



2021

ANNUAL REPORT OF ECOCLUB

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PREFACE



While I am writing this text, the people and the army of Ukraine have been defending their independence from Russian aggression for almost three months. One of the front lines of the attack, which created a resource base, was the long-term export of Russian oil, gas and coal to the West and Ukraine. Thus, another urgent task has been added to the global task of stopping climate change - stopping the financing of the Russian military machine. The best way to achieve both of these goals is to completely stop using fossil fuels.

The war and the transition to a low-carbon economy are undoubtedly challenges for our country. We have to answer these challenges with dignity, and build a country that cares about people and the environment.



On this path, we need a united society that believes in and supports the chosen path, as well as institutions adapted to these challenges. The war once again showed how Ukrainians can unite and work together.

After the victory, we must implement the reforms prepared in advance, which will be aimed at ensuring environmental protection, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity conservation. These reforms should develop the decentralization reform and be based on the principle of subsidiarity. Communities that care about the environment and their own development are the guarantor of a free and happy Ukraine. Ecoclub continues to work to achieve these goals.

We are grateful to everyone who was with us on this year's journey - members, supporters, donors, partners - for your inspiration, ideas, joint work and experience! In 2022, you and I will have a lot of work to do to rebuild the country. We have a unique chance to build new cities and communities - energy-independent, energy-saving and adapted to climate change, with the application of the most modern nature-oriented solutions.

Andrii Martyniuk,
Executive Director of Ecoclub NGO

4 ABOUT ECOCLUB

Ecoclub is a public organization in Rivne that has been working for more than 20 years to preserve the environment. More than 10 of them are in the field of energy saving, because it is energy that has the most harmful effect on the environment. We believe that nature is a value in itself, regardless of the practical benefit to humans.

Our mission: Creating safe environments by influencing policy and strengthening communities.

Vision of Ecoclub:

We believe that the unspoiled environment and wildlife are values in themselves. Sustainable development of society will ensure the harmonious development of humanity without harming nature. We exhaust people with:

- 1) dissemination of knowledge about the importance of environmental protection
- 2) mobilization to participate in the formation and implementation of energy and environmental policy
- 3) solidarity and cooperation, which will allow taking into account the value of the environment at all levels of human existence.

We believe that increasing energy efficiency and spreading renewable energy sources are vital measures to prevent further environmental destruction, including climate change. Such measures are of primary importance for the development of Ukraine.

Ecoclub values:

We work for a secure future with sustainable and affordable energy. We practice non-violence and tolerance and treat different views with respect. We maintain our independence from political parties and business interests. We are aware of the impact of our actions on the environment and make efforts to reduce its negative consequences.

Ecoclub is moving towards achieving strategic goals by 2023:



Goal 1.

Communities are aware of the need and benefits of low-carbon development and are investing in it.



Goal 2.

Climate change (CC) is integrated into national and local development policies thanks to public demand and engagement.



Goal 3.

Local CSOs are a driving force for change and a channel for the dissemination of best practices and solutions in the field of climate and energy players.



Goal 4.

Ecoclub has become a responsible and influential nature protection organization in Ukraine.

5 ■ Board of the Ecoclub NGO

2021 was the year of renewal of the Board of our organization. We grow and change, the Board grows and changes. The composition of the Board has expanded, as has the range of spheres of activity of its members. This strengthens our sustainability and allows us not to lose the focus of our attention, namely, the value of undisturbed and wild nature, which is not harmed by human development.

Oleh Hetun, Chairman of the Board

Private entrepreneur in the field of organizing active recreation (alleys, corporatives, quests, etc.). Another area of work is the installation of industrial GPG monitoring systems on commercial vehicles.

Oleh devotes part of his time to work in the public sphere, namely: work with children and youth in Plast NSOU, environmental protection with the NGO Ecoclub, organization of water tourism competitions and adventure races.

Education: master's degree in ecology.

Anatoly Onoshko, member of the Board

Private entrepreneur. In the past, he was the executive director of Ecoclub. "I was always interested in nature. I am concerned about the state of the environment in which we and our children live, so I try to take any steps to keep it clean. One of my first small businesses was the business of collecting secondary raw materials: waste paper, glass containers, PET, etc. Dreaming of influencing the cleanliness of the environment, I want to be active in the activities of the Ecoclub NGO, orient myself and take an active part in the organization's environmental projects".

Education: financier.

Oksana Holovko, member of the Board

Candidate of agricultural sciences (specialty Ecology), head of the research sector of Derman - Ostroh National Nature Park.

Tatyana Tsykun, member of the Board

Research associate at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Institute of Ecology, Evolution and Diversity. The field of professional activity is ecology, forest phytopathology, genomics and population genetics of phytopathogens and tree pests. Actively volunteered in Ecoclub during 2002-2005.

Oksana Pol, member of the Board

Bachelor of Geoinformation Systems and Technologies of the National University of Water Management and Nature Management; Bachelor degree in geography at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and in land management.



6 MORE THAN NUMBERS



QUESTIONNAIRES:

- about heating in Rivne – 158 respondents (147 of them from Rivne)
- about heating in the country - 216 respondents
- about places of flooding in the city of Rivne - 33 places were collected
- 358 question(s) to find out to what extent and in which areas the inhabitants of the community are vulnerable to the climate and what they are willing to do to facilitate adaptation to climate change.

7 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

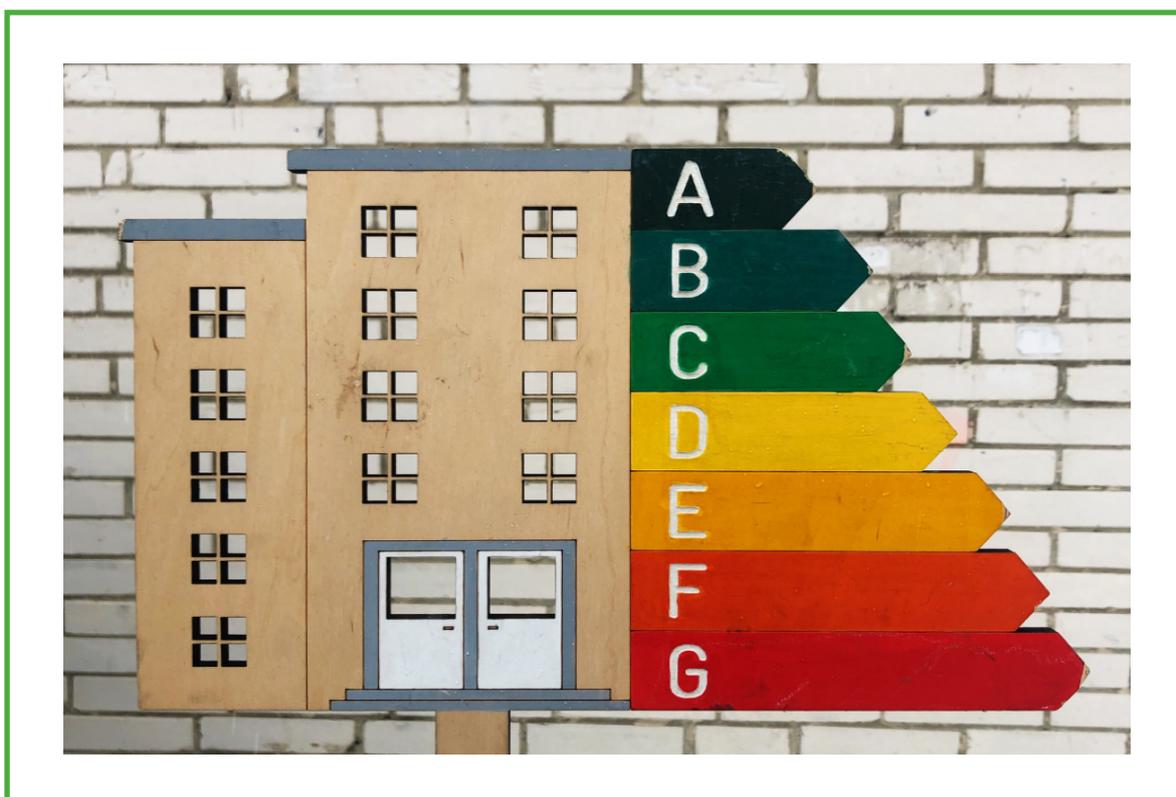
Ecoclub has identified **steps** that will help in achieving the set goal:

- development of financial instruments to stimulate investments in low-carbon development (cooperatives, revolving funds, local budget support programs)
- the ability of communities to make a just transition to low-carbon development, reducing the impact on ecosystems
- supporting the goals of low-carbon community development in local politics, applying solutions based on the use of natural ecosystems
- transition of communities to 100% renewable energy sources (RES)
- development of local energy plans.

We find points of influence and work at all levels - from community residents to local self-government bodies, from local development plans to legislative documents.

■ **Proposals for the Draft Law of Ukraine No. 4507 "On energy efficiency"**

Low-carbon development involves, among other things, an increase in energy efficiency, which, in turn, plays a decisive role in reducing the pressure on natural ecosystems and preserving resources. A pleasant bonus is financial benefits and an increase in the level of comfort of life of community residents.



8 [Draft Law of Ukraine No. 4507 "On Energy Efficiency"](#) was intended to lay the foundation for the implementation of energy efficiency policy in Ukraine in accordance with the [best European practices](#). In particular, it defines the main principles of the state policy of energy efficiency, approaches to the formation of strategies and features of the implementation of national action plans in this area.

In April, public organizations Ecoclub and Ecodiia, together with industry experts, submitted their [comments](#) and suggestions for the second reading of the draft Law. The main provisions of the comments:

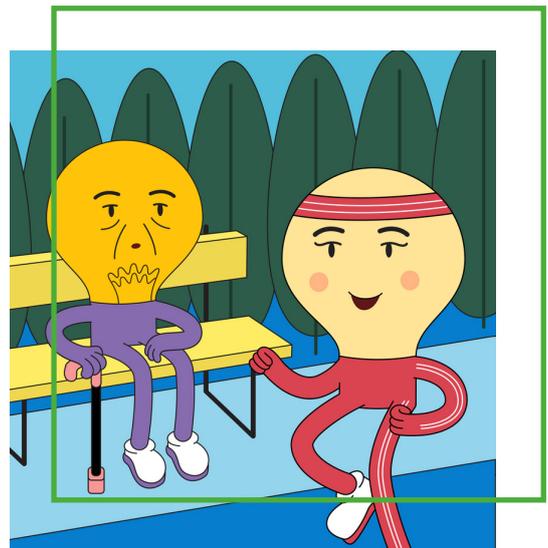
- Volumes and principles of state financial support for energy efficiency should be described in the law,
- Include climate provisions in community strategic documents,
- Oblige communities to have strategic energy efficiency plans,
- The need to support only cogeneration using sustainable fuels,
- Establishing time commitments for the development of by-laws.

Some of our comments were taken into account in the Law of Ukraine "On Energy Efficiency", which was adopted by the Parliament on October 21 this year and signed by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky on November 11.

■ **Work on the Draft Law of Ukraine "On removing from circulation lamps with low energy efficiency and stimulating the use of energy-saving lamps and lighting devices"**

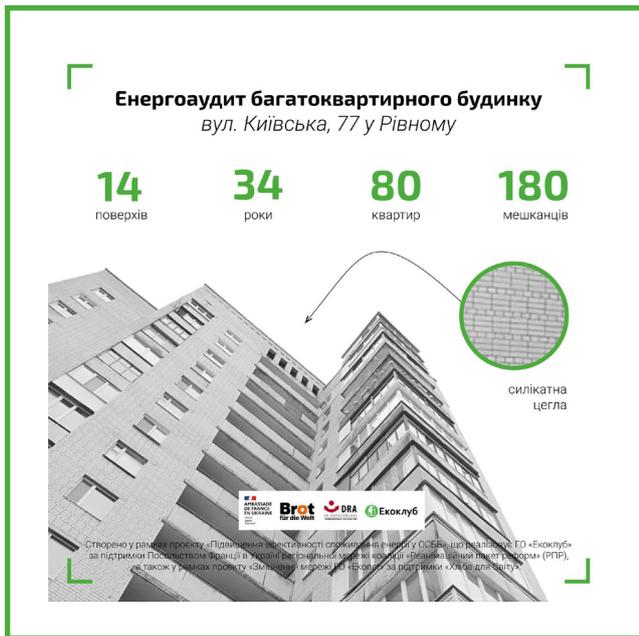
Ukraine has a huge unused potential for saving electricity in all sectors, including household and municipals (institutions of the social sphere, administrative buildings, street lighting and other infrastructure).

This draft law is aimed at removing circulation lighting lamps with low energy efficiency in order to increase the energy efficiency of the economy, optimize the operation of the energy system, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the consumption of energy resources and mercury-containing lighting lamps in order to strengthen environmental safety in Ukraine.



A representative of the Ecoclub is a member of the working group for the development of the draft law. Work on it will continue in 2022.

9 ■ Energy audit for condominiums



For the effective implementation of energy saving measures, it is necessary to understand how much each specific object consumes fuel and energy resources and to determine where losses of these resources occur. Only after conducting an energy audit should you plan steps to develop energy-saving measures.

Why an energy audit is needed and where condominiums can find money for is explained in more detail in [the Ecoclub video](#).

In order to raise awareness about improving the energy efficiency of buildings and to visually demonstrate the effectiveness of conducting an energy audit, Ecoclub conducted an energy audit for one of the condominiums in Rivne. Representatives of the building, str. Kyivska, 77 became the winners of the energy audit competition, after completing the training - a series of 8 webinars. Learn more about webinars at 14.

As a result of the energy audit, it turned out that this condominium can reduce the consumption of energy carriers by 50%, in terms of money, this is 478,927 hryvnias of savings from the whole house every year, or 5,980 hryvnias every year from each apartment. [Infographic with the results of the house inspection](#).

■ Petition against the artificial underestimation of the heat supply tariff for Rivne residents

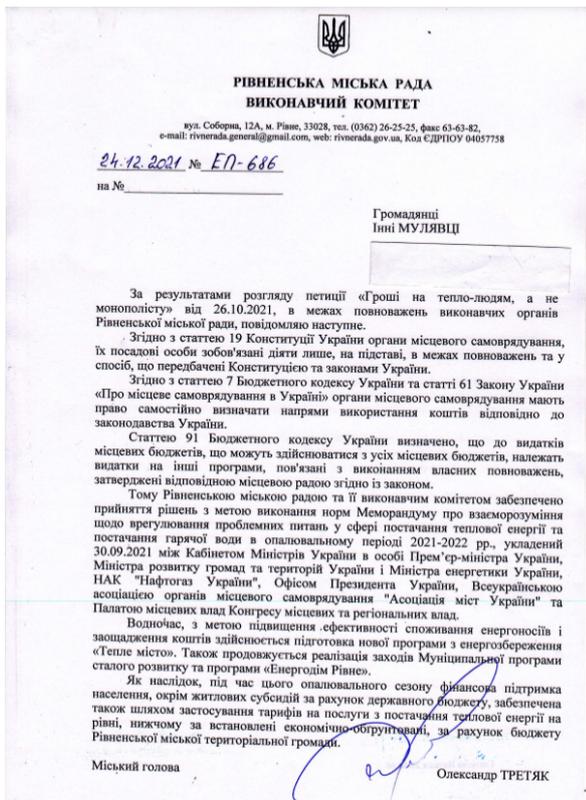
Central heating (CH) is an important asset of cities for low-carbon development. In Ukraine, they neglected this for more than two decades, collapsing the Central Committee. It's time to develop it.

On October 21, at a session of the Rivne City Council, deputies decided to ask the Executive Committee to reduce heat tariffs for Rivne residents. As a result, the executive committee of the Rivne City Council at an extraordinary meeting reduced the heating tariff for the population by 30%: instead of UAH 2,725 per 1 Gcal, the heating cost was UAH 1,913. Instead, they decided to transfer more than 200 million hryvnias from the city development budget to the heat supply company "Rivneteploenergo" as compensation for the tariff difference.



The Ecoclub categorically opposed such a decision: compensation from the city budget leads to the degradation of the infrastructure of the central office, additional income from taxpayers to the private structure. As a result, this will slow down the city's progress towards sustainable development and reduce its budget. Ecoclub presented its arguments in [a position](#).

Using the tool of public participation in decision-making processes, the Ecoclub registered [a petition](#) on the website of the Rivne City Council with the demand to effectively use property taxes and develop energy efficiency in the community.



The petition received 250 signatures from the residents of the community, who in response received a letter from the mayor (you can get acquainted with it at the link above).

In 2022, the Ecoclub plans to investigate how much Ukrainians have lost due to the populist decisions of the government and local councils regarding the underestimation of heat supply tariffs, to prepare analytics and proposals regarding the current situation.

The response of the city council to the Ecoclub

11 ■ Public discussion "Why does Rivne need to preserve centralized heating?"

ЦЕНТРАЛІЗОВАНЕ ЧИ ІНДИВІДУАЛЬНЕ ОПАЛЕННЯ: ЧОМУ НАДАЮТЬ ПЕРЕВАГУ МЕШКАНЦІ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ МІСТ?



The petition and the discussion of the reduction of heating tariffs in exchange for the degradation of the city's infrastructure also raised the question of approaches to heating: which is more efficient in the city - centralized or individual heating? Ecoclub together with expert Oleksiy Tykhonov investigated the state of affairs with central heating in Rivne.

158 respondents took part in the survey (147 of them from Rivne) and more than half of them expressed their dissatisfaction with the central heating system (CSO), and two thirds are already thinking about individual heating (IH), and the vast majority of them (more than 80%) - consumers of centralized heating. For the average consumer, individual heating means, first of all, cost savings, the ability to control the air temperature in the apartment, as well as regulation of gas consumption. On the other hand, only about 30% of the respondents knew that emissions from an individual gas boiler are poisonous for the residents of an apartment building who live several floors above the apartment where this boiler is installed. Similarly, only 30% know cases of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Taking into account the results of the survey and after conducting a study of the heating model of the city of Rivne, a position document was developed with recommendations on what measures the city can implement with the support of the programs of the Energy Efficiency Fund:

- make a decision on additional compensation from the city budget, but no more than 40% under the "A" program, or no more than 30% under the "B" program. Total compensation should not exceed 80%,
- create a "Revolver Fund". Condominiums require large investments in order to receive subsequent compensations, and some cities use a revolving fund mechanism, thanks to which condominiums can take funds for work, and after receiving compensation, quickly return half of the amount. The rest is returned within a certain time.
- make a decision on compensation of interest on the loan that the condominium will take for the performance of works, if the city does not have a revolving fund, or the money in it has run out,
- if we are talking about a house without a condominium, or a cooperative house - they cannot cooperate with the Energy Efficiency Fund. For such cases, co-financing programs are offered: part of the amount is paid by the city, the other part by the owners. On average, the share of owners in different cities does not exceed 30%. For example, in Kyiv, for unorganized houses, the works listed above will cost 15%.

[The information](#) was presented during a public discussion in Rivne.

On the basis of the recommendations and results of the public discussion, Ecoclub together with the "Rivne Reform Council" made [a statement to the Rivne City Council](#) regarding the formation of a tariff for central heating.

Also, together with the "Energy Transition" coalition, they conducted a survey of residents of Ukrainian cities about centralized and individual heating - "Do residents of Ukrainian cities prefer centralized or individual heating?", since there is a negative tendency of cities to switch to individual heating. Whereas it is easier to switch to RES if centralized heating is maintained in cities. The number of responses received is 216.



Carrying out each of the activities, Ecoclub remembers the implementation of Goal 3. "Local CSOs are the driving force of change and the channel for the dissemination of best practices and solutions in the field of climate and energy" and shares its knowledge and ideas, participating and organizing meetings and training of all interested parties from deputies to public organizations, from activists to local self-government bodies.

13 ■ Training "EnergoSchool of the deputy and manager 2.0"



In June and July, Ecoclub held training for local council members and managers. The seminars highlighted the advantages of renewable energy development and promotion energy efficiency, in particular, through practical recommendations on creating new jobs and saving resources on the ground.

The formation of a positive public opinion about a just energy transition takes place largely thanks to the support of this topic by national and local authorities.

During the seminars, we called on local self-government bodies to take the lead and become leaders of knowledge and approaches, to promote the ideas of RES development in the community.

Training topics:

- Work with the state institution "Energy Efficiency Fund"
- Municipal programs to support energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Net Metering: what communities should know about the new renewable energy support mechanism
- Program-target method of budget planning
- Just energy transition - is there coal in Ukraine's future?
- Energy management: advantages, structure, documentation
- Discussion workshop on district heating in cities: are there pitfalls in disconnection?
- Local projects in the field of energy efficiency and RES. Ukrainian examples.

The total number of registered participants is 160 people. Among them, 126 are local government representatives, 34 are current deputies.



14 ■ Training on the creation of energy cooperatives "CIVIL SOCIETY ENERGY 2021"



On September 7-10, 2021, in Berlin, 30 participants from Ukraine, Germany and Poland received training on the creation and operation of energy cooperatives within the framework of the "CIVIL SOCIETY ENERGY 2021" project. Ecoclub participated in the organization of the event.

The goal of the project is to create a network of supporters of renewable energy sources from Ukraine, Poland and Germany. And also the exchange of knowledge about energy projects organized by citizens, in particular energy cooperatives, between these three countries.

Founders and members of cooperatives, representatives of local self-government bodies (LGUs), experts shared with them information about the existing conditions for the development of energy cooperatives, and considered the organizational and legal aspects of their creation.

In November, the second part of the training took place in Chernihiv - a four-day hackathon, as a result of which the participants developed and presented [five business models of energy cooperatives](#).

■ Webinars and support for condominiums and contractors

The Ecoclub held 8 webinars for representatives of condominiums, representatives of their initiative groups, representatives of the board of condominiums, and 3 for contractors.



Topics and links to videos:

Webinar 1. [Why it is worth saving energy: financial, climatic, safety components.](#)

Webinar 2. [State support program for "Energodim" condominium. General principles of work, opportunities for Condominiums, the procedure for receiving compensation.](#)

Webinar 3. [Energy audit. Compilation of technical specifications, procedure, audit reports. Important details for participation in the "Energodim" program.](#)

Webinar 4. [Legal features of submitting an application and reimbursement under the "Energodim" program. Condominium meeting minutes, board decision minutes, voting results, application forms, etc.](#)

Webinar 5. [Development of project documentation, its examination and obtaining a partial reimbursement of their cost.](#)

Webinar 6. [Possibilities of support for condominiums from local authorities on the example of Rivne region. Conditions for participation in regional and local support programs.](#)

Webinar 7. [Implementation of technical solutions. General approaches to proper insulation, installation of windows, replacement or installation of equipment.](#)

Webinar 8. [Successful and unsuccessful examples of condominium participation in the "Energodim" program.](#)

During the project implementation period, 97 people (excluding moderators and speakers) attended the webinars. All webinars included a theoretical part and a discussion between participants and experts.

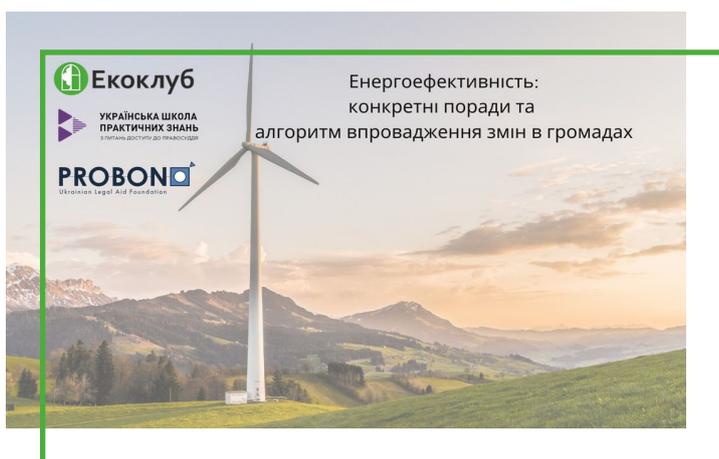
Training webinars for contractors (energy auditors, designers, builders) were aimed at improving the interaction of work executors with condominiums and speeding up the processes of documentation preparation and technical implementation of joint projects with the support of "Energodim".

16 Topics of online seminars:

1. Why it is worth saving energy: financial, climatic, safety components. [Video recording.](#)
2. Condominiums and peculiarities of working with them. Contractual obligations, communication, cooperation formats. [Video recording.](#)
3. Energy audits for condominiums. Peculiarities of implementation, requirements of the "Energodim" program, software for automating processes. [Video recording.](#)

Ecoclub provided legal and accounting support to condominiums that are preparing or studying the possibility of participating in the "Energodim" program.

■ Webinar "Energy efficiency: specific tips and the algorithm for implementing changes in communities"



In March, together with the #probonolab program of the Ukrainian School of Practical Knowledge on Access to Justice, Ecoclub held a webinar "Energy efficiency: specific tips and the algorithm for implementing changes in communities."

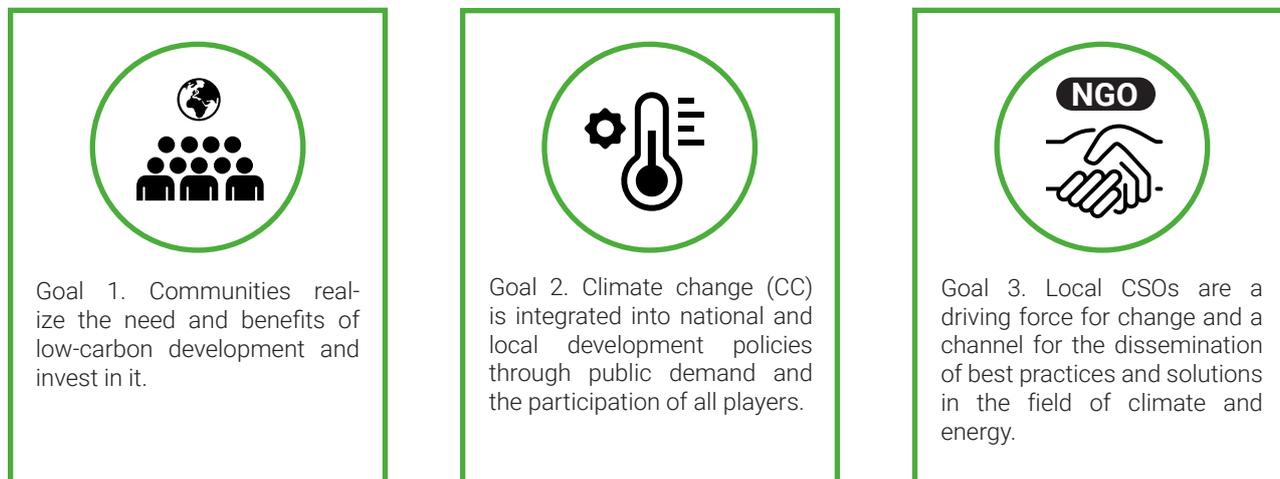
The event was organized for representatives of territorial communities, social initiatives, local self-government and condominiums, as well as activists and public advisers.

During the event, Ecoclub experts said:

- Energy efficiency at the level of each person: what is it?
- What can one person, team, community, territorial community do?
- Energy manager: how will the team or territorial community benefit from the introduction of such a position?
- Assessment of community energy efficiency and specific steps to reduce energy consumption.
- Climate change adaptation: what can one person do?
- Energy efficiency calculator: how to calculate the energy efficiency of your home and the economic feasibility of insulation.

17 ■ Local energy and climate plans and climate change

Joint work with communities on the development of local energy and climate plans allows Ecoclub to combine the achievement of three strategic goals at once:



This combination became possible primarily thanks to the European initiative for climate and energy conservation “Agreement of Mayors”. The signatories of the Agreement undertake to take measures to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2050 and develop a joint approach to solving the problem of mitigating the consequences of climate change and adapting to them. In Ukraine, as of November 2021, 303 settlements have joined the “Agreement of Mayors”.

To fulfill the goals of the Agreement of Mayors, communities are developing **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)**, a document that describes in detail the steps that the community must take both to reduce emissions and to save energy.

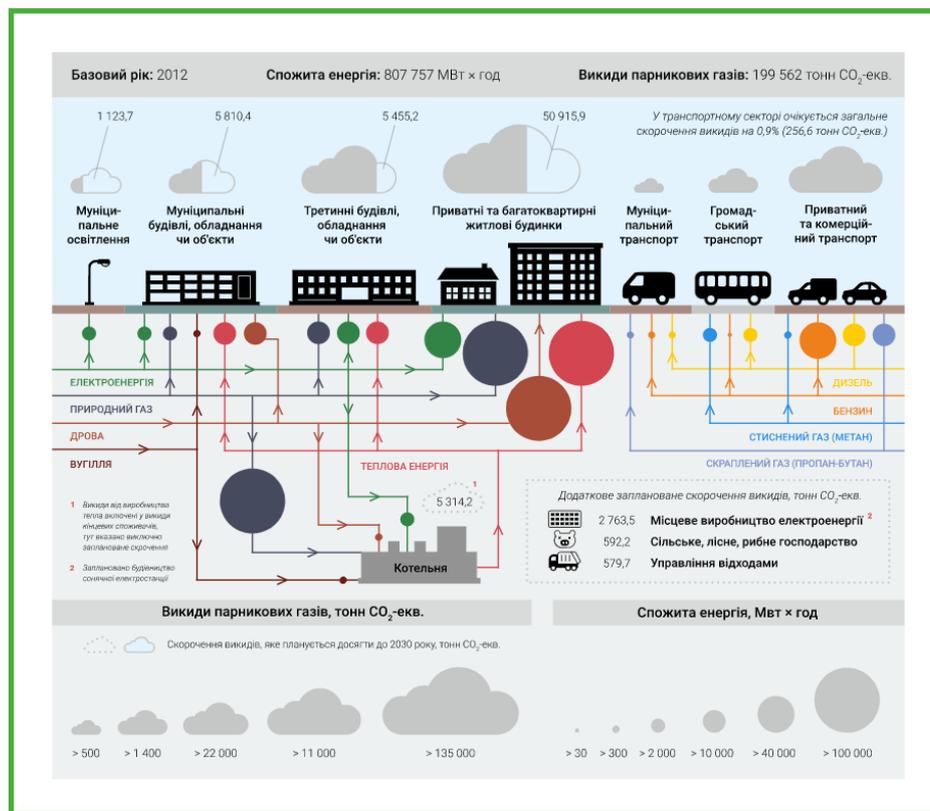
Having developed and adopted the SECAPs, municipalities receive a number of advantages:

- the opportunity to reduce energy consumption
- carrying out thermal modernization of communal facilities and residential buildings
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- adapting to climate change
- attracting financing for the implementation of new projects.

In 2021, Ecoclub worked precisely on the development of two documents: for the Zhytomyr urban territorial community (work on which will continue in 2022) and the Kostroven community.

**If you are interested in any issues related to the development of the SECAPs, the assessment of community vulnerability to climate change, the development of community adaptation measures to climate change, Ecoclub experts are happy to advise. We accept inquiries by e-mail: office@ecoclubrivne.org*

18 ■ Energy and climate development plan (SECAPs) for the Korosten community



The SECAPs of the Korosten community (Zhytomyr region) until 2030 was adopted by the city council session in December 2021. It was developed by the Ecoclub with the support of the NGO "Ecodiia" together with the Korosten City Council and the Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine.

A few **goals** from the community plan:

- reducing CO₂ emissions by 36.4% by 2030 in specified sectors
- increasing the share of renewable energy sources by at least 30% compared to the base year of 2012
- promoting the attraction of investments in energy efficiency projects
- increasing the energy awareness of residents and the rational use of energy
- adaptation of the community's territory to predicted climate changes
- reduction of the negative consequences of climate changes for the population.

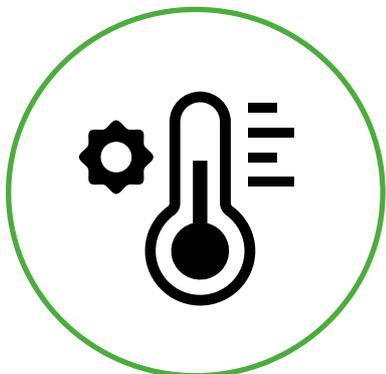
[Interactive infographic](#) about SECAPs and vulnerability assessment of the Korosten community, prepared by the Ecoclub.

[Details](#) about the development process, difficulties, examples of climate change adaptation measures for the Korosten community:

You may familiarize yourself with the [SECAPs of the Korosten community until 2030](#).

19 ADAPTATION AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Goal 2. Climate change (CC) is integrated into national and local development policies through public demand and the participation of all players.



In order to achieve this goal by 2023, Ecoclub is inspired to work on the set tasks:

- promoting an ambitious and fair national climate policy and taking into account the opinion of communities and the public in it,
- formation of high standards of vulnerability assessment and preparation of community adaptation measures to climate change,
- informing the population in order to create a demand for climate policy (local teams, campaigns, pre-election races).

■ Participation in international climate negotiations

In November, international negotiations of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP26 took place in Glasgow. Representatives of 197 countries agreed on the main issues of international climate policy to limit global warming to 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial levels.

Ecoclub experts participated in presenting the position of the public regarding the direction in which the climate policy of Ukraine should move and prepared an overview of key decisions of the negotiations for Ukraine.

[*The position of the UCN on the priorities of climate policy in Ukraine on the occasion of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - COP 26 \(Glasgow, October 31 - November 12, 2021\).*](#)

[*Overview of the results of the COP26 Climate Change Conference.*](#)

■ Discussion of Ukraine's nationally determined contribution to the Paris Agreement

The Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement (NDC) is a document in which a signatory country of this agreement declares how much it undertakes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the next 5 years in order to prevent an increase in global temperatures.



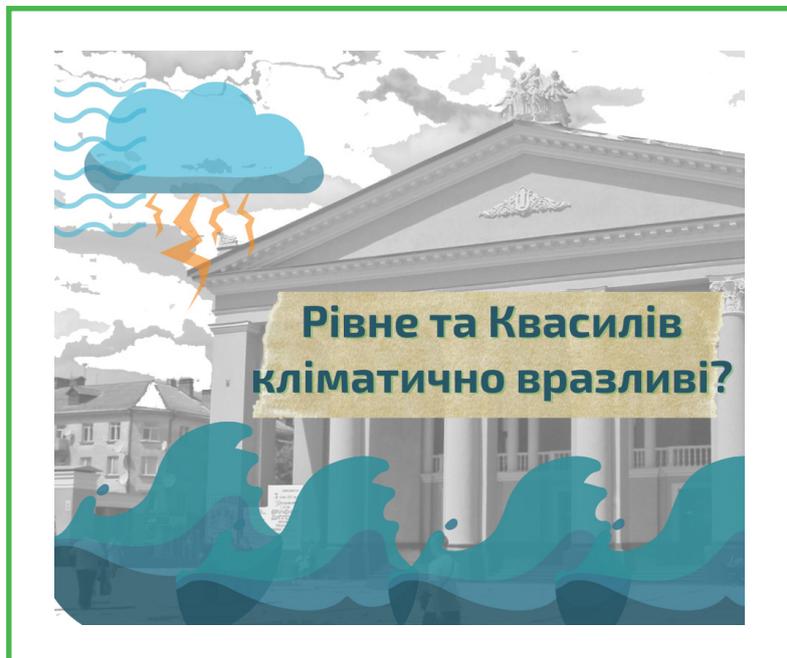
The Ecoclub, together with the Ukrainian Climate Network (UCN), which it heads, called on the Cabinet of Ministers to approve the Second Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement (HBB2) with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 65% from the level of emissions in 1990 by 2030.

[Ecoclub comments](#)

Also, in order to take into account the opinions of cities and regions during the formation of NVV2, as well as to establish a dialogue between the local and national levels in the formation of the national climate policy, the Ecoclub together with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Bureau Kyiv - Ukraine and the Embassy of Great Britain in Ukraine organized an online round table "How will the implementation of the national climate policy contribute to the development of cities?"

■ Assessment of the vulnerability of Rivne to climate change

In 2021, the Rivne City Territorial Community began the development of the Action Plan for Sustainable Energy Development and Climate (PSECP), which will be in effect until 2030. So, in September, Ecoclub started work on vulnerability assessment and preparation of public recommendations for adaptation of the Rivne community to climate change for this document.



In order to develop an effective Action Plan, it is necessary to involve all community management bodies, communal enterprises and community residents. One of our main tasks is the formation of understanding among all involved parties, why this document is being developed and what benefit it can bring to the community. After all, only a detailed understanding of the goals will allow to implement PSECP in the community, and not on paper.

To do this, we organized a seminar-meeting with representatives of the City Economy Department and communal enterprises as part of a working group working on the development of a community energy and climate development plan, and agreed on cooperation. The result was a series of individual meetings, as a result of which we received 13 written responses from managements and utilities, describing their proposals for already planned, implemented and possible measures to adapt their sphere of activity to climate change.

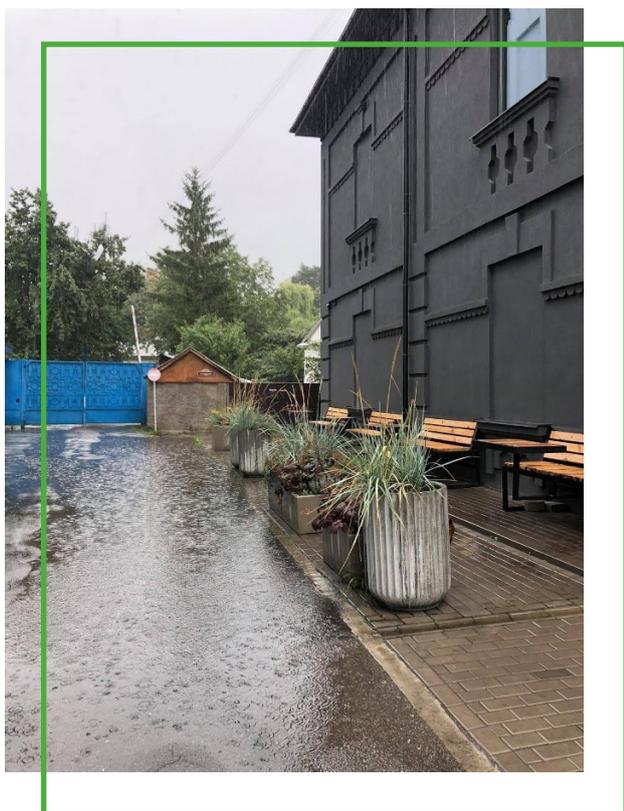
A series of meetings was held with 9 narrow-profile experts on the issues of processing and obtaining climate data, calculating population density, city and community planning, the state and opportunities for public transport development, community infrastructure requirements, and the state of water resources in the region.

We [shooting](#) with a drone the wetlands on the territory of the community and carried out two surveys on wetlands together with a scientist of the National University of Water Management.

We also interviewed about **358 residents** to find out how and in which areas the residents of the community are vulnerable to climate and what they are willing to do to help to adapt to climate change.

Its results will be presented together with recommendations for adaptation measures to the Rivne City Council and community residents in 2022.

22 ■ Informational campaign #tag_puddle



One of the threats our territory may face as a result of climate change is flooding and rising water levels. Considering the insufficiently branched network of storm sewers and the condition of the existing one in the city of Rivne, this can cause major problems for the city's infrastructure and the lives of residents.

During heavy rains, we already observe how certain streets in Rivne are constantly flooded. In order to identify and fix the most problematic points of flooding, a map is posted on the Ecoclub website, where anyone can mark the flooding on the streets of Rivne and add photos.

We will submit the processed information along with recommendations on how to adapt Rivne to climate change to the Rivne City Council, along with our assessment of the city's vulnerability to climate change and recommended adaptation measures.

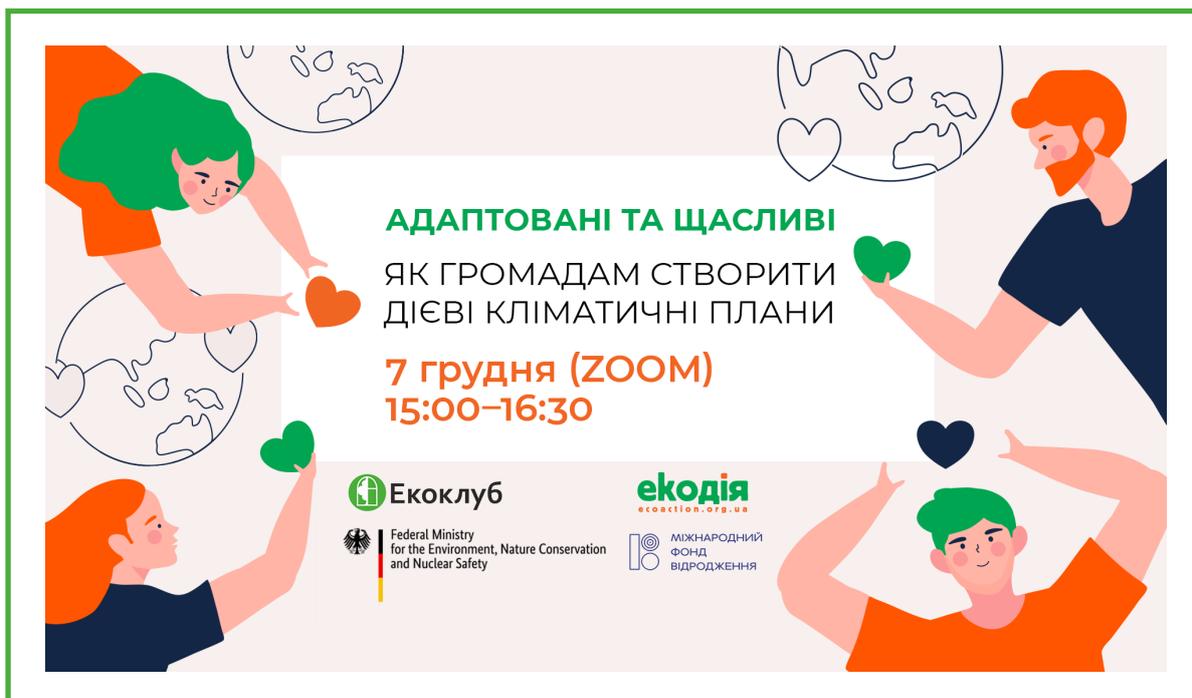
Today, concerned residents have put 33 places of flooding on the map. The collection of information will continue in 2022.

Using strategic Goal 3 "Local CSOs are the driving force of changes and a channel for the dissemination of best practices and solutions in the field of climate and energy", the Ecoclub participates in and organizes surveys and discussions on topics that allow the dissemination of effective solutions both among public organizations and among municipalities.



■ Online discussion "[Adapted and happy. How communities can create effective climate plans](#)"

In cooperation with the NGO "Ecodiia" a discussion was organized, which was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, as well as representatives of communities and public organizations.



During the online discussion, we discussed:

- How and why should communities include all interested parties in the development of the climate component of the PSECP?
- How to prepare a high-quality climate component of PSECP?
- What specific nature-oriented solutions can be implemented in communities?
- How will the national adaptation strategy affect the local level and help LGUs implement their climate and adaptation plans?

[Record of discussion.](#)

■ Presentation of the results of the All-Ukrainian poll "Climate Change and Climate Adaptation"

In August-October 2020, Ecoclub together with the Ukrainian Climate Network conducted a survey on how Ukrainians feel about climate change. The study covered the entire territory of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Interviews with respondents were held in the city of Kyiv, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankivsk and Rivne regions.

A presentation of the research results took place in December 2021. The document shows how ordinary Ukrainians experience climate change in their everyday lives and what priority actions they expect from the government to adapt to climate change.



The most important conclusions: the population in all regions feels the consequences of climate change and understands the need for adaptation. 44% of Ukrainians began to notice the manifestations of climate change in the last 3-5 years, and 22% in the last 10-15 years. Only 3% of respondents do not see climate change at all.

Manifestations of climate change are felt more by residents of the South-East of Ukraine, namely Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

The majority (85%) of Ukrainians named human activity as the main cause of climate change. At the same time, 58% of Ukrainians think that industry contributed the most to this.

Half of Ukrainians (49%) are aware of the harm to the climate of plowing the land and reducing the area of forests. Only 33% are aware of fossil fuel burning as a major contributor to climate change, and only 12% are aware of the impact of livestock emissions.

Based on the results of the survey, a brochure was drawn up, which also includes recommended adaptation measures for local self-government bodies.

Research materials

[Read the brochure](#)

[A video about the results of the survey](#)

25 SAFE INDUSTRY

All activities of Ecoclub and all measures are aimed at achieving strategic goals, but we know how to respond to challenges and pick up topics that affect the state of the environment and concern communities. This is how new areas of activity appear, such as environmentally friendly industry.

■ Victory of the Ecoclub in the Supreme Court over Kronospan



In 2020 in the village In Horodok, near Rivne, the international corporation Kronospan has announced its intention to build a logging plant that will emit pollutants into the air. Ecoclub analyzed the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) of the plant and published its comments on its website and in local media. Because of this, Kronospan filed a lawsuit against Ecoclub for alleged damage to its business reputation. The lawsuit demanded refutation of the statements made in our posts and compensation of 150,000 hryvnias (later this amount was reduced to 1 hryvnia).

Ecoclub lost the case in the local commercial court and on appeal. In order to defend our right to criticism, we filed a complaint with the Supreme Court.

[The main grounds of the Ecoclub's appeal to the Supreme Court in the case of Kronospan.](#)

26

On May 26, 2021, a hearing of the case was held in the Supreme Court. The complaint of the Ecoclub was satisfied by canceling the decisions of the first and appeal courts: they were called unfounded and, accordingly, they refused to satisfy Kronospan's claim against the activists.

Kronospan's lawsuit against the NGO "Ecoclub" is an example of a common way of putting pressure on the public on the part of potential polluters - SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation). The victory of Ecoclub in this case in the Supreme Court of Ukraine is an important precedent. According to international law expert Andrii Andrusevych, this decision creates an important legal "umbrella" for the protection of everyone who expresses their opinion about projects that may have a negative impact on the environment. In particular, the public will not have to prove the "authenticity" of their comments in the process of assessing the impact on the environment.

[Details.](#)

Also, since 2020, in addition to the legal campaign against Kronospan, Ecoclub has promoted the establishment of an independent state air quality monitoring post in the village of Horodok. In September 2021, Kronospan purchased a monitoring post, installed it on the territory of the community and is planning to hand it over to the balance for the Horodok territorial community. The post is currently working and showing data in real time. Ecoclub notices failures in the work of the post and constantly draws attention of community residents to it on social networks.

At the same time, Ecoclub filed a lawsuit against the Department of Ecology of the Rivne Regional State Administration. Our goal was to declare it illegal and cancel the conclusion on the environmental impact assessment of TEHNOPRYVID INVEST GROUP LLC - now Kronospan Rivne LLC as because of a positive opinion from the Department, the plant received a construction permit.

[The details of this case are here.](#)

■ **Research "Environmental Impact Assessment: conditions and implementation experience in Ukraine"**

During the campaign for the safe construction of Kronospan's logging plant, Ecoclub discovered drawbacks in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) system, thanks to which Kronospan managed to obtain a positive conclusion from the environmental impact assessment, despite the fact that the EIA report stated that the pollutant limits were exceeded substances several times and a number of other shortcomings (for example, not taking into account the impact on the objects of the nature reserve fund located nearby).



Based on the experience gained, Ecoclub analyzed the EIA system in Ukraine. In particular, we investigated:

1. Legislation regarding authorized state bodies in the environmental impact assessment procedure.
2. Analysis of the activities of authorized state bodies in the field of EIA.
3. Analysis of the regional environmental monitoring system.
4. Analysis of court cases related to EIA.

On October 19, 2021, the official presentation of the study took place (88 participants were registered, 35 participants attended the presentation). The conclusions and recommendations of the study were sent to all interested parties, including the World Bank, representatives of the EU in Ukraine, and the UN Office in Ukraine. The results of the study were also discussed with representatives of the Office of Reforms under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

[The research.](#)

[Research summary in Ukrainian language.](#)

In 2022, Ecoclub plans to finalize the received conclusions and comments of experts in order to develop a project of changes to the EIA system in Ukraine.

**Environmental impact assessment is a state tool for assessing projects that may threaten the environment, which should ensure the achievement of environmental standards and public participation in decision-making regarding such projects. Currently, this tool works imperfectly in Ukraine, as the data on the state of the environment are incomplete, and the responsible state bodies do not have enough resources and are dependent on the regional government.*

28 ■ "Clean air festival"

On September 13, the Ecoclub organized a "Clean Air Festival" street action in the village of Horodok (where Kronospan is being built) with the collection of signatures under the petition of the Head of the Rivne Regional State Administration with a request to establish a state independent air quality monitoring reference post in the community. Employees and volunteers of the Ecoclub, as well as local activists who oppose the construction of Kronospan in Horodok, were involved in the organization of the action.

During the action, more than 200 signatures of the villagers were collected. The signatures were handed over to the head of the Rivne Regional State Administration Vitalii Koval.

SUPPORT OF OTHER NGOs AND INITIATIVES

■ Participation in the Mentoring Program 2.0 from the Center democracy and the rule of law (CEDEM)



Ecoclub experts provided support as part of the Mentoring Program 2.0 to strengthen the advocacy capabilities of civil society organizations, which was coordinated by the Center for Democracy and the Rule of Law (CEDEM).

As part of the activity, representatives of the Ecoclub contributed to the establishment of contact with representatives of the Teofipol community in order to improve the quality of providing public consultations and the creation of an advisory body at the local council.

At the same time, work was carried out to increase the institutional capacity of the organization as a whole and of the employees involved in the project in particular.

■ Networks

The Ecoclub heads the "[Energy Transition](#)" coalition. It is a community of public organizations, municipalities and active citizens who have joined forces to promote Ukraine's transition to frugal energy consumption and the use of renewable energy sources (RES).

The coalition's mission: to promote Ukraine's transition to 100% renewable energy sources through advocacy, information and stakeholder engagement.

A representative of Ecoclub is the head of the Ukrainian Climate Network. Mission of UCN: We influence policy and practice on climate change issues, concentrating the efforts of Ukrainian non-governmental organizations. The network includes 38 public organizations that work with local and national climate politicians, offer solutions for adapting communities to climate change, and conduct educational activities.

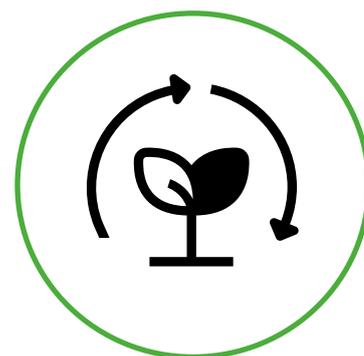
[More about the activity of UCN.](#)

Ecoclub is also a member of international networks: CAN EECCA, INFORCE.

DEVELOPMENT OF ECOCLUB

Goal 4. Ecoclub is a permanent, responsible, influential, environmental protection organization in Ukraine.

Ecoclub is constantly working on the development of both the organization and everyone involved in its activities. In 2021, a significant contribution to the sustainability of the organization and its organizational development was made by the International Renaissance Foundation as part of the implementation of the project "Strengthening democratic procedures for environmental protection of Ukraine".

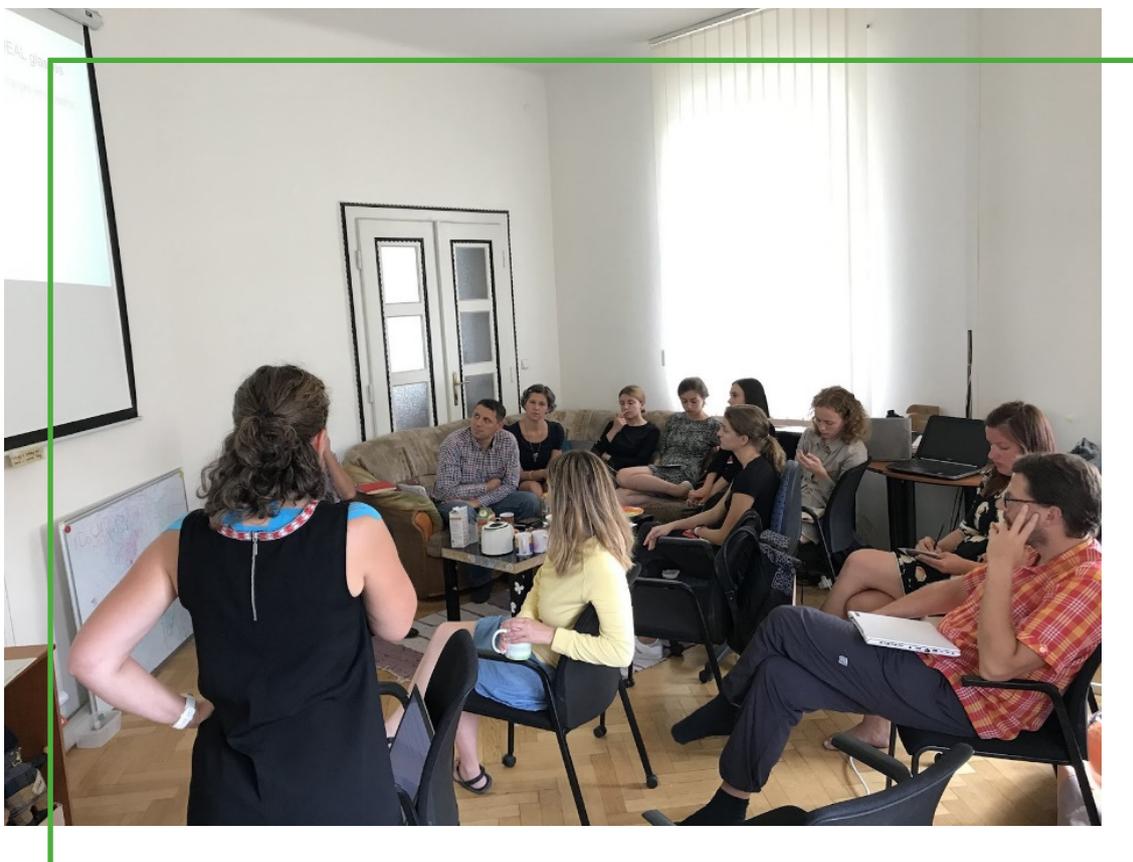


We worked on developing the organization's internal management: developing new and updating existing policies and procedures, adjusting internal procedures in the organization. We laid the foundation for the transition to digital document flow, formed a new non-discrimination policy and a privacy and data protection policy, based on the GDPR policy.

The policy we developed regarding the gradual return to the office and ensuring health and safe working conditions for employees during the COVID-19 pandemic allowed us to continue our activities during the pandemic and not stop implementing our plans and tasks.

We put a lot of effort into the training and continuous professional development of our employees in order to increase the expert level of the organization. During the year, the Ecoclub team completed more than 30 training sessions, in particular in the areas of communication, organization management, project management, advocacy activities, accounting reporting. Ecoclub employees continue to improve the level of English as the language of international communication.

30 ■ Project preparation and evaluation training together with Nesehnuti in Brno (Czech Republic)



In September, the Ecoclub team, together with the Czech non-governmental organization Nesehnuti, went through the training "Evaluation of projects and analysis of their implementation".

Over the course of two days, we will jointly:

- studied the principles of building a logical matrix of projects, relationships between products, results, goals and impact,
- took into account the goals of sustainable development when developing the project
- we developed project indicators.

As a result of the training, Ecoclub and partners prepared a project application aimed at overcoming energy poverty in communities through energy efficiency. At the time of preparation of the report, Nesehnuti together with Ecoclub are looking for funding to implement the idea.

The public organization "Nesehnuti" has several areas of activity: just society, sustainable development of cities, rights of women and political prisoners. The organization conducts public campaigns, information and educational activities.

31 ■ Meetings with partners in Berlin to discuss cooperation

During September 21-25, the Ecoclub team was in Berlin, where it met with partner organizations: "Energy Partnership of Ukraine and Germany" (DENA), Wechange, DRA, the Representative Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, GermanWatch.

During the meetings, work plans and activity priorities were shared, areas for cooperation were found. In particular, they discussed:

- operating conditions of private solar stations in Ukraine
- development of hydrogen energy based on RES
- the development of central heating as an element of the transition to low-carbon development
- the impact of land reform on the cultivation of energy crops
- the needs of information campaigns in the field of RES and climate in Ukraine
- development of energy cooperatives in Germany and Ukraine
- transformations of coal regions, etc.

Ecoclub also joined the climate march - the Fridays for Futures event, which gathered more than 50,000 participants in Berlin alone. Ecoclub prepared posters and, together with others, marched through the city, drawing attention to climate problems, which have no borders and are the biggest challenge of our time.



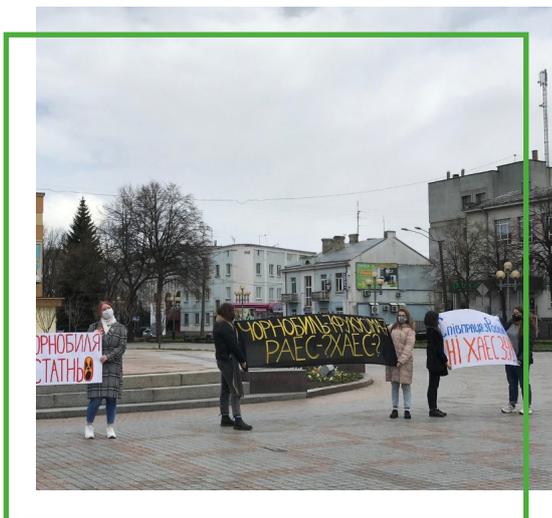
[More photos are here.](#)

32 EVENTS WITH FANS

The Ecoclub is working on establishing a mechanism for working with members and supporters of the organization. Membership in a public organization is an opportunity to be involved in environmental protection reforms, to be part of the development of a democratic society, and to implement one's own ideas. By becoming a member of the Ecoclub, you can influence the improvement of the environment by supporting our activities.

Supporting public organizations means supporting the development of the democratic order in the country, so we urge Ukrainians to join local initiatives that work for local development.

■ Вулична акція “Одного Чорнобиля нам достатньо”



On the anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, Ecoclub and caring residents of Rivne reminded people about the risks of using nuclear energy. The campaign "One Chernobyl is enough for us" emphasized the importance of the country's transition to renewable energy sources and warned officials against possible mistakes - the next dangers from the activities of nuclear power plants, which await Ukrainians with the completion of the third and fourth reactors at the Khmelnytskyi NPP.

[Details of the Ecoclub position.](#)

■ Journey "The Universe of Nature"

In May, together with our partners [Taistra Travel](#), the Ecoclub set out to explore the chalk mountains and the limestone ones in the village of Klevan (Rivne region). The participants of the excursion learned the history of the trees in the fairy-tale forest, learned about the process of making Ivan-tea, and tasted honey and tea from a local beekeeper.



[More photo.](#)

■ City eco-picnic "TreeFEST"

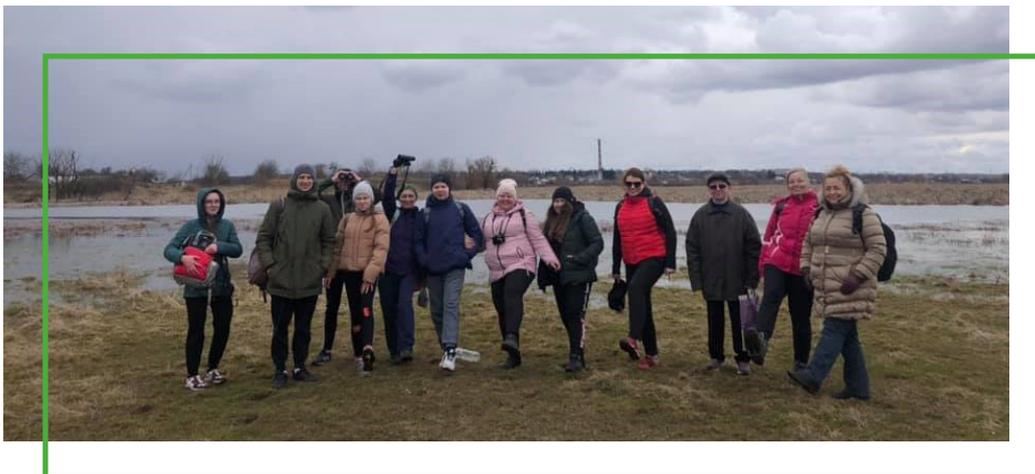
On May 22, the Ecoclub joined the city eco-picnic "DerevoFEST". The purpose of the event was to unite citizens around high-quality greening, preservation of age-old green spaces, biodiversity and adaptation of the community to climate change.



During the event, Ecoclub presented the results of an all-Ukrainian survey about how Ukrainians feel about climate change. They also distributed informational materials on energy efficiency, sustainable energy, climate change, talked a lot with colleagues about the preserved environment of the Rivne Region, together with the children they made houses for insects and played the game "City of Climate Magic".

■ A walk along the "Valley of the Small Ustya River" route

In April, at the invitation of the Ecological Center of the Rivne Palace of Children and Youth, the Ecoclub joined a walk along the route of the future eco-trail "The Valley of the Small Ustya River".



We were invited to join the creation of an eco-path, so this hike was aimed at mapping the points of the trail - "Old Oaks", "Chalky Slopes", "Velykyi Oleksyn Lakes".

In general, the path passes through the botanical reserve of national importance "Vyshneva Hora" and the forest reserve of local importance "Tract "Pavlivshchyna".

The route will also pass through wetlands near the village of Velykyi Oleksyn, where they want to build a site for bird watching.

Intentions to cooperate on the arrangement of the path with the eco-route, which will be located 10 kilometers from Rivne, were previously agreed with the leadership of the Spanish community.

Work on creating the path will continue in 2022. We invite you to join the process - there are many and different tasks: from creating posts and photos for social networks to finding funding and marking the path.

■ Communication

The number of followers in social networks:

- Facebook – 5 400
- Instagram – 1 302
- Twitter – 116
- Youtube – 70

Energy and climate news for communities: 1,116 subscribers and 23 newsletters with news and opportunities for community development.

A series of 7 **publications** on adaptation to climate change

This year we prepared 1 **video** and 4 **photo shoots**

Wrote 70 **articles** and over 200 **posts**

We have updated **the website of Ecoclub** and continue to work on its accessibility.

36 PARTNERS



МІЖНАРОДНИЙ
ФОНД
ВІДРОДЖЕННЯ



here could be
the logo of your
organization :)

WECHANGE

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
КИЇВ
Україна

Bund für
Umwelt und
Naturschutz
Deutschland



British Embassy
Kyiv



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



Brot für die Welt



HOW AND WHAT YOU CAN SUPPORT ECOCLUB FOR

Ecoclub is a public organization whose purpose is to protect and improve the environment. We believe that nature is a value in itself, regardless of the practical benefits for people. Even in times of crisis, the environment cannot be harmed, and people will not be able to live happily without a preserved natural environment.

If you share our views, consider the activities of Ecoclub important and want to join the preservation of the environment, we offer you:

37 ■ **Subscribe to Ecoclub newsletters**

- [for supporters](#) - we inform about news, events of the Ecoclub and development opportunities
- [for communities](#) interested in developing their energy independence and climate solutions, finding project financing and training

■ **Become a member or volunteer of the organization**

Ecoclub members are people who consider the goals and activities of the Ecoclub necessary and important. Therefore, they support Ecoclub in various ways: they come to events, distribute informational materials, help with labor and material, and can also participate in the management of the organization.

By participating in the activities of a public organization, you contribute to achieving changes in society. It is precisely for the sake of such changes, which will lead to the preservation of the environment, that Ecoclub operates.

People's support of environmental protection public organizations shows the social importance of environmental problems. The presence of members will make the demands of the organization stronger, because such demands will represent the opinion of not only the employees. The demand to stop the discharge of wastewater into Lake Basiv Kut in Rivne "from 10 employees of Ecoclub" and "from Ecoclub, which is supported by 5,000 volunteers" are not the same thing.

[Instructions on how to become a member or volunteer of the Ecoclub.](#)

■ **Support Ecoclub financially**

Your contributions will help us act more independently and plan activities that are not foreseen in our projects, for example, involving Ukrainians in the nature protection movement, educational activities and supporting smaller eco-initiatives.

[Make a charitable donation.](#)



ecoclubrivne.org