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A new model of “urban forestation” to reduce energy costs

At EIMA, the international agricultural machinery exhibition in Bologna, the international association WGIN presents the proposals for new standards on green areas in the case of rural, commercial and public building renovations and new construction. Objective: to reduce the cost of energy by 2,500 euros per square metre.

Italy is a country at the forefront of energy saving policies. But more can be done, identifying new parameters for the creation of green areas in the case of building renovations or new constructions. Minimum standards that would make it possible to cut energy costs by 2,500 euro per square metre. The 44th edition of EIMA, the international exhibition of agricultural machinery currently being held in the halls of BolognaFiere, is the source of new proposals for energy saving. They are put forward by WGIN, the World Green Infrastructure Network, the international association founded in the USA in 2007 that today, from Canada, promotes policy activities for the development of green infrastructure on a global level. "The time has come for Italy, with the support of other EU countries, to seriously promote a real European Green Deal for climate mitigation in urban areas," says Riccardo Rigolli, agronomist and head of WGIN Italy. The association's proposals revolve around the definition of new parameters for the renovation of commercial, rural and public buildings and for new residential constructions. These parameters should stimulate, through tax and financial incentives, a more rapid reduction in energy costs in the wake of the objectives set by the European Commission. In particular, according to WGIN, green areas should be integrated in new zero-emission buildings and combined with installations of renewable energy systems: a combination that increases energy efficiency by between 5 and 10%. In addition, as regards the renovation of public, commercial and rural buildings, the introduction of a minimum green area standard should become indispensable to improve environmental mitigation measures. Finally, a new model of urban forestation should also indicate basic standards in the case of new residential buildings exceeding 400 square metres in surface area.

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