



CLIMATE CHANGES IN CITY

Last February 9th, Legambiente has presented the study realized in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment:

“Climate change increases the health risks resulting from heatwaves, exacerbates the impact of extreme climatic events and affects smog levels in cities”

“101 are the Italian Municipalities where, since year 2010, have been registered significant impacts due to extreme climatic events (204 in total), such as floods, landslides, rivers breaking their banks, with damages to infrastructures or historic heritage. According to Cnr’s data, from 2010 to 2015, floods have caused in Italy the death of 140 people and the evacuation of more than 32.000 citizens. In the last 5 years, in the major Italian cities, subways and urban trains have been stopped for 91 days and there have been 43 days of electric blackout due to bad weather[...].”

The dossier says **“Ongoing climate changes require new types of response to emergencies and dangers threatening our cities.** New forms of urban areas planning and management are necessary to secure citizens and to reduce impacts on neighbourhoods and infrastructures of urban centres. In fact, according to IPCC experts opinion, the urban areas will bear the highest social costs of global warming, especially in the Mediterranean area.

Cities are the heart of climatic challenge all over the world, because they produce the larger part of emissions and they are the places where the intensity and frequency of extreme climatic phenomena is leading to increasing damages, endangering human lives and causing severe damages to buildings and infrastructures”.

“In Italy climate adaptation must become a national priority for several reasons. The 81,2% of the municipalities are in areas with hydrogeological instability risk, with almost 6 millions of people living in areas with serious hydrogeological risk. This dossier points out how many Italian big cities have been repeatedly hit by extreme climatic phenomena, that have caused damages to infrastructures and buildings and led to deaths and injuries. Between 1944 and 2012 there has been a cost of 61,5 billions of euro for the damages caused by extreme events in Italy. According to the data of “Italia sicura” , Italy is among the first countries in the world in terms of compensation and repair of damages caused by climatic phenomena: almost 3,5 billions per year since 1945. Since 1950 we have had 5.459 victims in more than 4.000 events of landslides and floods.

These data are a demonstration that there has been a change in the quantity and intensity of rain phenomena too, more and more frequently concentrated in few minutes with a quantity of water that should averagely fall in several months or in a year; it is then necessary to activate a more efficient response, according to the specific features of the territories, sometimes affected by hydrogeological instability phenomena or by the consequences of an unscrupulous management of land use, construction or waste-water disposal network.”

Waiting for people to become more environmental aware and for a political intervention aimed to avoid unregulated urbanization, with actions ensuring areas at risk security, reforestation, intelligent land-use planning and maintenance, AIRBANK offers to individuals and firms several systems of prompt intervention against floods, such as the new FLOODGATE:

FLOODGATE allows a timely reaction to floods caused by climate changes and land-use negligence.

