

Circonomy 2023: first only for recycled garbage, otherwise our ecological transition is out

In Italy, the energy transition is lagging far behind. The Circonomia 2023 Report certifies this. This is no surprise to us: we have been saying it for almost a year

Until last year, Italy could boast at least one green record in Europe: the circular economy, i.e. the ability to use natural resources in the most efficient way. In the past few days, during the Festival of the Circular Economy and Ecological Transition promoted in collaboration with Legambiente, Kyoto Club, and the Symbola Foundation, the fourth Circonomia Report was presented, from which it emerged that our Belpaese is no longer at the top of the ranking, overtaken by the Netherlands, even though Italy remains, among European countries, first for the rate of recycling out of the total waste produced.

According to the report, the loss of the primacy is not enough: all the indicators of Italy's green path (excluding recycling) are in decline, after many years: the European ranking, in fact, is built on 17 different indicators that measure the direct environmental impact, considered as the per capita impact, of economic and civil activities on the environment and climate (5 indicators), the efficiency of resource use (6 indicators), and the ability to respond to environmental problems (6 indicators). In the comparison with the 2022 ranking -reports ADN Kronos-, France, Belgium and Hungary also fall several places, while Portugal and Sweden show significant improvements.

The results in the 17 indicators see Italy in first place, as mentioned, only in one case: recycling rate on the total amount of urban and special waste produced, an indicator in which we double the European Union average, over 80% against less than 40%, and we are longer than the largest European countries. While in all other indicators since 2018, Italy has been making less progress than the EU average or even lagging behind in absolute values. showing a substantial stalemate in its ecological transition.

The most significant negative record is the downward trend in new renewable energies, solar and wind power: in 2022 Italian production from wind power contracted by about 1% compared to the previous year, while in the other EU countries it increased by an average of 9% (in Germany by 10%, in the Netherlands and Denmark by over 18%); in '22 production from solar photovoltaics grew by 10% in Italy, compared to an increase of 26% in the EU (20% in Germany, over 25% in Spain and France, 54% in the Netherlands). The outlook is absolutely disappointing even considering only the new photovoltaic capacity installed: in Italy it grew by 11%, half of what it grew on average in the EU (+22%) and even one fifth of what it grew in the Netherlands.

Italy's energy transition is severely behind schedule, shall we add: 'as we said'?

Link to the Circonomia 2023 report:

<https://circonomia.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/RapportoCirconomia2023.pdf>