



Charter of Responsibilities Let's Take Care of Italy

The students from schools participating in the Let's Take Care of The Planet initiative have identified the main environmental problems, responsibilities and actions that can be implemented at local level. They are all described in the Charter of Responsibilities Let's Take Care of Italy. The document is divided in five main topics, based on the posters prepared by the students and selected during the Italian National Conference, that was held on April 9th, 2010.

Topic 1. ENERGY

Main identified problem

◆ **Energy waste**

Responsibilities:

- a) Save energy.
- b) More efficient use of energy sources, being them also cleaner.

Actions:

- 1) Turn off the lights and all electronic equipments when not in use. Don't leave them in stand-by mode.
- 2) Use alternative energy sources like photovoltaic electricity, geothermic an solar thermic for heating and methane from biomass.
- 3) Use low-energy light-bulb instead of traditional ones.
- 4) Don't waste energy for heating (good insulate houses, don't open windows while the heating is on etc.)
- 5) Prioritise natural light over electric light, especially at school.

Topic 2. AIR

Main identified problem:

◆ **Air pollution**

Responsibility:

- a) Adopt alternative and responsible behaviours to avoid and diminish air contamination.

Actions:

- 1) Wear warmer clothes to reduce the use of central heating (temperatures inside schools and buildings should not be over 19°C).
- 2) Use no-engine transport systems (biking and footing). At least use motorbikes instead of cars for longer trips. Use collective transport systems when possible, to discourage the daily use of cars.



Topic 3. WATER

Main identified problems:

- ◆ **Water waste in cities**
- ◆ **Contamination due to the disposal of plastic bottles.**

Responsibilities:

- a) Use the water resources in an efficient way.
- b) Teach pupils from primary schools to use water resources in an efficient way.

Actions:

- 1) Don't waste water. Remember always to close the tap after use and be aware of any leakage
- 2) Use water saving tap inserts at school and at home.
- 3) Collect rain water and use it in home and school gardens.
- 4) Refill plastic bottles with tap water.
- 5) Raise awareness about the responsible use of water resources, by promoting speeches by experts in schools and in the community.

Topic 4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Main identified problems:

- ◆ **Consumerism**
- ◆ **Waste of resources such as water, energy, food, etc...**
- ◆ **Pollution**
- ◆ **Non sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. deforestation)**

Responsibility:

- a) Responsible consumerism.
- b) Don't waste.

Actions:

- 1) Prefer products without plastic or excessive packaging. Use recycled products.
- 2) Consume only the necessary amount of food (for instance, the Mediterranean diet) and give priority to local products.
- 3) Save electric energy by using washing machine at full load.
- 4) Spend less time in the shower, don't dispose solid waste in water and use only ecological detergent.
- 5) Improve and optimize public transport systems.
- 6) Build rationally and in an environmental compatible way.

Topic 5. EARTH

Main identified problem:

- ◆ **Contamination of public spaces and natural sites with waste**



Conferenza Internazionale della Gioventù sull'Ambiente
"Prendiamoci cura del Pianeta"
<http://confint2010.mec.gov.br/>

Brasilia, 5-10 Giungo 2010

Responsibilities:

- a) Don't dispose waste in the environment
- b) Help with separation of garbage

Actions:

- 1) Implement garbage selective collection in schools.
- 2) Recycle organic materials and reuse them in gardens and for growing vegetables.
- 3) Clean littered areas.
- 4) Protest by email to the responsible public administrator that are not doing their job to keep local areas clean and tidy.
- 5) Raise awareness about selective collection of waste among pupils from primary schools, young, relatives, parents.

Bologna, April 15, 2010