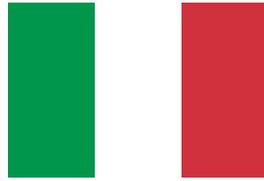


Italy



Causes

One of the main causes of pollution in Italy is the heavy car traffic, smoke from the many factories and industrial waste and oil/ sewage spills. Another problem, especially in the city of Naples, is that people throw their garbage directly on the streets.

Consequences

One consequence is that there is a lot of smoke and fog in the air. This leads to breathing and heart problems and diseases like cancer. The levels of cancer around the factories are being way above the national average. Breathing and heart problems are also causing 9% of deaths of Italians over the age of 30. Carbon monoxide and lead floating around in the air can contribute to ill effects for tourists as well. Headaches and breathing problems are common after a day of sightseeing if you're prone to pollution-related sickness.

Solution

To solve these problems more people need to leave their cars at home, and maybe take the bike to work or school instead. You could also start creating more green spaces in the cities. To make people stop throwing their trash on the streets they need to open more dumps around the cities. More recycling stations are also needed.



Sweden



Causes

Pollutants are a big problem in many countries, but how is the situation in Sweden? Sweden doesn't really have a big problem with air quality, according to NUMBEO, instead the biggest pollutant problem in Sweden is noise and light. If your environment is very noisy it will affect you in a bad way, it can, for example, cause sleep disturbance, heart diseases and stress. Light pollution cause similar types of problems, like sleep disturbance and stress, but it is also a really big waste of resources to light up so many places like we do. We don't need to light up as many areas as we do right now, light pollution is not good for people.

Consequences

Light pollution is still a big waste of resources when unnecessary areas are lit up. Sweden should definitely try to fix the problem, like stop lighting up areas that aren't in need of light. There are places which of course need to be lit up, like roads, but lit up places could definitely be cut down, to make residents feel better and stop wasting resources.

Solution

Sweden already does do a lot of things to fix the problem with noise pollutants, but other things that could be done are, for example: further improve technology, build more noise dampening fences and make residents cut down their use of technology that cause the noise pollutions in the first place. Walking or biking instead of traveling by car would reduce noise pollution.

Sweden tries to fix the problem with noise pollution by building fences next to big roads to block out the sound, make residents use better windows that will block out sound and improve technology. Light pollution aren't seen as a big problem in Sweden and there weren't any information about how they are going to fix it.

Germany



Causes and Consequences

A few years ago Germany was one of eight countries who produced nearly half of all global carbon emission. Today the emissions per person are still very high. One of the reasons for that are Germany's big cities because there are many companies and cars which produce more emissions that they should. In some parts of Germany, the water is not clean enough to drink. The causes of that are the chemicals used in the agriculture but also the pollution caused by the big cities. Due to the fracking which happens for decades in western parts of Germany there is mercury in the water and people have poisoning because of it. Furthermore fracking destroys the environment.

Solution

There have been less emission in the last years because Germany reduced 25% of the emissions today. Today they also use more renewable energy for instance they have built off-shore parks. They have also shut down some of the coal power plants. Instead of using cars with fossil fuels Germans get a contribution if they buy and use electric cars. Besides that carsharing and the public transport is going to extend.

The water pollution is still a problem but they are trying to fix it in the next couple of years. With climate protection policy the German politicians trying to reduce for example the emissions as well. The process of the fracking still needs to be changed in order to save the nature because nowadays the pollution destroys it. In the future the fracking is not needed anymore because the renewable energy will be more popular.



Hungary



Causes and Consequences

Air and water pollution are some of Hungary's most serious environmental problems. Industry and large-scale agriculture are a big cause to water pollution, because for example the big river Tisza is polluted. The river is polluted because a few years ago a Romanian company had extracted zinc from waste rock piles of area mines. During the extraction process lots of water were used after they done, they put the poisoned water back in the river. The consequence of this was that everything in the river died and this caused that the government needed to recover the fish population of the river and it cost millions of money. The problem got bigger because Hungary already was lack of water and they still is.

Another problem is the air pollution, for example there are days when it is too much smog and because of it the Hungarians who lives in big cities couldn't use their cars. Some years ago the air pollution was very bad and now it getting worse and worse. This was shown by an international organization called OECD. They presented 2010 that Hungary was on second place regarding deaths from ambient particulate matter and ozone pollution per million inhabitants.

Solution

Hungary is not environmentally friendly and the government does not pay attention to this huge problem, quite often they ignore the problems. That is why the Hungarians do not see the need to work to save the nature. One example is that a few years ago there was a project, from the government, when the house and flat owners got recycling bins. But most of the inhabitants used it wrong or did not used it at all.

Our opinion is that Hungary needs to pay more attention and invest more in environmental protection. The government should have a program for all inhabitants, especially the new generation, how to take care of the nature. If the grow up this knowledge it will be natural for them to protect the environment.

Poland



Causes

The biggest causes to pollution in Poland are households and cars. The majority of all households in Poland use coal as a fuel. This is a problem because coal produce a lot of greenhouse gases. Therefore coal heating is not a part in a sustainable future. Using coal is not banned in Poland and it's the cheapest energy source and that's why so many households use it. Only a small percentage of the households in Poland use ecofriendly energy.

Another problem is that public transports are not available in many small cities so therefore the people are forced to use their cars. The majority of cars in Poland aren't ecofriendly and they release a lot of carbon dioxide.

The majority of the polish population aren't aware of the consequences of pollution from cars and heating households but it affects their lives more than they think. In the big cities like Warsaw and Cracow the air isn't very clean and fresh so the people breathe in a lot of particles and pollutants that aren't healthy for them.

Solution

The solution to the problems is to use more electricity driven cars and develop better public transports in the smaller cities. The government should create a law that people aren't allowed to drive cars in the central parts of the cities. That way the inhabitants would use the public transports more often and that would lead to a decrease in the release of carbon dioxide.

One thing the government has done to try and make the situation better is to give a contribution to the residents who change their coal burning stove to a more ecofriendly alternative. Most importantly we need to make people aware of the pollution and its consequences and what each individual can do to make a more ecofriendly country.

What could YOU do?

- Eat less meat
 - Recycle
- Take shorter showers
- Eat fruits of the season (only)
- Use biodegradable packaging
- Buy second hand more often

- Don't use much chemicals
 - Take the bike
- Don't throw things in the nature
- Don't buy things you don't need
 - Use public transport

Pollution



