

THE PROVINCE OF SIENA'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Approved with Provincial Council Resolution no. 43 of 27.3.2007

The Province of Siena's Environmental Policy was conceived in keeping with the inspirational principles of the Authority, as set out in article 5 of the Institutive Statute, in which it clearly states its commitment to economical, social and cultural development and protection of the environment within the provincial territory.

It is the pivotal element of the Political Authority in defining its positions and commitments to the environment when considering all interested parties (citizens, institutions, businesses, tourists etc.).

The adoption of an Environmental Management System that complies with the ISO14001 standard and the 761/2001 (EMAS) Regulations, and the subsequent commitment to constant improvement of the province's environmental performances and the quality of the environment within the territory that it administers, are enclosed within the interpretative and proactive horizon of sustainable development as seen in its organic dimension, that is, of contemporary evolution of social and economic development and of the reproduction and valorisation of environmental resources; an ethically and politically correct aim and the best way to read the objective dynamics of change and to clearly define needs, potential and critical conditions.

The choice is therefore in tune with the strategies that are the basis of the Territorial Coordination Plan currently in force as well as the inspiration for its imminent reform.

The general objectives refer, amongst other things, to the willingness to consolidate a programme of sustainable development via the promotion of Agenda 21 and EMAS within the Sienese territory; to the reduction of pollutants and climate changing emissions on the basis of the transfer agreements in Italy of the Kyoto Protocol commitments; to the limitation of citizens' exposure to atmospheric pollution and to the valorisation of water as a resource, preferring the saving, reuse and recycling of it.

The Province of Siena, whilst guaranteeing a highly skilled level of participation, will be the promoter of a project of involvement for the start up of voluntary initiatives, also through planning agreements and conventions with third parties, so that the integration of the principles of pollution prevention, of constant improvement and environmental protection, and activities of planning and territorial and sectorial programming, are always strongly developed and guaranteed.

The Province of Siena, in the application of the principles of its political stance, in addition to respecting the compulsory norms, therefore undertakes to:

- Actively pursue its programme for ISO 14001 Certification and EMAS Registration, as voluntary and ideal tools for improving its environmental performance, whilst seeking every useful initiative and agreement with the aim of effectively involving the council employees, to introduce the instrument into the realms of public education and private businesses within the territory, also through the creation of special districts;

- Effectively continue the experience already set in motion by Agenda 21 "Terre di Siena", as an instrument to involve the citizens and other interested parties and to compare and circulate the best social and environmental practises by using the "Aalborg Commitments" as a reference for the establishment and the management of actions, the prerequisites of which should also be the result of evaluation and comparisons carried out on a district level;
- strengthen the territorial data base, also through targeted monitoring campaigns (quality of air and water, differentiated refuse collection, consumption of drinking water etc.) and the development of a suitable and widespread surveying network;
- effectively work towards the implementation of the Provincial Energy Plan via the strengthening of the Provincial Agency for Energy, the implementation of specific measures both for the promotion and the support of energy production from renewable sources and the study and the implementation of specific measures for energy saving in buildings both in their management and their design;
- activate the review procedure for the Territorial Coordination Plan with the aim of improving and strengthening its contents in the knowledge that it represents the economic value of the countryside and ensures balance between the needs of man and the protection of the environment;
- guarantee, via the Rural Development Plan, an increase in the quality and in the multifunctionality of Sienese farming which represents, according to the OCSE "*... a skilful blend of positive factors, from an economical, environmental, cultural and social point of view...*"
- promote innovative forms for the handling of the water cycle, such as the re-use of water for civil non potable uses, phytopurification in small residential areas, for the recovery and storage of rainwater in new zones and in scattered houses;
- promote adequate levels of orchestration between the Province and the Atos (Ambito Territoriale Ottimale – Optimal Territorial Environments) with the aim of establishing and guaranteeing adequate levels of protection and defence of the strategic aquifers as well as those that make up the refill areas of the thermal systems;
- protect the territory from hydro geological risks linked to flooding of the waterways and mountainside geomorphological processes via studies for the whole catchment area and the subcatchment area, realization of programmed interventions and effective control of the territory, also with the aim of upgrading the fluvial environment;
- guarantee the development of all the possible defensive actions targeted at maintaining the quality of the surface bodies of water at a high level, with particular reference to Lakes Chiusi and Montepulciano, the River Merse and the River Farma;
- guarantee maximum attention to the mining sector in anticipation of the adoption of the Provincial Plan that will have to guarantee the self-sufficiency of the fiducial catchment area, considering the great quality of the territory;

- foresee, within the scope of the TCP review, all the most suitable initiatives to make the Council urban regulations assume measures aimed at limiting the phenomenon of light pollution;
- guarantee the rapid realization of the systems foreseen by current planning concerning refuse, by simultaneously developing the new provincial designs that, via the support of a high profile scientific committee and the verification of the changes in progress on a national and international level, will have to reinforce differentiated collection, establish tangible solutions for the reduction of the overall quantity of refuse and also verify new and experimental methods in recycling and the valorisation of the different parts of refuse;
- adopt a strongly integrated and interrelated approach between the various services in the authorisation and the control of polluting activities and with a strong environmental impact based on the use of good practices and on the knowledge of the best technologies available;
- use the Natural Reserves system to promote integrated and sustainable development projects with the aim of maintaining ecosystems and biodiversity;
- ensure the best handling of faunal resources via the Faunal and Hunting plan which must guarantee a true faunal balance within the territory, the protection of the product and the income of the farms together with the growth of a satisfactory hunting activity;
- adequately develop suitable initiatives for promoting environmental education and information;
- ensure, through the Provincial Police Force, the coordination of the Voluntary Guards and the Environmental Service, ideal forms of control and environmental prevention on the territory, not only for hunting activities but also for the various activities of refuse handling, water treatment and general protection of the territory;
- develop a detailed programme of projects and investments aimed at modernizing and improving the provincial road network, by reducing the crossing of built-up areas and establishing a suitable method of recording noise pollution levels of vehicular traffic;
- guarantee adequate development of the rail network and its rapid integration into the local public transport system.