

**press release**

Bologna, 25 July 2022

## **Hera is the first Italian listed company certified by Bureau Veritas for the circular economy**

*The Group has successfully concluded its certification process with the multinational Bureau Veritas, the sector's leader, confirming the commitment shown by Hera over the years with numerous projects and initiatives favouring the circular economy.*

For its circular economy projects, Hera has obtained from Bureau Veritas Italia, a leading multinational certification company, the certificate for the AFNOR XP X30-901 standard, the first issued to an Italian multi-utility.

The French AFNOR XP X 30-901 standard is now the main international reference for implementing a management system for circular economy projects. This model, in fact, provides a point of reference for all companies that, wishing to adopt circular solutions within their production systems, need a certifiable guide on which to base themselves.

Certification for the AFNOR standard encourages standardisation of corporate methodologies for project management, achieved by adopting a concrete tool to carry out a critical analysis of these methods in relation to areas of action and environmental, social and economic factors. More specifically, it is based on a matrix that combines the 3 classical factors involved in sustainability (environment, economy, society) with the 7 action areas of the circular economy (Sustainable Procurement, Eco-design, Industrial Symbiosis, Functional Economy, Responsible Consumption, Product Life Extension, Efficient Product and Material Management).

Hera has implemented a management system for its circular economy projects and has set up the following three, according to this matrix: the "O.V.E." project to transform the exhausted vegetable oils collected in the served area into biofuel; a project to integrate circularity criteria into procurement; and a project to reuse purified wastewater. Bureau Veritas Italia was therefore called upon to analyse them in detail and has certified the compliance of the company's management system for circular economy projects with the AFNOR standard.

"Obtaining this certification guarantees greater transparency in the results achieved by the Hera Group in the area of the Circular Economy towards all its stakeholders", comments **Marcello Guerrini, Group Manager of Corporate Services**. "Sustainable development has always been at the heart of our company's strategies, across all of its businesses, and the application of the management system foreseen by the AFNOR standard, certified by an authoritative third-party body such as Bureau Veritas, gives value to all the efforts made over the years and contributes to responding even more efficiently to Goal 12 of the 2030 UN Agenda (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns). It thus represents a further important step for the Hera Group, which for years has been committed to initiatives aimed at favouring the transition towards an increasingly circular economy."

**Andrea Filippi, Certification Service Line Manager of Bureau Veritas Italia** points out that "the transition from the current linear economic system to a circular economy model goes through concrete and verifiable actions. Bureau Veritas Italia stays by the side of organisations that – like Hera – choose innovative circular models by measuring themselves against international best practices. Thanks to the management system foreseen by AFNOR XP X 30-901, companies benefit from a roadmap that helps them define objectives, measure and communicate their circularity performance."

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