

NEWS PAPER

The Earth takes a break

The surprising impact of COVID-19 on the environment might not be forever.

This year is being an atypical one for everyone. Lately, everything appears to be worries and problems. We have experienced losses in many ways, nevertheless, we have also gained something, since climate change has improved as a result of the changes we have done in our routine. Can we say there is hope for climate change after all?

Many companies and governments were forced to adopt the necessary measurements against a pandemic that has given our lives and customs a 180 degrees turn. During quarantine, people drove and moved less, and the industries reduced their activity. As a result of these changes, the emission of greenhouse gases decreased, and the results now are unbelievable.

Not only cities as Beijing shows after a long time a pollution-free blue sky but also in Venecia fishes can be seen in their channels again and all around the world animals have returned to their natural habitat without feeling threatening by the humans.



Left: During quarantine. Right: "Back to normal" in Beijing. @Zaritzky's picture

Some months ago most of us knew about the problem of climate change but we didn't do anything to avoid it because making little changes in our lives seemed to be difficult and uncomfortable. Nonetheless, we did not think twice before dealing with COVID-19.

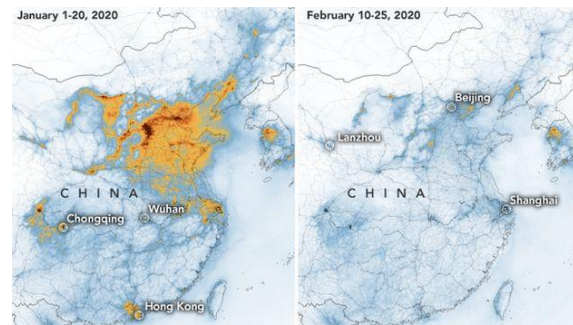
Obviously, this is neither the definitive nor best solution against climate change. We can't fight climate change in the same way that we fight a virus. Moreover, this problem won't be solved so easily and even less if we commit the same mistakes again. But this is an example that we can make amazing things if we work together.

I like to think that every hardship teaches us something. In this case, we can say that the strength is in number and that we have the power to change the world, but until now we did not know that we were stronger than we think.

Everything is linking and if we want to keep safe and healthy we need to start by preserving the environment.

Tessa Luaces De Fazio

1°BD



Evolution of pollution in China (NASA).