



The National Strategic Plan for Organic Farming (OF) system and Rural Development Plans (RDPs): the new opportunities for agricultural businesses

Integrated services for the efficient modernization to support agricultural businesses, professionals and public bodies in rural areas.

AZZEROCO2



AzzeroCO2 is an Energy Service Company (ESCO) created by Legambiente and Kyoto Club.

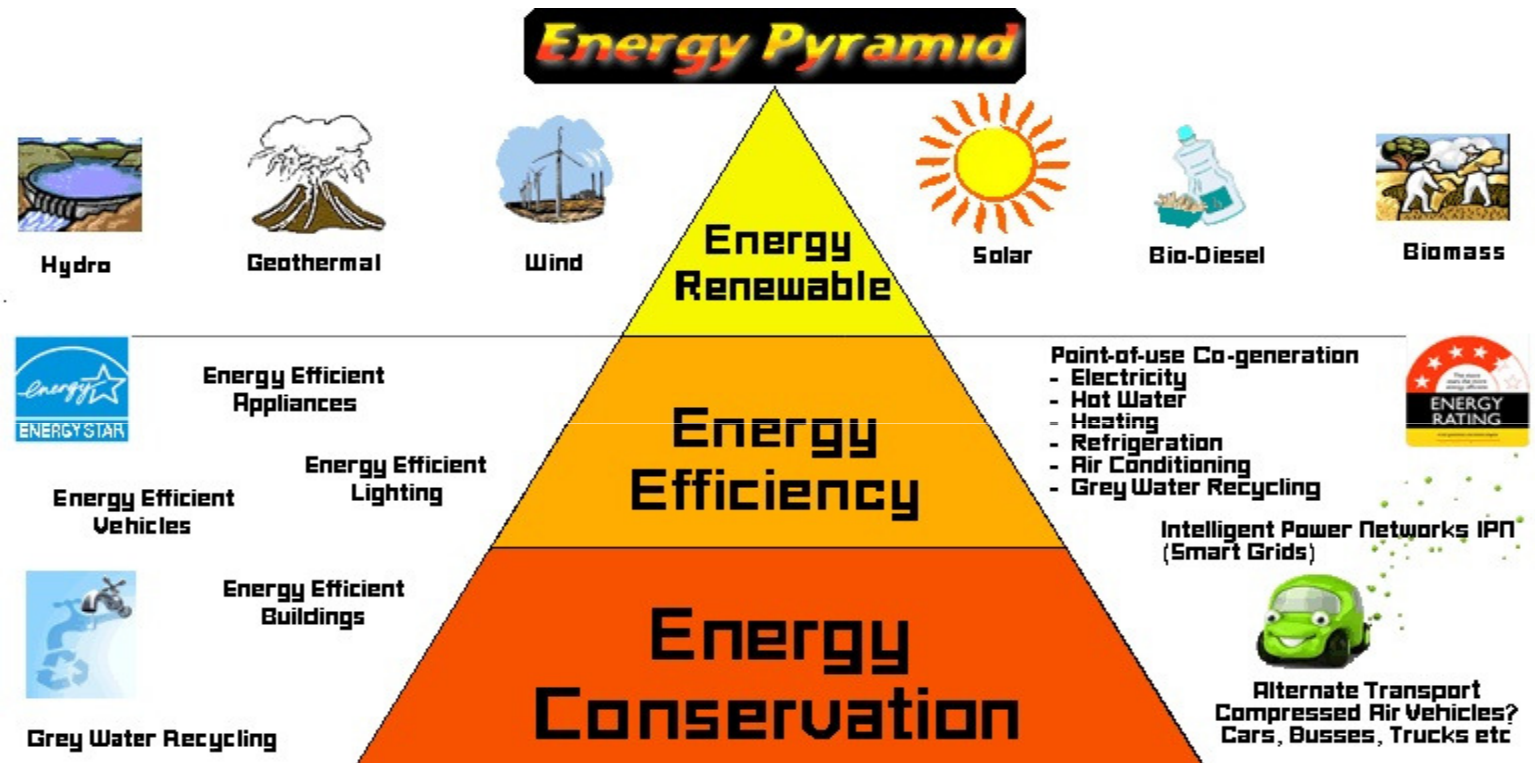
Since 2004 AzzeroCO2 has been accredited as an Energy Service Company (ESCO), a company whose objective is to offer businesses consultancy on how to improve their energy efficiency, reduce and compensate their carbon emissions and manage their white certificates. In collaboration with its partners, AzzeroCO2 also promotes sustainability and social responsibility projects through campaigns on the national territory.

AzzeroCO2 is certified UNI CEI 11352:2014, which sets the requirements for companies wanting to act as ESCo.

Profile

Renewable energy sources and energy efficiency

AzeroCO2 designs and implements solutions to reduce energy consumption and CO2 equivalent emissions through high efficiency installations and / or using and producing renewable energy sources, biomass heaters, latest-generation lighting systems and upgrading of the energy performance in private and public buildings, **guaranteeing the return on the investments made.**



Organic farming: the agreement with AIAB Liguria

AzzeroCO2 and AIAB Liguria, the Genova region, have signed an agreement so that all AIAB organic farmers in Liguria may take advantage of the AzzeroCO2 services:



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AzzeroCO2 | RDP

Specifically, for organic farming businesses, AzzeroCO2 offers a free-of-charge service for:

- A preliminary energy audit.
- The identification of the best available technologies for the businesses' operational and energy needs.
- Installations' energy projections.
- Drafting of the economic-financial plan, taking into account the existing incentive schemes (RDP, Thermal account, energy efficiency bonds, etc).

Followed by:

- The interventions' planning.
- The search for the most suitable technological partners.
- Turnkey supply.

The National Strategic Plan for the Development of the OF system

For the promotion of energy efficiency and the boosting of renewable energy sources in OF the most relevant Actions of the Plan are:

ACTION 1 - ORGANIC IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS – Development of a coordination among the different Italian Regions to bring into alignment the application rules of the Rural Development support measures for organic farming. A particular attention is given at promoting a specific agro-ecological approach.

ACTION 2 - SUPPLY CHAIN POLICY - Encouraging the aggregation of producers and stable relations with the other players of the sector, including processors, distributors and traders, through the implementation of specific association forms.

ACTION 6 - EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY - Organization of organic farming training courses at university level and of training courses for high school teachers. Strengthening of SINAB (the National Information System on Organic Farming) services to improve the availability of information on the sector.

ACTION 10 - PLAN FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN ORGANIC FARMING – Drawing up of a national plan for research and innovation in organic farming, establishing a permanent coordination committee for research in organic and biodynamic farming, involving the institutions supervised by Mipaaf, the Regions and representatives of the organic sector.

What is the RDP ? (1)

The Rural Development Plan is the EU set of norms to fund rural development, including organic farming, in the Union: a seven-year planning of agricultural funds (FEASR), managed, in Italy, together with the regional governments.



- RDP is a non-repayable grant, covering in the average **40% of the costs**, paid out upon presentation of the settled invoices.
- 40% of the global expenses, including technical consulting, but excluding VAT.
- 40% may become more when young farmers or mountain areas are involved. It maybe up to 100% when covering **the full production and supply chain**.
- Only new purchases are allowed.
- Grants are earmarked through the shortlisting of the various applications received on the basis of the RDP calls.
- According to the Italian legislation, i.e. the Ministerial decree 8 December 2012, grants may be in addition to national renewable energy sources incentives.

What is the RDP ? (2)

The 2014-2020 RDPs have been published in June 2015 .

RDP beneficiaries may be::

- **Agricultural farms / businesses.**
 - Local authorities.
- Rural development bodies..

The grant request must be submitted by an **agronomist included in the national roster** or by an **agricultural professional association** (CIA, COLDIRETTI E CONFAGRICOLTURA).



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