

## Population and the environment: behaviors and opinions *Year 2012*

The last decades have been characterized by changes in the environment, most of which determined by the increasing pressure from human activities on natural ecosystems.

The annual Multipurpose Survey “Aspetti della vita quotidiana” (Aspects of Everyday Life), with 1998 and 2012 editions, allows the analysis of the relationship between citizens and the environment with respect to a number of factors, such as the adoption of environmental friendly behaviors, the environmental concerns at the micro and macro level, the interest in environmental issues, the satisfaction with the state of the environment

In 2012, less than half the population (45%) said to be interested in environmental issues. Between citizens who are interested, 85 out of 100 inform themselves through television and radio programs, 54 by reading newspapers. Active participation is less frequent: 5 out of 100 citizens attend conferences on environmental issues; 3 follow initiatives of environmental organizations.

The citizens believe that environmental protection should be ensured especially by the citizens and institutions, both mentioned by 70% of people. Less importance is given to the contribution of enterprises (30%).

After almost 15 years, the perception of the environmental risk at the local level decreases: the incidence of individuals who express concerns about the proximity to housing of potentially harmful plants slightly reduces for all plant types (with the exception of radio-TV and telephone repeaters). 73% of citizens indicate incinerators and landfills as source of concern when near the house.

At the macro level, the concerns of the population are mainly directed towards air pollution (indicated by 52% of citizens), waste and climate change (both 47%), water pollution (38%).

Compared to 1998, the propensity of the population to adopt environmental friendly behaviors grows only slightly, except for the portion of individuals who pay attention to water saving (from 54% to 68%).

In 2012, 14.2% of households claim not to make separate waste collection for any type of waste (in 1998 they were 36.6), while the average number of types of waste separately collected increases from about 2.7 to 4.9. Strong territorial differences in the contribution of households to separate waste collection still remain, with a higher than the average contribution in the north-eastern area and lower in the South.

**For more details please refer to the Italian version**

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