

# Engagement with Photography

PHOTOVOICE AND PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECTS

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# WHO I AM

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Photography is my life, my language, my way of give a voice to the people, to the community. I am a witness, of this historical period, and I really hope that I could help people with my skills in creating a good ground for the future generations. I am an international photo reporter.

Work as a Getty Images contributor, I collaborate with National Geographic and other international magazines, and I have realized social project for and with international institutions, such as Fondazione Guido Fluri, Eca Global, Council of Europe, European Union and others. I am an EU Climate Ambassadors for European Union, I am the italian director of Justice Initiative and representer for Europe of Eca Global.

I teach at different Italian universities the Photovoice Technique, with which I realize social projects to empower life of people and community in th field of Climate Change with EuClimatePact, with major european institutions, and also with University. Also I lead international projects of photovoice in the field of children rights and long term consequences of abuses as children.

# THE PHOTOVOICE TECHNIQUE

Photovoice is a participatory research technique that uses photography to gather data and empower participants. This method invites individuals to capture images that reflect their personal experiences and perspectives, particularly concerning issues impacting their lives and communities. By doing so, Photovoice not only collects valuable data but also amplifies the voices of those often marginalized in decision-making processes.

## **How Photovoice Works**

Participants are provided with cameras and are guided on how to photograph subjects that are significant to them. These subjects might include local environments, social conditions, or everyday experiences. Participants then share their photos with the group, discussing the stories and meanings behind each image. This dialogue helps to identify common themes and issues, which are then used to inform research, advocacy, and policy-making.

## **Advantages of Photovoice:**

### Empowerment through Expression:

Photovoice empowers participants by giving them control over how their realities are represented. This creative process fosters a sense of ownership and agency, enabling individuals to express their views and concerns authentically.

### Enhanced Communication:

Photography is a universal language that can transcend literacy barriers. It effectively captures emotions and contexts that words may struggle to convey, making it a powerful tool for communication and advocacy.

### Rich Data Collection:

The visual and narrative data generated through Photovoice provide deep insights into community issues. This data can reveal underlying problems, highlight community strengths, and offer a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

## **Importance for Citizen Engagement in Climate Change:**

Photovoice is particularly important for engaging citizens in climate change discussions and actions. By documenting local environmental changes and personal experiences related to climate impacts, participants can provide compelling evidence of how climate change affects their communities. This visual documentation can be a powerful advocacy tool, influencing policymakers and raising public awareness. Moreover, involving citizens directly in the research process ensures that diverse perspectives are included in climate change discourse, fostering more inclusive and effective solutions.

In conclusion, Photovoice is a valuable technique for participatory research and citizen engagement. Its ability to empower participants, enhance communication, and collect rich, meaningful data makes it an essential tool for addressing complex issues like climate change. By leveraging the power of photography, Photovoice helps to amplify the voices of those most affected, ensuring their experiences and insights drive social and environmental change.

# THE PHOTOSTORY TOOL

With the EU Climate Pact, we have revisited the photovoice model to create a new, more flexible tool called PhotoStory, aiming to further promote both visual communication and citizen engagement on the topic of climate change.

Here is the official page where you can find all the necessary information to start a “Photo Story” project, and you can always contact me for consultations or advice.

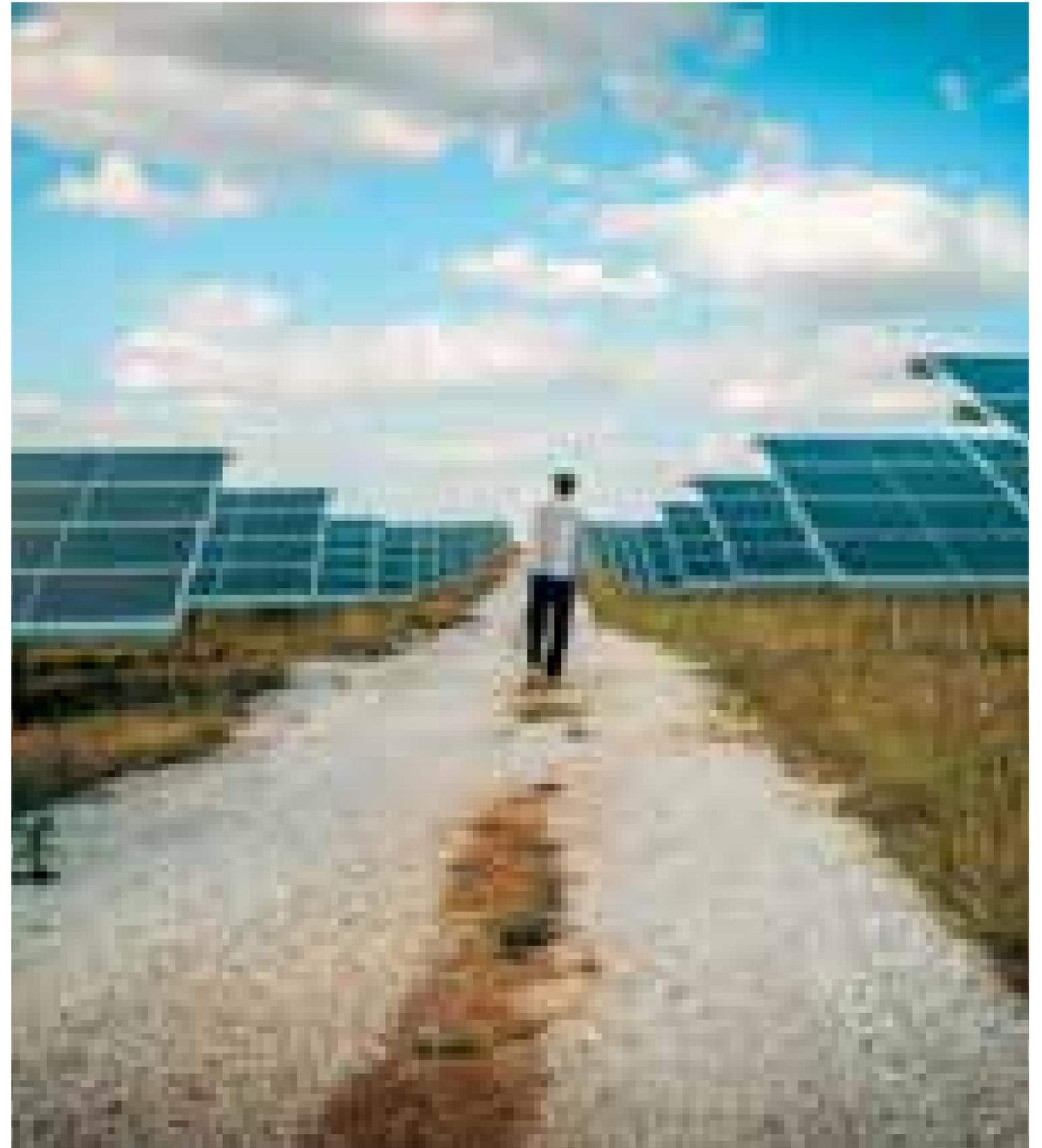
## Photo Story



### Learn more about leading a Photo Story in brief

<b>Overview</b>	Facilitate a workshop where participants use photography to capture their experiences and perspectives on climate-related issues, discuss the situation, and present solutions. Share the output of the workshop with decision-makers and the public to drive change.
<b>Objectives</b>	Increase awareness, knowledge, empathy and emotional responses to local climate change impacts and initiatives, solutions and opportunities. Facilitate citizens' participation in public decision-making processes. Encourage constructive journalism and civic participation – key components of democracy.
<b>Target group</b>	Segments of the general public: school groups, seniors, climate activists, and others. Depending on the skills of the host, it can be suitable for anyone from 5 years old.

# SOME PHOTO --- STORY PROJECTS



KOSOVO

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VERINA GERXHALIU

# Living in a Dystopia

NEGATIVE



Kosovo has landed in a troubling spot, ranking as the third-worst country in terms of air quality on the continent.

This disheartening situation is mainly attributed to the operation of two coal-fired power plants, Kosova A and Kosova B, recognized as among the most polluting power plants in Europe. The town of Obiliq, which is located near the Kosova A and Kosova B power plants, has faced air quality challenges throughout the year, with pollutants often exceeding the Maximum Allowed Values (MAV) for PM10 and PM2.5. PM10 and PM2.5 are fine particulate matter, which are airborne particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs and cause a range of health problems, including heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and respiratory infections.

The damage that these power plants do to the environment and to the health of the people of Kosovo, especially those in Obiliq, is significant. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, as evidenced by the fact that children's health is frequently cited as a key objective in major policies on climate and the environment, such as the zero-pollution action plan. The zero-pollution action plan is a global initiative to reduce air pollution to levels that are not harmful to human health. Children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to air pollution for several reasons. They have higher breathing rates and take in more air per kilogram of body weight than adults. They are also shorter, so they breathe air closer to the ground, where some pollutants, especially from traffic exhausts, are emitted and become concentrated. The government of Kosovo has started to take action toward more renewable energy sources, but there is still much to do. It is important to reduce air pollution in Kosovo to protect the health of the people and the environment.



# Sustainable paths

## POSITIVE

Kosovo holds considerable potential for renewable energy, notably in solar and wind power. While the renewable energy sector is still emerging, there's optimism about its future. Abundant renewable resources, governmental support, and recent projects, like the ProEnergy Solar Park with the location in Lipjan located in the Pristina District of Kosovo (featured in the picture) is defiantly a good starting point. The ProEnergy Solar Park, owned by a banking group, is a significant milestone, demonstrating the viability of renewable energy projects in Kosovo. The park is expected to generate 3,711 MWh of electricity per year, which is enough to supply up to 450 households with average monthly consumption of up to 700 kWh. Kosovo is also advancing with other substantial solar projects:

- The SEGE Solar Park (150 MW) is under construction in Gjakova, making it the largest project of its kind in the Western Balkans.
- The Kosovo Solar Park (100 MW) is planned in Kramovik, and it's the first to be developed through a competitive auction.

In the realm of renewable energy, Kosovo already boasts operational wind farms with a total capacity of 137 MW, like the Kitka Wind Farm (32.4 MW) and Selac Wind Farm (105 MW). There are more wind farms in development, with a combined planned capacity exceeding 300 MW, including the Budakova Wind Farm (46 MW) and Çiçavica Wind Farm (100 MW). The expansion of wind farms aligns with Kosovo's goals to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, enhance air quality, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

# Spectrum of possibilities

PROACTIVE



Several new initiatives in Kosovo are driving the adoption of renewable energy sources. One significant project involves the installation of solar panels in schools to facilitate water heating.

This endeavor received support from the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society and was executed in partnership with Prishtina Municipality and Kosovo's leading solar panel installation company, "Jaha Solar". As a result of this project, two pilot schools in the Municipality of Prishtina, namely "Qamil Batalli" and "Iliria", have benefited from the installation of solar panels with capacities of 20.25 kW and 18.9 kW, respectively. These installations enable the schools to save approximately 21% and 30% on their electricity bills, or in monetary terms, between 2,200 and 2,500 euros per year. This project is set to expand to include additional schools, extending the benefits of renewable energy to even more educational institutions in Kosovo.

# METROPOLITAN

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GIOVANNI RADICCI



# #1

## NEGATIVE

In metropolitan areas, heavy traffic and urbanization are the cause of rising temperatures, social diseases, and increasing heat, which disproportionately affects those with fewer economic resources.

According to the ACI yearbook updated to 2022, more than 17% of the Italian car fleet consists of vehicles falling under Euro 0, 1, and 2 categories. The traffic in major cities, consisting of polluting vehicles emitting CO<sub>2</sub>, pollution, and the growing urbanization in large urban centers and metropolises contribute to respiratory diseases and, in the long run, can lead to climatic effects. The tropicalization of extreme weather events has a particularly significant impact on economically vulnerable individuals or those living in disadvantaged areas.

The European community has initiated projects for the electrification of the automotive fleet, allowing for significant advantages in terms of noise pollution in large urban centers. Reducing polluting traffic through the development of mixed electric mobility and enhancing existing transport infrastructures for more efficient and sustainable mass electric mobility are the challenges that involve us all in the near future.



## #2

### POSITIVE

Promoting mobility with electric urban transport: strengthening railway lines and synergies for new charging services and sustainable mobility.

The railway loop in the city of Rome covers a significant part of the city, but it is not yet complete to the north. The project to complete the loop by connecting the two existing stations of Vigna Clara with Tor Di Quinto and Val D'Ala in the Tiburtina area is currently in the study phase.

Around 50,000 residents could receive significant mobility support with a plan that, unfolding over approximately eight years, envisions reducing car travel by over 250,000 km/day. It would involve approximately 24,000 users/day, resulting in a saving of about 8,900 hours/day.

In addition to railway infrastructure, the project includes the creation of sustainable mobility infrastructures, incorporating small electric vehicles, non-motorized means, or pedestrian movement to avoid heavier and more polluting traffic.

Synergies with Enel can also be developed, such as incorporating Waypark Micro stations for the supply and delivery of light electric vehicles like bikes and scooters, preventing their indiscriminate abandonment on the streets. The installation of car charging stations in the new parking areas outlined by the project could also be used as overnight parking, offering an additional service.

SEE NEXT PAGES

The involvement of utilities such as Enel and planning by central and local administrations with a broader vision can add further value to citizens, pushing more towards electrification and mixed mobility, thereby reducing the impact of vehicles and traffic.

#### Sources:

<https://dp.anelloferroviarioroma.it/il-progetto/chiusura-anello-ferroviario-di-roma/>

<https://www.romatoday.it/politica/anello-ferroviario-roma-tagli-salvini.html>

<https://www.company.enelxway.com/it/media/news/2023/07/waypark-micro>

# #3

## PROACTIVE



The design of new sustainable buildings aims to provide high comfort and promote more conscious and efficient electricity usage. These buildings are conceived to pollute less and ensure a better quality of life for their users.

To ensure that a building is considered green, it is essential to significantly reduce its ecological impact throughout its lifecycle. The variables that need to be considered are numerous: location and sustainability of the site, materials used and their polluting impact, technologies employed, resource consumption, energy consumption containment, indoor air quality preservation, material recovery, and reintroduction into the production cycle, as well as the reduction of gas emissions and noise.

With this goal in mind, the Green Island emerges as a business hub nearing completion in the EUR area of Rome—a building with a modern concept where design, selected materials, technology, and green elements are distinctive features of this project designed to embrace the business of the future. The structure consists of a system of beams and pillars supporting 16 discontinuous green roofs and a glass envelope, spanning five floors on a square footprint with four internal green courtyards. The project pursues objectives such as energy and water savings, the reduction of CO2 emissions, and the enhancement of the ecological quality of the interiors.

In the building for the provision of internal services such as elevators, lighting, refrigeration, and heating, a rooftop photovoltaic system is planned, along with approximately 200 parking spaces for cars and motorcycles. The greenery integrated into the structure will contribute to reducing the temperature of the building both in external spaces and in the internal courtyards.

It is believed that in the future, there will be an increasing number of buildings that can meet the requirements set by the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Sources:

<https://www.green-island.it/>

<https://www.certificazioneleed.com/>

MUMBAI

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DIPA KAPADIA



# DISPARITIES

## NEGATIVE

With these pictures, harsh realities of energy poverty is noticeable. The absence of reliable, and affordable energy sources casts a long shadow, leaving millions in darkness.

Stark disparities in energy access persist. While posh neighbourhoods enjoy uninterrupted electricity, slums and impoverished areas face frequent power outages and erratic supply. Overcrowded living conditions in the densely populated slums with inadequate access to electricity result in cramped and often unhygienic living conditions, impacting residents' overall quality of life. This leads to economic difficulties, restricting opportunities for personal growth and income generation.

Due to its massive population, rapid urbanization, and disparities in income, lack of access to basic necessities like affordable energy services exist.



# RENEWABLE

## POSITIVE

Mumbai is working on embracing renewable energy through solar panels. Mumbai experiences abundant sunlight throughout the year, making it an ideal location for solar energy generation. Local communities are participating in energy projects, empowering them to manage their own energy resources and boost their economic prospects. While this is predominantly restricted to affluent areas and government projects, in roads are being made to widen the reach.

Encouraging the adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar power, can help reduce energy poverty by providing clean and affordable energy options



# TOGETHER

PROACTIVE

Governments, companies, communities, and the citizens of Mumbai are working towards a transformation. Here, with the help of Artificial Intelligence, an image has been created to provide a hopeful glimpse in the transformation occurring in Mumbai, as energy poverty is steadily being replaced with newfound opportunities. Electricity reaches every corner of Mumbai, bridging the gap between the haves and have-nots and levelling the playing field for economic and social advancement. With the improved access to affordable and reliable energy, marginalized communities in Mumbai experience economic prosperity and self-sufficiency. And lastly, transition to cleaner energy sources contributes to reducing pollution and environmental degradation, ensuring a sustainable future for the city and its residents.

Working together with citizens and companies towards equal access to energy

# COMMUNITY

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FRANCESCA GUAZZOTTI



## HOW MUCH??

### NEGATIVE

Energy expenditure has become a significant concern for Italian families in recent times.

Living in energy poverty means lacking the resources to access basic energy services without facing difficulties in covering other necessary expenses to meet primary needs or support unexpected costs.

The energy inefficiency of lighting sources, appliances, and homes themselves, combined with the high cost of energy, impacts people's lifestyles and their psychophysical well-being. If prolonged, these factors can have negative effects on health (e.g., fatigue, eye irritation, headaches, stiff neck, etc.).

For instance, a simple 60W light bulb, used for 6 hours a day, and considering an average cost of Euro 0.20 per kWh, will contribute approximately Euro 26 to the annual energy bill.



## LED

### POSITIVE

One way to reduce current energy expenses is to replace old light bulbs with more advanced LED technology.

These bulbs offer several advantages, especially in terms of environmental sustainability and responsibility towards the planet, primarily due to their longer lifespan and lower consumption. This allows for savings of up to 80% on CO2 emissions and home energy bills.

Considering an LED bulb equivalent to the old 60W technology, at the same energy cost (Euro 0.20/kWh), the expense on the bill will decrease from Euro 26/year to 3-4 Euro/year.

# COMMUNITY

PROACTIVE



An energy community is an association of citizens, local public administrations, and small/medium enterprises joining forces to produce, exchange, and consume energy from renewable sources at a local scale. This creates a decentralized network that requires the active and conscious participation of every citizen.

Energy communities ensure a reduction in energy waste, meeting the energy needs of the population based on sustainability and circularity principles. The benefits are manifold:

- Economic benefits (incentive mechanisms and cost reduction)
- Environmental benefits (renewable energies leading to reduced emissions and lower energy dissipation)
- Social benefits (community engagement and social inclusion combined with citizen education)

# SECOND LIFE

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GIANLUCA IMPERI

# The blinded snake in the sun

NEGATIVE



A complex stretching almost 1000 meters and standing 30 meters tall, housing around 4500 inhabitants. At any time of the day, the windows are always closed as a protection against the scorching sun, symbolizing the degradation of the extreme outskirts of Rome. How much wasted energy.

Link:<https://www.corvialedomani.it/wp-content/uploads/cap.1.-la-storia-e-il-progetto.pdf>  
<https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corviale>

# Petrocelli

POSITIVE

Energy poverty is fought with small gestures. The photo shows the terrace of a new residential complex under construction in the southern quadrant of Rome, equipped with numerous photovoltaic panels and a high-efficiency water distribution system. A condominium consisting of 300 families trying to be eco-sustainable and partially independent.



# Sail in the Sun

PROACTIVE



Unfinished since 2005, as wide as the Colosseum but twice as tall, perennially kissed by the sun. The complex of 14,000 square meters, including two twin sails (of which only one is visible), was designed on the southern outskirts of Rome for the 2009 swimming Olympics. It could be an intriguing example of a photovoltaic power station and the redevelopment of a project abandoned for almost 20 years.

Link: [https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citt%C3%A0\\_dello\\_sport](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citt%C3%A0_dello_sport)  
<https://art.torvergata.it/bitstream/2108/120833/1/CTA2015%20D%27AURIA-STROLLO.pdf>

LIGHTS OF CHANGE:  
A GLIMPSE INTO ENERGY POVERTY IN BOGOTÁ

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JUAN CABRERA SERNA

# Desperation in the Dark

NEGATIVE



This black and white image captures the distressed faces of a family in their home in the middle of the night, surrounded by darkness. Flickering candles provide a dim light as they try to illuminate their world. This poignant image reveals the daily struggles of those trapped in energy poverty, depicting the harsh reality they face due to a lack of access to basic electrical power.

# Smiles Illuminated by Energy

POSITIVE



In this picture, a family warmly smiles while enjoying electric light, internet, and a tablet connected to the batteries of solar panels in their home, courtesy of support programs. Bright lamps create a welcoming and secure environment, reflecting the comfort that energy provides. Their radiant smiles illustrate the positive transformation that occurs when overcoming energy poverty, portraying a future full of hope and possibilities.

# A Future Illuminated by the Sun

PROACTIVE



In this image, the family diligently works to install solar panels on the terrace of their home. The bright sunlight illuminates the scene as these modern heroes bring hope to a home previously shrouded in darkness. This photo celebrates innovative solutions that transform energy poverty into an opportunity for a sustainable and brightly lit future.

# POBREZA ENERGETICA

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MARTA MORENO DELGADO-AGUILERA



## Equity?

NEGATIVE

A person eating on the street, without the means to keep food refrigerated.

Energy poverty deprives individuals of basic services necessary for a dignified life. Without electricity, refrigerating food becomes impossible, access to communication is hindered, and there are difficulties in the supply of water and gas, along with challenges in studying (among other inconveniences).

It is estimated that between 3.5 and 8 million people are experiencing energy poverty in Spain. Individuals facing energy poverty are 3.7 times more likely to suffer from depression. Other health-related effects are linked to unsafe habits caused by energy poverty, such as injuries or accidents resulting from not turning on lights when needed or carrying boiling water from the kitchen to the bathroom for showering. Additionally, there is an impact on diet due to resource allocation dilemmas stemming from energy poverty.

# Social

## POSITIVE



Social dining facility providing cooked meals, but closes on weekends.

Access to certain resources outside the home, such as energy, could help millions of people improve their quality of life. Not everyone has a home to which certain economic advantages can be applied, especially those facing greater precariousness. In both cases, if we were to install recharge points, for example, on street lamps powered by solar energy and provide rechargeable batteries, these could be used to maintain portable refrigerators, electric wheelchairs, and more.

This project focuses on food. I have accessed a Caritas social dining facility and have spoken with people in this situation. This dining facility serves about 200 meals daily, and these families have had to submit reports beforehand to prove their poverty. On holidays or weekends, the dining facility closes, meaning that 200 families either go without meals or consume poorly preserved food. If we extrapolate these data to other social dining facilities and families in extreme poverty, making the proposal viable could save many lives.



# Charger

PROACTIVE

Energy poverty can significantly impact food preservation. When households struggle to access adequate and affordable energy, it becomes more challenging to keep food refrigerated and stored properly. The lack of electricity or cooking fuel can also limit food preparation options, potentially leading to poor nutrition and an increased risk of foodborne illnesses. Furthermore, the absence of energy resources can hinder the preservation of perishable foods, contributing to increased food waste.

The installation of battery charging stations in areas without electrical power could help alleviate this situation.

# CON ENERGÍA, LOS SERVICIOS ESENCIALES AL ALCANCE DE TODOS

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ALEJANDRO URUEÑA AVILA, ANA MARÍA



## Remote

### NEGATIVE

People fetching water using buckets.

For water collection and distribution in the Las Piedras village. The population relies on a natural reservoir with finite capacity. The photo aims to showcase the reservoir and how the community fetches water using buckets to bring it to their homes. Additionally, there is a white pipe on the left side, where water is extracted through a pump powered by an internal combustion engine (diesel).

Cost of energy in remote populations away from the local transmission network. In this case, the community must supply water from a natural reservoir using a gasoline-powered pump that fills some residents' tanks. The cost of gasoline is high, and the method of supply is inefficient because only a few benefit from the provision and can deplete the water in the reservoir.

# Remote

NEGATIVE



# PHOTOVOLTAIC PUMP

POSITIVE



The versatile and space-efficient solar panels serve various purposes. In this case, they provide energy to an electric pump that supplies water from the reservoir.

The image shows a solar panel system designed to provide energy to an electric pump. This pump extracts water from the reservoir and fills a tank that will then supply the community. The maintenance cost of the solar panel system is very low, which is an advantage for low-resource communities located far from local distribution networks.

# PHOTOVOLTAIC PUMP

POSITIVE





# Changing

PROACTIVE

In the photo, the water flow and the happiness of the residents are evident.

The photographs depict the results of the installation and operation of the pump, which can consistently and economically supply water to the population. As seen, always with care not to waste it.



# Changing

PROACTIVE

# BEAUTY, WORK AND POVERTY

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LEANDRO ELIA LO TAURO



# POVERTY

NEGATIVE

In a land that does not grant wealth, to reduce electricity consumption, people adapt to the heat by placing a chair on the doorstep, intentionally left open, to sit during the summer heat, waiting for it to turn into a breeze.

Among the many Italian islands, the Egadi Islands stand out for biodiversity and beaches with crystal-clear waters.

Tourism increases year by year, but it is not followed by the growth of the local economy or the adaptation of electrical infrastructure.

The heat transforms into flavor, spicy in summer, and the street becomes a set table with the flavors of life, where everything flows, waiting for the evening to bring, like a dessert at the end of a meal, the much-desired summer breeze.

Poverty dresses in beauty and dignity

# WORK

POSITIVE

An agricultural company using a photovoltaic system for its consumption, in a context where renewable energy is already an integrated part, creates value for itself and for the territory.



# DIGNITY

PROACTIVE

A rural house with a solar system, which allows significant savings, especially in winter consumption, donated thanks to the intervention of people in the area with a voluntary fundraising campaign. Crowdfunding, proposed as a voluntary contribution for the donation of a module/system, can help the poorest families live with dignity. Alongside coffee, we will also have a suspended panel.



# ENERGY POVERTY IN SCHOOLS

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MELANIA PLACENZA



# STUDENTS

## NEGATIVE

“Students faint from the heat in overcrowded classrooms, and the principal of a school in Bari decides to dismiss them early: A challenging situation.”

Among the factors causing energy poverty is the low energy efficiency of infrastructure. The consequences extend beyond medium-term risks to physical and mental health, leading to decreased performance at work and school. Not only do families need to ensure access to socially and materially necessary energy consumption, but institutions also grapple with increasingly expensive bills and outdated, energy-intensive systems. These systems are now ineffective and inefficient in providing students with optimal learning conditions.

Source:

[https://bari.repubblica.it/cronaca/2023/09/20/news/studenti\\_svengono\\_caldo\\_classi\\_pollajo\\_preside\\_scuola\\_bari\\_anticipa\\_uscita-415209111/](https://bari.repubblica.it/cronaca/2023/09/20/news/studenti_svengono_caldo_classi_pollajo_preside_scuola_bari_anticipa_uscita-415209111/)



## NOT ENOUGH

POSITIVE

Currently, almost 60% of schools are in the lower two energy classes, while only a meager 6% fall into classes A and B. The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) allocated 3.9 billion for interventions aimed at the comprehensive and integrated redevelopment of 2,158 school buildings. The fund allocation through tenders is inadequate to meet the needs of administrations requiring significant structural interventions and facing deficiencies in planning and design. Despite the fund availability, entities struggle to access and/or spend the allocated amounts for the required interventions, given the implementation times that are incompatible with the need to open schools and must also consider increases in raw material costs due to the ongoing economic crisis.



# COMMUNITY

## PROACTIVE

The establishment of RENEWABLE AND SOLIDARITY ENERGY COMMUNITIES in schools (C.E.R.S.) can be a significant driver for the redevelopment of school buildings. By bringing the community's needs closer to the authorities responsible for addressing them, alternative ways to allocate funds could be found, supporting local authorities in seeking technical and administrative support to overcome intervention-related difficulties. Shared solution-focused interventions could also represent solutions for the community living around the school building.

### Sources:

Energy poverty is a condition of inability to access socially and materially necessary levels of energy consumption (Stefan Bouzarovski (2018): Energy Poverty (Dis)Assembling Europe's Infrastructural Divide, Palgrave.. It is due to a combination of factors such as low family income, high energy costs, high energy consumption due to low energy efficiency of homes and appliances (Thomson, H., & Bouzarovski, S., 2018). Energy poverty puts physical and mental health at risk, reduces performance at work and school, and also has negative effects on the environment (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5486270/>; <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2019.00357/full>).

# FIRE, PROMETEUS AND DON QUICHOTE

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GIACOMO VETTRAINO



# FIRE

## NEGATIVE

“Suddenly, the voracious fire wraps itself in the wind to the rooftops, the flames overpower, the blaze rages through the air.”

Virgil, Aeneid, Book 2. Aeneas recounts the destruction of Troy.

We are not in Troy over two thousand years ago but in present-day Sant’Elia Fiumerapido, a small municipality in the lower Ciociaria. Despite the rural environment and hilly profile, these areas have been significantly affected by climate change for several years, especially during the summer season when excessive heat puts a strain on a large portion of homes that are often not adequately insulated.

An article in Ciociaria Oggi reports that in 2023, there are approximately 160,000 households in Lazio living in conditions of energy poverty, primarily due to the increase in energy bills and the poor state of housing. This forces citizens to reduce and often inadequately use energy to maintain indoor temperatures close to optimal levels for good health.

Statistics useful for a better understanding of this phenomenon are reported in the 2023 Report of OIPE (Italian Observatory for Energy Poverty). The report emphasizes, for example, the territorial distribution of energy poverty in Italy, which, perhaps not surprisingly, is concentrated more in the central and even more so in the southern regions, especially in municipalities with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants.

The report also analyzes the impacts that various types of measures to combat energy poverty have produced. While these measures have undoubtedly helped less affluent families by containing energy price increases caused by the pandemic, global conflicts, and economic crises, protective measures do not represent a structural solution to reducing energy poverty. This is unless they are accompanied by other measures, known as “promotion” measures, which should empower citizens to become true energy producers, transcending the role of consumers who, until now, have been trapped as passive actors and penalized by decisions for which they are not directly responsible.

Sources:

[Povert  energetica sulle famiglie. Nel Lazio pi  di 300.000 persone vivono in abitazioni poco salubri](#)

<https://oipeosservatorio.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/rapporto2023.pdf>



# DON QUIXOTE

POSITIVE

“and as soon as Don Quixote saw them, he said to his squire, ‘Fortune is guiding our affairs better than we ourselves could have wished. Do you see there, my friend Sancho Panza, thirty or more gigantic giants?’ Don Quixote of La Mancha, Miguel De Cervantes

The use of renewable sources in the production of electrical energy in Italy is certainly not a novelty, fortunately. The advantages of employing this type of production over traditional ones are numerous, as summarized in Enel Green Power’s web infographic, starting from source availability, reduced emissions of CO2 and other pollutants, to geographical versatility and economic convenience.

As evident from Terna’s annual report on National Production, since 2008, there has been a positive trend in the use of new renewable resources, especially wind and photovoltaic, compared to hydro, which has remained fairly constant over time. Currently, more than 25% of energy is produced from renewable sources, with almost 10% coming solely from photovoltaic.

Focusing on different regions is interesting to understand how diverse each region’s energy profiles are. It is possible to observe profiles that effectively leverage environmental conditions, such as the Aosta Valley, which produces almost entirely hydroelectric power, or a significant portion of Sardinia’s production derived from wind power.

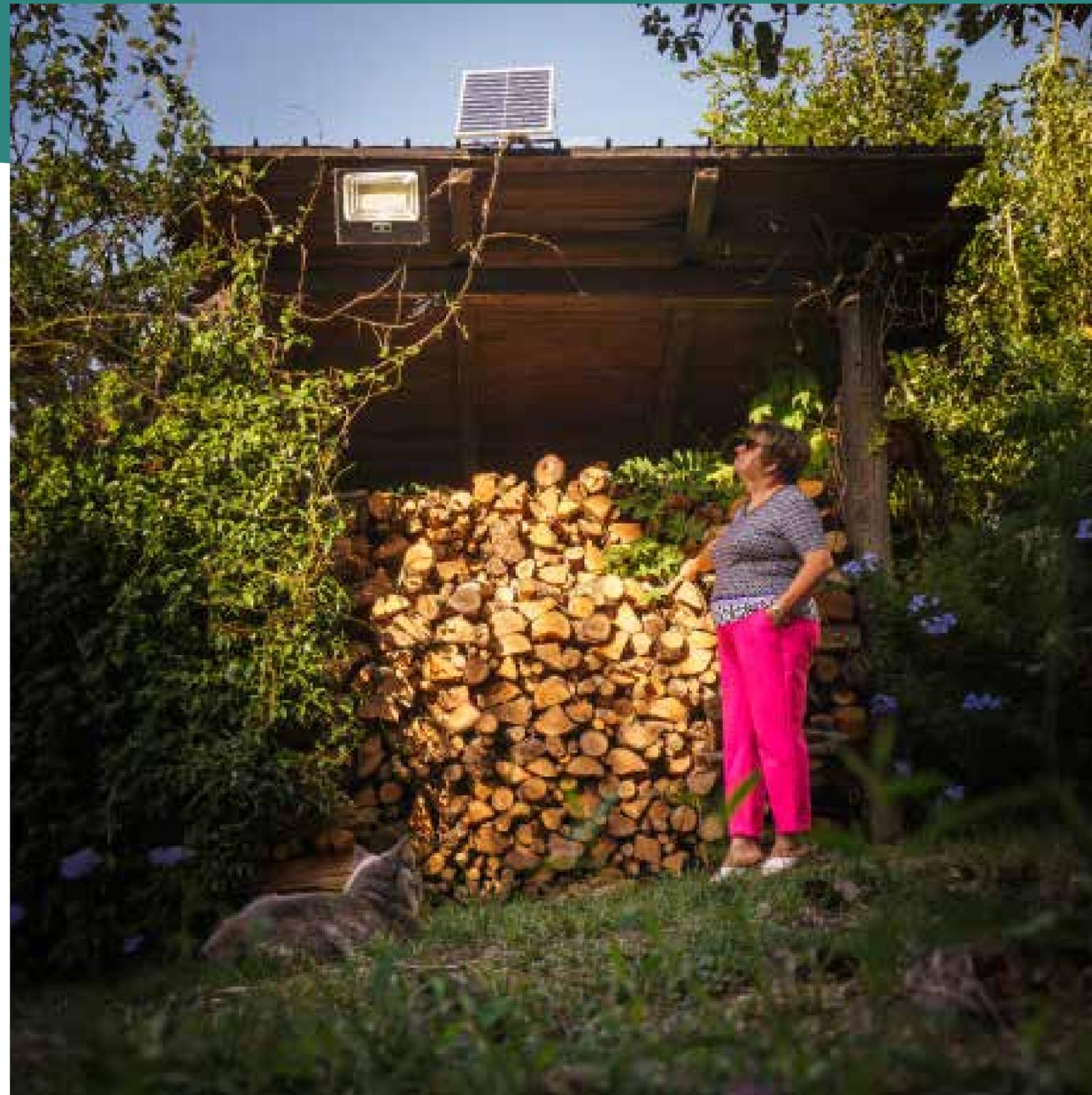
sense), such as the fact that Southern regions rely on thermoelectric power as the main source of production and minimally exploit photovoltaic energy.

Today, we find ourselves near the Viticuso wind farm, which has expanded its surface over the years. From its elevated position, it stands as a warning, almost like a symbolic defense of this territory, urging all the valley's inhabitants to embrace renewable energy as much as possible—an ally giant against the equally giant issues of energy poverty and pollution.”

Sources:

<https://www.enelgreenpower.com/it/learning-hub/energie-rinnovabili>

<https://app.powerbi.com/>



# PROMETHEUS

PROACTIVE

“With water and earth, Prometheus shaped humans and bestowed upon them the fire, which he concealed in a fennel stalk, hidden from Zeus.”  
Apollodorus, Greek Myths

According to Greek mythology, without Prometheus, humanity would not have known fire, and probably the chain of technological advancements such as cooking food, metalworking, steam engines, and up to current technologies that still need energy to function—energy that comes with a cost and an environmental impact we must face, increasingly decisively. Today, there are various incentives to transition towards cleaner energy sources, even for private citizens, such as the 110% Bonus and deductions applied to the installation of photovoltaic systems and the formation of Renewable Energy Communities (CER), which ideally could benefit citizens facing difficult economic and social situations. It would be redundant to emphasize the significant benefits that would result at the economic, social, and health levels. However, it's often overlooked that there are not only economic obstacles but also a fear of exposing oneself to investments of which one knows little or nothing. Dealing with bureaucratic activities involving different entities such as public administrations, banks, energy sector experts, and legislation that is often unclear and subject to change over time often discourages citizens before they even start the journey of energy transition. Consequently, they are forced to stick to traditional energy sources, to which they are accustomed and

which, wrongly, provide them with more security and stability.

It would be interesting to consider the establishment of a public figure tasked with supporting and monitoring the entire process of energy transition together with citizens. This figure would explain the project phases clearly and work together on document submissions, financing requests, legal contract drafting, etc. This would undoubtedly create a relationship of mutual trust that would aid in achieving mutually dependent economic goals. Large companies in the energy sector could also address this missing figure by offering comprehensive consultancy, for example, in exchange for an agreement on the transfer of excess energy from citizens to the distribution network, thus establishing a virtuous circle for the benefit of both parties.

Sources:

<https://www.enelx.com/it/it/aziende/servizio-energia/generazione-distribuita/comunita-energetiche>

# ARTISAN FOOD

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ALEX ORLANDO RODRIGUEZ CASTILLO



# BEACH

## NEGATIVE

Seafood supply chain begins from sailors/fishermen towards Artisan Markets, and they, artisans, has no a good infrastructure on the beach to execute an excelente end to end process to give a better customer service. It means, they need to sale the fresh products avoiding losing seafood; it is important having electrical freezer and other systems for collecting the trash, and improving healthy delivery process and get clean process on the beach to be kind with local environmet.

Riohacha, Colombia



## NOT FOR ALL

POSITIVE

Other seafood markets under the supply chain has the opportunity to improve their conditions to sale the products (fresh seafood to be sold for a long time), using electrical lines, solar pannels, deploy freezer and get a local site to atract customers with better healty conditions.

It means the artisans fishers are putting fresh seafood but low revenues and the technified markets can get more incomes through high prices to cover the electrical service.

Riohacha, Colombia



# INNOVATION

## PROACTIVE

Solution could be implementing solar panel over beach kiosks to collect Energy for connecting freezer, cooler, lamps and fans to improve the cold chain and be more competitive with other wholesalers.

They can use the Energy system to Support other electrical need like personal kiosks, charging personal coolers to roll and to attend a service door2door.

# REMOTE AREAS

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DAYANARA BARRIOS GUTIERREZ



## COVERAGE

### NEGATIVE

In Colombia, we still face a coverage deficit in energy due to geographical conditions, violence, and even corruption. Are the statistics optimistic, or are they misleading? Are we genuinely working to reach all these remote areas? While these questions are being addressed, let's take a look at the issue where fire becomes an ally in lighting up families.

A girl with cognitive special needs who doesn't grasp the importance of having a continuous energy supply but feels the impact in the effort she must exert to carry out her daily tasks with the absence of artificial lighting. A woman who pauses her daily routine at sunset.



## DISCOVERS

POSITIVE

Through solar panels to generate energy in targeted areas of her home, she became part of a social investment project by international organizations dedicated to equality and opportunities. Now, this girl discovers a new necessity that will be part of her daily life, and she will now feel the absence of this essential service.



# IMPLEMENTING

## PROACTIVE

Enel X Colombia, with its B2B line, is currently implementing a project in the El Meta department, specifically in the Municipality of Puerto Gaitán. People from the community are actively contributing to this initiative, learning about renewable energies, solar panels, their installation, benefits, and how they operate.



# STORIE DI CLIMA

HOW WE ARE CHANGING

The world is changing, always has been, but for the first time in its history it is changing too fast because of us. The balance is broken, the relationship between us and our home. In my opinion, however, we must continue to prepare the future for the new generations. We have lost the relationship, but we can become children again and recover it for future generations. This is now our task.

aims to take a 'snapshot' of the situation in Italy, which offers an impressive variety of climates and geographical situations, covering practically all situations worldwide.

VideoPodcast, Blog, Manual, Photo Stories, Photovoice, and voices of those who live with this change on a daily basis.

Beyond any position, beyond any role we have in society, let us not forget that in truth we are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles.

But above all, all of us, without exception, have been children!



### *VideoPodCast*

A travel to re discover the history of our environment and to see how our countries are changing due to climate change



### *Photo Stories*

Editorial stories of the impact of the climate change in our environment and activities



### *PhotoVoice from the Soil*

Hear from the ground the stories of the people that live and work and see everyday the impact of climate change. And see their proposal to adapt our society to the change. Revolution comes from the ground.



### *Re-connection*

Nuts for re-connecting with Nature, with books, movies, activities and to learn and discover our environment.

# PHOTO STORIES

Photographic stories on how the world is changing and how this impact on our activities. Visual reportage from the ground, where there are people that lives directly the change.

Leggi altro















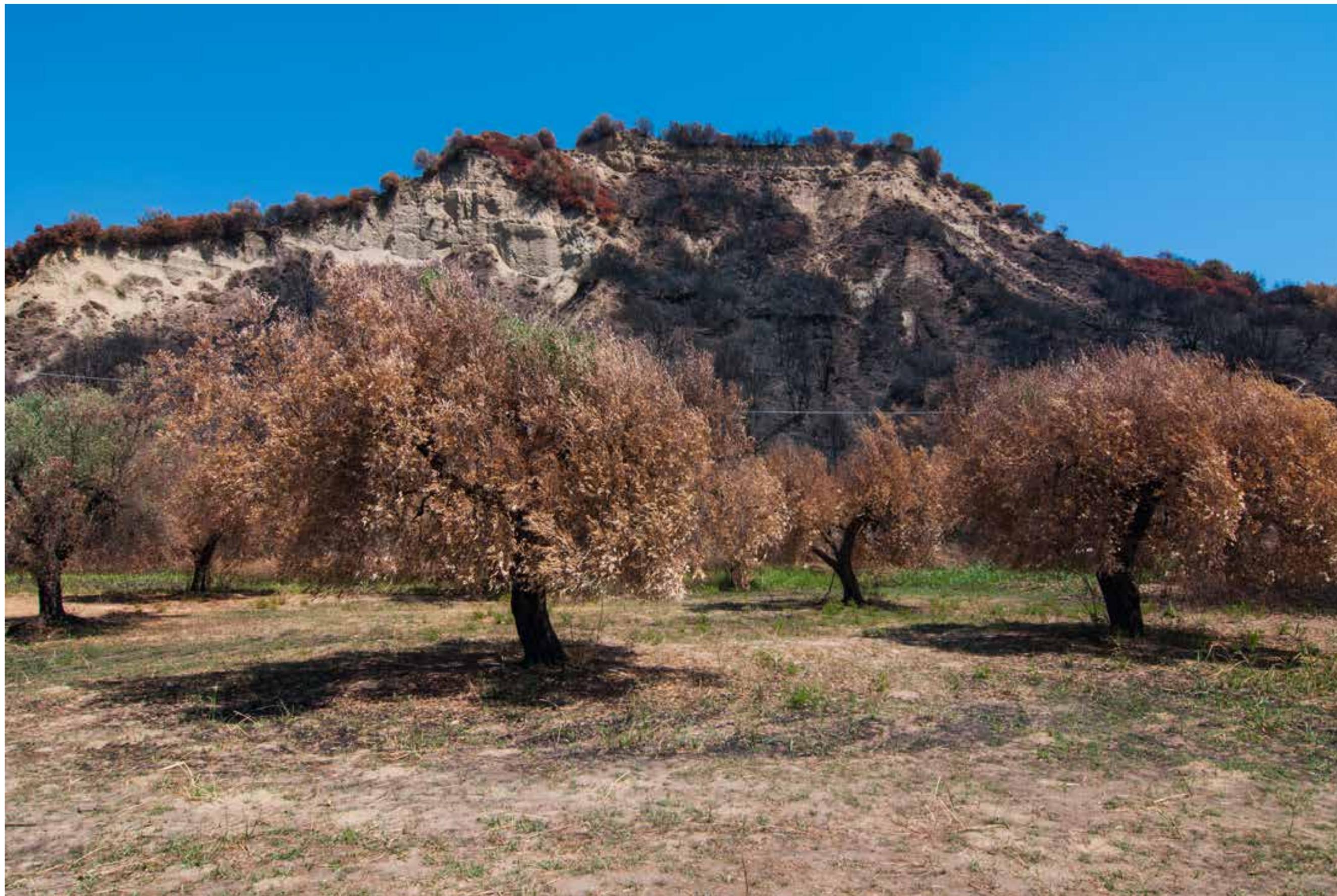














## Come sta il clima?

Siamo un'associazione che unisce cittadini e ambasciatori italiani del Patto Europeo per il Clima. Siamo un gruppo di persone appassionate che vuole far capire quanto la crisi climatica è qui e ora e cosa bisogna fare per affrontarla. Il nostro motto è 'ogni piccola azione INSIEME può fare la differenza'.

Cerchiamo di creare le condizioni affinché i cittadini siano a conoscenza di quanto sta facendo l'Unione Europea per il contrasto al cambiamento climatico e partecipino attivamente alle politiche climatiche nei loro territori. Il citizen engagement (partecipazione civica) è il filo conduttore delle nostre azioni.

La nostra è un'associazione nata dall'unione di una trentina di ambasciatori del Patto Europeo per il Clima nominati dalla Commissione Europea, ma è aperta anche a quei cittadini che desiderano collaborare con noi, senza prendere un impegno formale con la Commissione.



INIZIATIVE



PROGETTI



NOTIZIE



PARTECIPA



SIMONE PADOVANI  
[www.simonepadovani.it](http://www.simonepadovani.it)

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