its capacity to tackle climate change through cooperation with international organizations providing technical and financial support. In this way, Türkiye can move forward in the fight against climate change and become more aligned with EU policies.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

During our visits to Rome and Bologna, we were inspired to observe Italy's progress in the field of sustainability, where there is strong collaboration between civil society organizations, the private sector, universities and local authorities. This collaboration enables the development of comprehensive local and regional strategies and policies on key issues such as sustainability, climate change adaptation, resilience and energy efficiency.

Among the good examples we observed during the study visit to Italy, particularly Rome, those that can be applied in Türkiye can be listed as follows:

¹⁴ [Emilia Romagna Citizen Participation Playbook](#)

6.1. Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations and Other Stakeholders

In Türkiye, cooperation between civil society organizations, the private sector, universities and local authorities should be encouraged for combating climate change and sustainable development. In this way, different stakeholders can come together to identify common strategies and carry out projects.

Civil society organizations can encourage policy makers and decision makers to take more conscious and effective steps on climate change and sustainability, and play an effective role in the formulation of relevant policies. They can also help promote climate-friendly projects at the local level and launch small-scale sustainability initiatives.

The private sector plays an important role in climate change and sustainable development. By adopting sustainability-oriented business strategies and practices, they can create positive impacts for the environment and society. They can reduce their environmental impact by integrating sustainability principles such as the use of renewable energy, energy and water conservation, and waste management into their business models. They can also measure and transparently share the environmental impact of their products and services and communicate their contributions to consumers.

Universities can contribute to the development of new technologies and the discovery of sustainable solutions through research on climate change and sustainable development. By instilling environmental awareness in students and academics, they can support future generations to become environmentally conscious leaders. At the same time, they can conduct applied and solution-oriented research by carrying out projects and studies in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, private sector and local authorities.

An example of a multi-stakeholder approach can be found in similar structures such as [Centro Antartide](#) which we visited in Bologna. Centro Antartide is an important youth-led civil society organization in Bologna working in the field of environmental sustainability. Working with local institutions such as the City and University of Bologna, it plays an important role in raising environmental awareness and finding solutions for sustainable development by combining scientific research and social innovation.

6.2. Networks and Platforms

Networks and platforms established for combating climate change and sustainable development bring together different stakeholders and increase knowledge and experience sharing. Such networks and platforms can help to adopt a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to climate change and sustainable development in Türkiye and achieve more effective results. Local authorities, civil society organizations, businesses, universities and all other stakeholders can work together to contribute to Türkiye's sustainable future.

Structures similar to [ASVIS](#) (Italian Association for Sustainable Development), which we visited in Rome, can be established and encouraged to follow the Sustainable Development Goals. ASVIS (Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile) was created to raise awareness among Italian society, economic stakeholders and institutions on the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to encourage them to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is the largest network in Italy with more than 270 associations, businesses, trade unions, foundations and networks. With the contributions of member organizations and scientists, the network prepares research and reports on the SDGs and provides consultancy support to local authorities.

6.3. Local and Regional Strategies

Local and regional climate change and sustainable development strategies at the local and regional level in cities such as Rome and Bologna can also be implemented in Turkish cities. Each city can develop plans tailored to its own needs, resulting in more effective and faster results.



Photo 9 Our visit to the Regional Parliament of Emilia-Romagna

A successful example is the Business and Climate Agreement¹⁵ signed by the Regional Parliament of Emilia-Romagna, which we visited in Italy, together with local authorities, trade unions, businesses, schools, universities, environmental associations, the third and voluntary sector, professional groups, chambers of commerce and banks. The Emilia-Romagna Region is a region in Italy and is taking important steps to promote progress in the areas of environmental, economic and social sustainability. To this end, the Regional Parliament of Emilia-Romagna has launched the "Business and Climate Agreement", signed together with local authorities, civil society organizations, universities, businesses, chambers of commerce and other stakeholders.

The Business and Climate Compact is an initiative that aims to enable different stakeholders in the region to act collaboratively and define common strategies to achieve sustainability goals. This agreement includes targets for a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2035 and complete decarbonization by 2050. Thus, it aims to revitalize and develop Emilia-Romagna based on environmental and economic sustainability.

Parties to the Agreement focus on increasing cooperation at the local level and taking effective steps to combat climate change. They also cooperate in bringing together scientific research and social innovation to develop innovative projects and solutions to achieve sustainability goals.

The Agreement includes the participation of various sectors. This encourages businesses and local institutions to adopt practices that promote environmental sustainability and implement

¹⁵ [Patto per il Lavoro e per il Clima](#)

environmentally friendly projects in various fields. At the same time, scientific institutions and universities play an important role in promoting sustainability goals based on research and educational activities.

The Jobs and Climate Agreement ensures that the region sets an important example in the field of climate change and sustainability, with local authorities taking a leadership role. It also emphasizes the importance of all stakeholders working in collaboration to achieve sustainable development goals.

In conclusion, the Emilia-Romagna Region's "Business and Climate Agreement" represents a strong example of collaboration and leadership on sustainability and climate change at the local level. Such multi-stakeholder approaches can serve as an inspiration for other regions and countries and can be considered as an important step towards achieving sustainability goals.

6.4. Democratic Governance

Democratic governance processes that encourage citizen participation contribute to a more inclusive and participatory approach to climate change and sustainable development in Türkiye. Strategies and policies developed with the active participation of the public help to realize more effective and socially acceptable solutions.

The "Citizens' Assembly for Climate"¹⁶ of the Municipality of Bologna is composed of participants selected by stratified random sampling from different groups of people registered on the municipal electoral lists. They are represented according to various demographic factors such as gender, age and place of residence. The Assembly is composed of 80 local residents, out-of-town students and public transportation subscribers in the city. In this way, the views of different age groups and local residents, as well as other groups in the city, such as students and public transport users, are represented in the assembly.

This sampling method increases democratic participation and ensures that the opinions of various segments of the public on climate change and sustainability issues are taken into account. Thus, it allows people from different layers of society to contribute to the formulation and implementation of climate policies.

Local authorities in Türkiye can take inspiration from the example of the "Citizens' Assembly for Climate" of the Municipality of Bologna and establish similar participatory, diversity-oriented and democratic processes.

6.5. Sustainable Development Investments

Investments in sustainable development should be an important priority for Türkiye. Investments in areas such as green energy, energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources offer solutions to both reduce environmental impacts and contribute to the economy.

Sustainable development collaborations supported by local authorities such as Kilowatt and DumBo in Bologna can serve as a model for local authorities in Türkiye. By partnering with the private sector and civil society organizations, such collaborations help transform underutilized spaces and host sustainable projects.

¹⁶ [Il Consiglio dei cittadini per il clima](#)

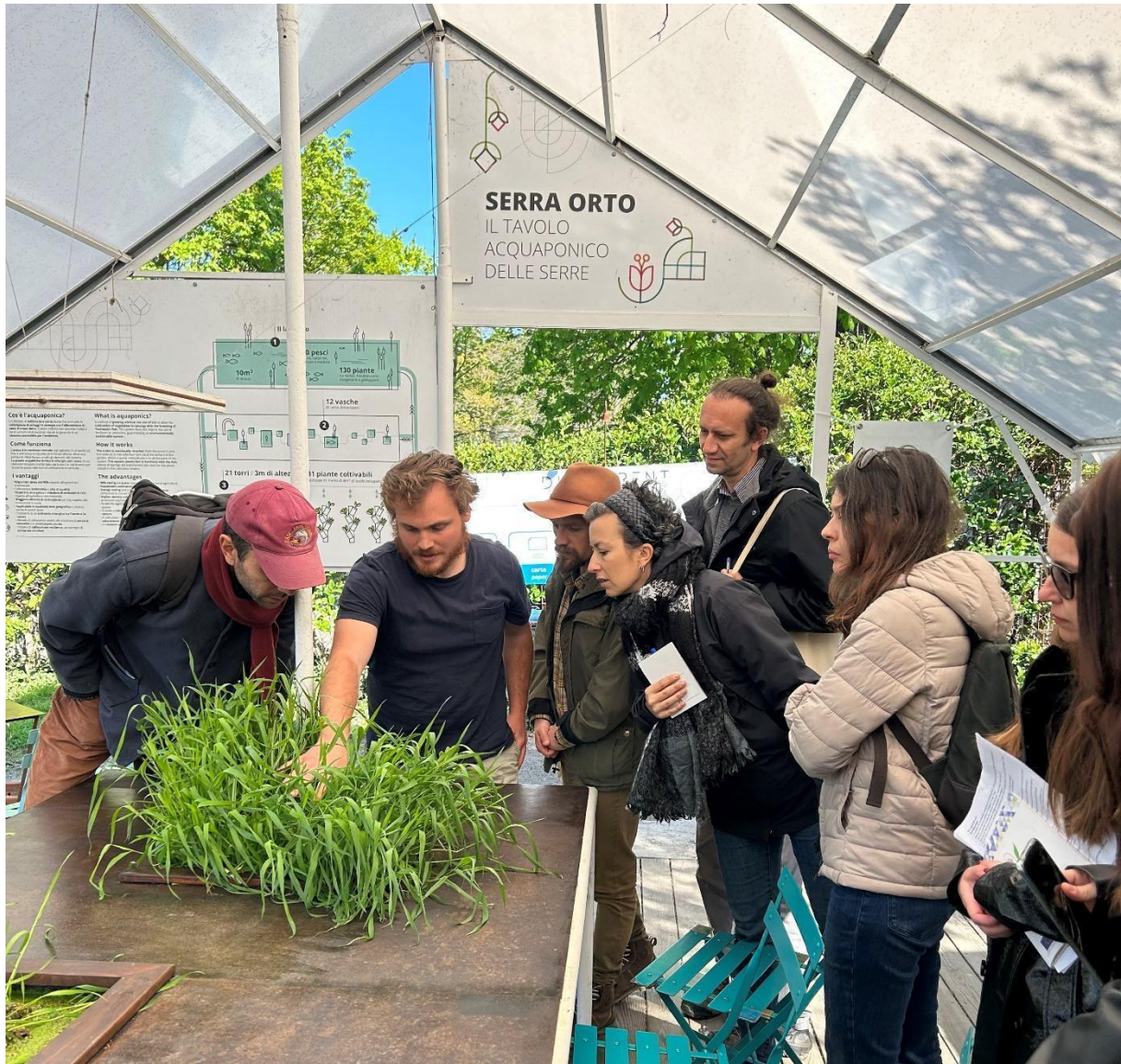


Photo 10 Our visit to the Kilowatt initiative in Bologna

Kilowatt works in the fields of social innovation, circular economy and urban renewal through a cooperative model that brings together different experts. It transforms an idle space owned by the municipality, enabling cultural events, initiatives and innovative ideas. It houses sustainability-oriented activities such as a crèche, co-working space for freelancers, workshop spaces, event spaces, a restaurant, green spaces, and elevation and vertical gardens where permaculture techniques are experimented.



Photo 11 Our visit to the DumBo initiative in Bologna

[DumBo](#) is a building in the former train station freight yard that provides spaces for social activities such as culture, art, music and sports in cooperation with associations, private sector and citizens. It offers office and workshop spaces to social enterprises and associations and includes spaces such as a large concert venue, restaurant, gymnasium for the city. Such structures respond to the needs of cities and engage diverse segments of society by promoting social integration, entertainment, culture, experience and sustainability.

Local authorities in Türkiye can take important steps towards sustainable development by creating similar collaborations and structures. Local authorities can support projects that create social impact by transforming underutilized areas and create more inclusive and effective solutions by encouraging the participation of civil society organizations, the private sector and local communities. Such innovative approaches will help to mainstream sustainable development in Türkiye and play a more effective role in the fight against climate change.

6.6. Sustainable Agriculture

Direct marketing methods, such as Rome's [Campagna Amica](#) program, have been an effective way to increase consumption of local agricultural products and reduce the distance between producers and consumers. Local authorities in Türkiye can establish such programs to enable local farmers to deliver their products directly to consumers and support the local economy.

Rome's urban agriculture projects have enabled residents to use natural resources more efficiently and contribute to sustainable food production. Local authorities in Türkiye can support and engage residents in agriculture in urban areas by promoting projects such as community gardens and rooftop gardens.

Rome's organic waste recycling program and compost production has provided a sustainable approach to fertilizing agricultural land. Local authorities in Türkiye can increase agricultural productivity and benefit farmers economically by promoting organic waste recycling.

In Rome, sustainable agriculture trainings were organized for farmers and local communities. Local authorities in Türkiye can raise awareness among farmers and communities by organizing training programs on agricultural sustainability and environmentally friendly practices.

In Rome, efficient water and soil management has helped to adopt an environmentally friendly approach to agricultural production. Local authorities in Türkiye can support sustainable agricultural practices by training farmers in water-saving irrigation techniques and organic soil care.

Measures have been taken to protect pollinators in Rome. Local authorities in Türkiye can increase agricultural production and contribute to the preservation of natural balance by taking various measures to protect pollinators. For reference, see the Guidelines for Pollinator Friendly Cities of the Pollinator Initiative established under the EU.¹⁷

6.7. Food Cooperatives

Food Cooperatives contribute to making the food system more environmentally and climate friendly by supporting sustainable agriculture and production on a local scale. Such initiatives help different segments of society collaborate to achieve more effective results in the fight against climate change.

With the Metropolitan Municipality Law in Türkiye, the duties and responsibilities of metropolitan municipalities have expanded to include rural areas within provincial borders. Metropolitan and district municipalities have been tasked with carrying out all kinds of activities to support agriculture and animal husbandry. As a result, the number of food cooperatives based on producer-consumer cooperation has started to increase with the support of local authorities. For more information on successful examples, please see ICA Cooperative Policy and Strategy Advisor Prof. Hüseyin Polat's article on municipalities and cooperatives¹⁸

Local authorities can play an important role by recognizing and supporting cooperatives and community-based initiatives that promote sustainable food production similar to those in Rome and Bologna. Support such as providing financial and technical assistance, marketing and distribution facilities, training and advisory services can help local farmers and producers more easily mobilize for such initiatives. Providing incentives and initiatives for the expansion of community-supported agriculture programs and food cooperatives promotes sustainable food production and consumption by building strong direct consumer-producer links. Furthermore, creating platforms that facilitate collaboration between local farmers, producers, academics, civil society organizations and local businesses is an important step to support sustainable food production and marketing. By promoting urban agriculture and supporting local markets, it is possible to increase sustainable food production. Local authorities can take measures such as incentives, supports and certification programs by developing policies and regulations for sustainable food production and consumption. These steps help to strengthen the sustainable food system and create positive impacts for society, the environment and the economy.

6.8. Energy Cooperatives

Local authorities in Türkiye can take inspiration from successful practices and good examples of energy communities in Italy and Europe to develop strategies and practices that are appropriate to

¹⁷ [A guide for pollinator-friendly cities](#)

¹⁸ [Prof. Hüseyin Polat's article on municipalities and cooperatives](#)

local circumstances. By supporting energy cooperatives, they can strengthen the local economy and energy system while increasing community participation in energy, contributing to a more sustainable future.

Energy cooperatives support the reduction of fossil fuels and the transition to sustainable energy by promoting renewable energy production. At the same time, they support the local economy and allow the community to have a say in energy decisions by adopting a participatory and democratic approach.

Local authorities can cooperate as cooperative partners or as supporters of energy projects. They can contribute to cooperative activities by allocating space, providing specialized staff and financial support. In addition, civil society organizations can lobby for improved legislation. Energy cooperatives can sell the electricity they generate to citizens in the region where it is produced, without intermediaries, through legal regulations.

Over 50 renewable energy cooperatives have been established in Türkiye so far. In order to increase their number and membership, legal and regulatory improvements and the extension of the feed-in tariff are needed.

[Legacoop](#) was one of the organizations we met with in Türkiye during our study visit to Italy. Legacoop is an umbrella association of cooperatives operating in various sectors in Italy. In Türkiye, similar supra-unions of cooperatives in other sustainability areas, particularly energy, could be established. An umbrella organization like Legacoop could help energy cooperatives in Türkiye to strengthen and collaborate more effectively. This would further increase the contribution of energy cooperatives to the sustainable energy transition and support the country in achieving its green energy goals. Local authorities can also cooperate with such umbrella associations to help energy cooperatives become more widespread and contribute to the creation of a sustainable energy system.

6.9. Carbon Neutral Approach

A carbon neutral approach should be adopted for sustainable development. This can be achieved by reducing fossil fuels, expanding renewable energy sources and increasing energy efficiency. A carbon neutral target supports economic growth without harming the environment and society and strengthens the fight against climate change.

The EU has established some mechanisms and legislation for local authorities to play an effective role in combating climate change and to achieve sustainable development goals. In Türkiye, there is not yet an official obligation for local authorities to develop a climate action plan. However, in recent years, as awareness on the environment and combating climate change has increased in Türkiye, some metropolitan municipalities and some exemplary local authorities have voluntarily established climate action plans.

Local authorities can improve their institutional capacities by becoming members of international networks that support sustainable development and their fight against climate change. They can also access international grants and funds by becoming a member of these networks.

One of the most important of these networks is the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#), which was established to support local authorities to tackle climate change and promote sustainable energy solutions on a global scale. It is the largest global alliance for global city climate leadership, built on the commitment of more than 10,000 cities and local authorities. These cities come from six continents and 138 countries, representing a total of more than 800 million people.

In addition, local authorities that are members of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy can get involved in organizations such as [Local Governments for Sustainability](#) (ICLEI) and [EU4Energy](#) (EU-led energy initiative).

Similarly, the EU has put forward its smart cities and climate neutrality mission¹⁹ to achieve its carbon neutrality target. In Türkiye, cities such as Izmir and Istanbul are included in this mission and are developing climate action plans and policies in this context.

The experiences gained in this process should be disseminated to other local authorities and local authorities should be included in global climate action targets.

An initiative such as the Rome City Council's "Rome Carbon Credits" project is a good example, especially in terms of contributing to achieving sustainability goals and reducing the city's carbon footprint. Such projects help cities achieve their own sustainability goals by investing in environmentally friendly projects and promoting emission reductions. Local authorities in Türkiye could similarly initiate carbon credit projects. Such projects can be an effective way to achieve the goal of reducing emissions and contribute to the sustainability goals of cities.

Furthermore, the consultancy services and reset efforts of AzzeroCO2, which we visited in Rome, contribute to raising awareness on sustainability and moving towards a carbon neutral future. Such innovative and effective initiatives can set an important example for other local authorities and institutions and support their sustainability efforts.

¹⁹ [EU smart cities and climate neutrality mission](#)

7. RESOURCES

1. [European Green Deal](#)
2. [European Climate Law](#)
3. [EU Adaptation Strategy](#)
4. [EU Climate Diplomacy](#)
5. [Italy's National Energy And Climate Plan](#)
6. [Strategia Nazionale di Adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici](#)
7. [Piano Nazionale di Adattamento ai Cambiamenti Climatici](#)
8. [Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza](#)
9. [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy](#)
10. [Piano D'azione Per L'energia Sostenibile E il Clima Di Roma Capitale](#)
11. [Civic 5.0: Report on Living in Class A](#)
12. [European Commission Energy Communities Resource Pool](#),
13. [Food 4 Future campaign](#)
14. [Rome Sustainable Mobility Plan](#)
15. [Citizen Participation Playbook for the Emilia-Romagna Region](#)
16. [Centro Antartide](#)
17. [ASVIS \(Italian Association for Sustainable Development\)](#)
18. [Business and Climate Agreement](#)
19. [Citizens Assembly for Climate](#)
20. [Kilowatt](#)
21. [DumBo](#)
22. [Guide to Pollinator Friendly Cities](#)
23. [Prof. Hüseyin Polat's article on municipalities and cooperatives](#)

24. [Legacoop](#)
25. [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy](#)
26. [Local authorities for Sustainability \(ICLEI\)](#)
27. [EU4Energy \(energy initiative led by the European Union\)](#)
28. [European Union smart cities and climate neutrality mission](#)
29. [Türkiye's Climate Change Strategy Document](#)
30. [Türkiye's Climate Change Action Plan](#)
31. [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#)
32. [Climate Change Adaptation Studies in Türkiye](#)