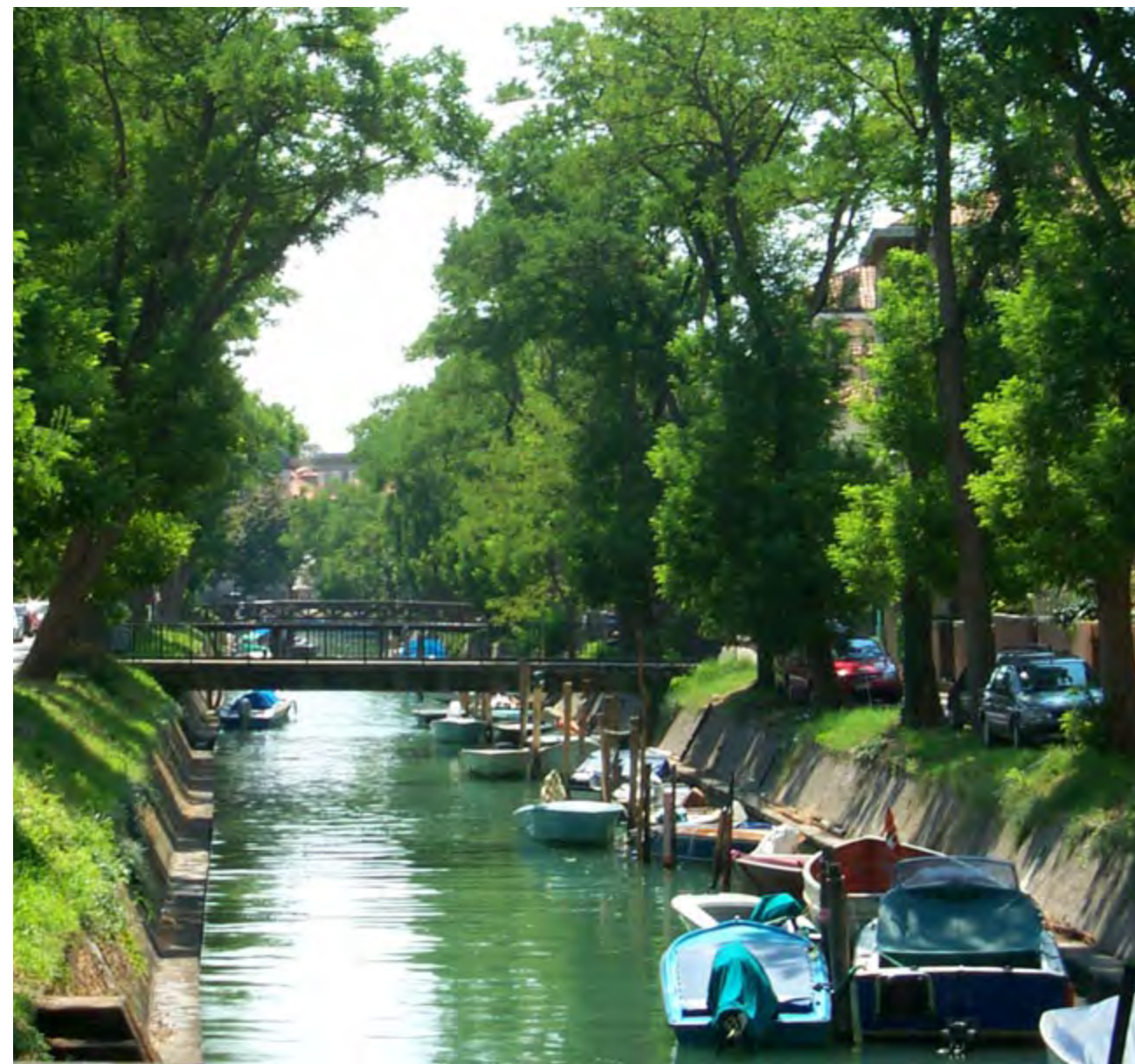


FACING THE CLIMATE CHANGE IN VENICE

Dealing with Climate Change means putting in place MITIGATION actions with the aim of reducing the impact of those activities which modify climatic phenomena, together with ADAPTATION actions, through which human activities can better tolerate the changed environmental conditions.



Venice developed in the lagoon environment which is, by definition, constantly modified by the opposing forces of sea erosion and river sedimentation; therefore it has to face earlier than other territories these kind of threats "against sea, rivers and man" (C.Sabbadino, XVI century). So Venice has become capable before and more than other territories to take into consideration the speed of climatic changes

Consequently, one of the targets identified by the City administration, is to reduce activities and emissions that cause climate changes, which is to say to MITIGATE.

ADAPTATION

Maintenance of the city and the territory, extraordinary infrastructure projects supporting exceptional loads, increasing attention to our own heritage protection, scientific analysis of the meteorological and environmental phenomena, early warning systems for mobilization of trained citizens: all these are actions related to a larger need to adapt human activities to changing climatic conditions and environmental conditions.

More actions are brought forward to strengthen the capacity to respond to weather events which are expected to become more intense and severe in the near future: scarcity of water, urban heat islands, alteration of the agricultural seasons, fires.

MITIGATION

Sustainable Energy Action Plan.



Venice signed on 22th of July 2011 the Covenant of Mayors, the mainstream European movement involving local and

regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO₂ reduction objective by 2020. Currently the city is sharing with the Venetian stakeholders the planning of the actions.

Many other actions of "sustainable development" have been carried out by the City of Venice starting from the 1990's.

Mestre wood is a urban forest project, among the biggest in Europe.

A complex of measures directed toward the development of **sustainable mobility**:

- investment in public transport, introducing the use of the electric tram;
- the "car sharing" service to facilitate private travel reducing the number of used vehicles;
- the BiciPlan, a innovative plan for the entire cycling system;

Innovation in the **Waste cycle**: differen-

tiation, recycling, secondary raw materials, energy recovery.

In this context it is also necessary to consider the **social structure and lifestyles of citizens**: these are factors that allow on the one side to change the impact of cities, on the other to respond in a collective manner to the difficulties that arise.

Important experiences carried out in Venezia are the Altraeconomia network and the promotion of the forthcoming 3rd International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity (Venice, 19-23 September 2012).



CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

The next step is to systematise the actions described above, thus optimizing the efforts and filling in the gaps.

If planning so far has been based on historical data, it is now necessary to take on, in terms of programming, the acceleration of the changes under way: preparing based on current experience means being already late in the next decade.

By going more deep into the climate change forecasts, through data that the scientific community makes available at the local level, the City is getting ready to outline a Climate Plan projected over forthcoming decades.

photos @ Daniela Gerometta, Luigi Tirifitto, Videocomunicazione Comune di Venezia

