



**ECOCLUB  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>ABOUT ECOCLUB</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PREFACE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL 1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL 2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL 3</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL 4</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL 5</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL 6</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>HOW TO SUPPORT ECOCLUB</b>	<b>42</b>

# ABOUT ECOCLUB



**ECOCLUB** is a non-governmental organization in Rivne (Ukraine, Rivne region) that has been working for more than 26 years to preserve the environment. More than 15 of them have been in the field of renewable energy development in Ukrainian communities and climate change adaptation. We believe that nature is a value in itself, regardless of its practical benefits to humans.

**Our mission.** To create a safe environment by influencing policies and strengthening communities.

## **Ecoclub's vision.**

We believe that the unspoiled environment and wildlife are values in themselves. Sustainable development of society will ensure the harmonious development of mankind without harming nature.

## **We inspire people through:**

- 1) spreading awareness of the importance of environmental protection;
- 2) encouraging participation in the development and implementation of energy and environmental policies;
- 3) solidarity and cooperation, which allow taking into account the value of the environment at all levels of human existence.

We believe that improving energy efficiency and developing renewable energy sources are essential to prevent further environmental destruction and overcome the climate crisis.

## **Values of the Ecoclub:**

We work for a secure future with sustainable energy.

We profess non-violence and tolerance and respect different views.

We maintain our independence from political parties and business interests.

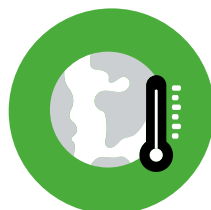
We are aware of the impact of our actions on the environment and are working to reduce the negative consequences of such impacts.

## Strategic goals of Ecoclub until 2025:



### Goal 1.

Large-scale energy efficiency improvements and the deployment of renewable energy sources are a common part of post-war community development plans.



### Goal 2.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation are integrated into Ukraine's post-war reconstruction plans, national and local development policies due to public demand and participation of all actors.



### Goal 3.

Local civil society organizations (CSOs) are a driving force for change and a channel for disseminating best practices and solutions in the climate and energy sector.



### Goal 4.

Ecoclub is a sustainable, responsible, influential environmental organization in Ukraine that is constantly improving.



### Goal 5.

Rivne community develops with the ideas of sustainable post-war recovery and implements nature-based solutions.



### Goal 6.

Local governments are responsible and aware of their liability for environmental damage.

## ■ THE BOARD OF ECOCLUB

In 2023, Ecoclub continued to change and develop. Its Board members - Oleh Hetun, Oksana Holovko, Tetyana Tsykun, Oksana Pohl, Vasyl Korbutiak - helped to keep the organization focused and strengthened the implementation of strategic goals.

Oleh Hetun, Chairman of the Board, participated in the annual and semi-annual planning of the organization, during which he joined the discussions and heard the annual reports of the coordinators of the districts. Oksana Pohl and the team of the German charity foundation [WirWerk gGmbH](#) raised more than EUR 15,000 to install solar power plants (SPP) in Ukrainian communities. These funds were used to purchase equipment for the power plant in Sumy Hospital.



**Oleg Hetun,  
Chairman of the Management Board**

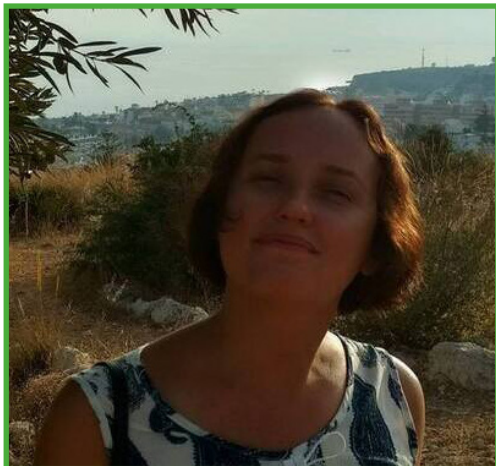
Environmentalist, private entrepreneur in the field of active recreation and geo-positioning systems. He also works with children and youth in Plast, the National Organization of the Scouts of Ukraine, and is involved in environmental protection with Ecoclub.



**Oksana Pohl,  
Member of the Management Board**

Bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Systems and Technologies from the National University of Water and Environmental Engineering; Bachelor's degree in Geography from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and in Land Management from the Technical University of Munich; Master's degree in Anthropogeography and Sustainable Development from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

She is the founder of the [Help For Rivne/ Ukraine](#) humanitarian aid initiative for Ukrainians. Employee of the German charitable foundation WirWerk gGmbH.



**Tetyana Tsykun,  
Member of the Management Board**

Researcher at the Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main, Institute of Ecology, Evolution and Diversity. Field of expertise: ecology, forest phytopathology, genomics, population genetics of phytopathogens and tree pests. Volunteer of Ecoclub in 2002-2005.



**Oksana Holovko,  
Member of the Management Board**

D. in Agricultural Sciences (field of expertise - ecology), Head of the Research Sector of the Dermansko-Ostrohskyi National Nature Park.



**Vasyl Korbutiak, Member of the Management Board**

Joined the board in 2023. Received his qualification as a hydraulic engineer with a degree in hydraulic engineering from Rivne State Technical University.

In 2008, he defended his PhD dissertation on "Improving methods for calculating maximum flows based on channel process parameters (on the example of rivers in the Ukrainian Carpathians)".

## YEAR IN DIGITS

# 2 500

subscribers of the Energy  
and Climate Digest

♥1 🗨️5 👤2

# 180

mentions in the media

# 114

events  
attended



# 64

technical  
documents for  
the construction  
of SPPs

# 44

position papers on  
plans and decisions  
in the field of energy,  
climate, and EIA

# 50

organized  
events

# 12

installed SPPs

# 8

grants for the  
development of RES  
and energy efficiency

# 53

members  
of Ecoclub



# 5

financial assistance  
for energy managers



# 4

manuals

# 4

press tours  
for journalists

# 2

organized  
internships

# 1

petition

# 4

analyzed EIA  
reports



# 2

protests

# 1

study

# PREFACE



**Andriy Martyniuk,**  
**Executive Director of the NGO Ecoclub**

Faced with the challenges of 2023, Ecoclub not only met its strategic goals for environmental and energy sustainability but also adapted to the urgent needs of the day.

We engaged communities in shaping energy and climate policy, helped defend the right to ownership of renewable energy sources, and promoted important environmental reforms.

These efforts are in line with our core belief that caring for the environment is important and requires us to act with care, especially during a full-scale war.

As we reflect on the year's achievements, we remind ourselves of the enduring importance of our mission: safe energy that works for the benefit of Ukrainians.





# GOAL 1.



**Large-scale energy efficiency improvements and the deployment of renewable energy sources are a common part of post-war community development plans.**

## Objectives:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1.1. Monitor the preparation of post-war sustainable recovery and ensure the role of communities in it.</p>  | <p>1.3. Increase the capacity of communities to make a just transition to low-carbon development while reducing the impact on ecosystems.</p> |
| <p>1.2. Promote the introduction of municipal instruments to stimulate investment in low-carbon development (cooperatives, revolving funds, local budget support programs).</p> | <p>1.4. Implement pilot projects with communities.</p>  |

In 2023, despite the full-scale Russian war, Ukraine made significant efforts to integrate into the European Union. The country's compliance with EU directives will help improve energy efficiency in communities and promote the further development of renewable energy sources.

The national authorities were developing the Ukrainian Plan - a list of measures and reforms for 2024-2027, which the European Union should support. Ecoclub advocated in public statements and position papers:

- 1) adherence to the idea that decisions and actions in the energy and climate sectors should be taken at the local level (the principle of subsidiarity);
- 2) creating incentives for small RES facilities;
- 3) creating ways to finance RES in communities.

A fair energy transition is impossible without the active involvement of local governments. That is why Ecoclub creates conditions for raising the level of knowledge and skills: we organize training sessions, webinars, public discussions, internships in Europe, provide subgrants, and disseminate the acquired knowledge and practices through [an energy and climate digest](#) and an [online course](#).

Successful transition requires appropriate strategic management decisions. Municipalities need to understand the impact of the transformation on their local energy infrastructure and how they can facilitate this transition. That is why we advise Ukrainian communities in the development of energy and climate plans, as we believe that it is necessary to share successful experiences and best practices among local governments and involve them in influencing national decisions.

During the war, communities are much more concerned with solving current problems than with future prospects. The most visible campaign during the year was to help deploy solar power plants. They generate electricity that can be used during power outages and help save municipal budgets spent on electricity bills. Compared to the operation of diesel generators, SPPs will operate and bring benefits for 20 years. The implementation of pilot RES projects in communities not only helps during the war, but also becomes an example for other municipalities and a source of experience. In this way, Ecoclub makes a significant contribution to the deployment of renewable energy across the country.



Throughout the year, we supported communities in the construction of solar power plants - from exploring installation opportunities, preparing technical documentation, attracting financing and contractors, to commissioning the power plants and transferring them to municipalities.

We were supported in this by [Oxfam](#), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit ([GIZ](#)), [the European Climate Foundation](#), [the wirWerk](#) charity foundation, the NGO [Pracowni na rzecz Wszystkich Istot](#), and the NGO NESEHNUTI, [Cech Akumulace a Fotovoltaiky Women Engage for a Common Future \(WECF\)](#), Czech Environmental Partnership Fund, European Commission, [Menlo Electric](#), [Deye](#), [Jinko Solar](#), [SOLSOL](#), [Elektrizitätswerke Schönau](#), [PV Exchange](#), Ideen hoch drei e.V., [Astrid Schneider](#) and others.



Ecoclub also helped communities preserve and develop district heating systems, a valuable resource for the energy transition (from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources). During the war, comprehensive reform in this area is impossible. However, communities can develop district heating on their own. Together with the municipalities, we have been looking for ways to engage district heating operators in energy efficiency measures, such as installing heat pumps.

## ■ Installed 12 SPPs for critical infrastructure

During the year, Ecoclub received more than 600 requests from municipalities for assistance in installing solar power plants for critical infrastructure such as hospitals, water utilities, and educational institutions. Together with our partners, we have installed 12 solar power plants. The total installed capacity of all SPPs is 626.8 kW. The total amount of electricity generated is 119,126 kWh.

The SPPs help save municipalities more than UAH 845,000 in electricity bills. All installed SPPs were co-financed by the communities.

*Zviahel, Zhytomyr region,  
Zviahel Multidisciplinary Hospital.*



**32,4 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Zviahel, Zhytomyr region,  
Dolphin Child Development Center.*



**24 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Sumy, Sumy region,  
"Center for Ecological and Naturalistic  
Creativity."*



**0,55 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Sumy, Sumy region,  
Central City Clinical Hospital.*



**60 kW**  
SPP's capacity



*Dubno, Rivne region,  
City Hospital.*



**43,60 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Zhytomyr, Zhytomyr region,  
Municipal Enterprise "Hospital No. 1".*



**48 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Kremenchuk, Poltava region,  
Kremenchuk City Hospital  
"Pravoberezhnaya".*



**60 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Rivne, Rivne region,  
City Dental Clinic.*



**33,50 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Mykolaiv, Mykolaiv region,  
City Children's Hospital No. 2.*



**60 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Ovruch, Zhytomyr region,  
Ovruch City Hospital.*



**33,50 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Brody, Lviv region,  
Brody Central City Hospital*



**66,4 kW**  
SPP's capacity

*Zviahel, Zhytomyr region,  
Zviahelvodokanal Municipal Enterprise.*



**172,8 kW**  
SPP's capacity

Details of the installed facilities are available [here](#).

Having seen the benefits of the SPP installed in 2022, the Zviahel community developed a RES Development Program (*adopted at the city council session in December 2023*). At the same time, the deputies allocated funds from the local budget for the installation:

- A 40 kW solar power plant for an educational institution;
- A 150 kW solar power plant for a water utility.

## ■ Developed 62 technical documents for the development of RES in communities



Well-developed documentation with technical and economic information is important for the implementation of any energy project. Its availability creates opportunities for attracting financing and implementing projects in municipalities. Therefore, together with its partners, Ecoclub has developed feasibility studies for the installation of solar power plants:

- 23 for water utilities;
- 1 for the lyceum.

And preliminary feasibility studies (pre-feasibility studies):

- 36 for medical institutions;
- 1 for the installation of a SPP at a water utility;
- 1 for the transportation system.

Our calculations have shown that the payback period for solar power plants without batteries in hospitals and water utilities is about five years, even in conditions of the full-scale war.

**Result achieved:** Thanks to the developed feasibility study, the Korosten community received a grant from the [German Society for International Cooperation \(GIZ\)](#) to install a SPP for the hospital. The documents also helped to find partners for the construction of SPPs in eight cities (*hospitals and water utilities*): Rivne, Dubno, Kremenchuk, Zhytomyr, Ovruch, Brody, Zviahel, and Sumy. In 2023, Ecoclub received donor approval for the construction of 10 facilities over the next year (Myrhorod, Nizhyn, Mykolaiv, Chortkiv, Khmelnytskyi, Khotyn, Chornomorsk, Kodyma, Zviahel, Sumy, Rohatyn, Khmilnyk).



**Feasibility study (FS)** is a document containing information on technical and economic feasibility of project implementation. Thanks to the developed documents, Ukrainian municipalities can develop ideas by attracting partners and funding.

## ■ Submitted comments to the documents on the restoration of Ukraine



Together with the [NGO Ecoaction](#), we monitored preparations for the Ukraine Facility financial support program from the European Union. We developed and submitted recommendations to the Ministry of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure of Ukraine and the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.

**Result achieved:** we developed a [common position](#), which we recommend:

- set tariffs for heat and electricity in line with market indicators;
- preserve district heating systems;
- ensure the development of electricity production from renewable energy sources;
- include climate change adaptation measures in the recovery strategy at the national and local levels;
- update and improve environmental requirements and standards for agriculture in line with EU strategies;
- raise the minimum energy efficiency standards for buildings;
- reform the environmental impact assessment system.

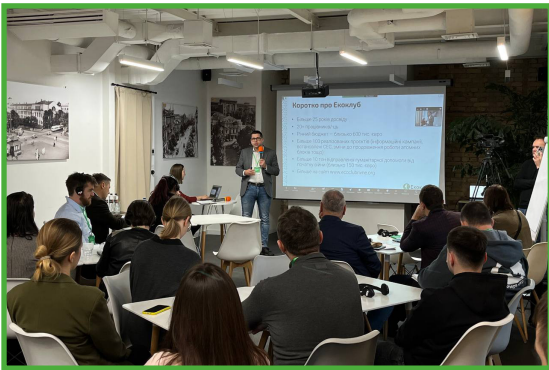
## ■ Met with the Minister of Economy and Climate Protection of Germany Robert Habeck

On April 4, Ecoclub together with [Greenpeace: Green reconstruction of Ukraine](#), [Eco-action](#), and the [Energy Act for Ukraine](#) met with the Minister of Economy and Climate Protection of Germany Robert Habeck. They discussed why Ukraine's reconstruction should be based on the principles of sustainable development, how to support war-affected communities and restore social infrastructure.



During the meeting, we emphasized the importance of creating a well-established transparent mechanism for the transfer of equipment for the reconstruction of municipalities: assistance in this way will simplify and accelerate the implementation of RES projects. Following the visit, Mr. Habek announced a two million euro support program for sustainable community recovery projects.

## ■ The event "Solar power for improved resilience of water and health services within Ukraine"



The exchange of experience and coordinated work of all stakeholders is important for the development of renewable energy in communities. For better coordination of efforts in this area, Ecoclub organized an event for representatives of humanitarian missions in Ukraine, the government, international technical assistance organizations, and communities.

**Result achieved:** The event contributed to the coordination of efforts of government agencies and local government officials to develop RES in communities.

## ■ Support for municipalities and district heating operators

District heating operators can help end-users implement energy efficiency measures and generate additional revenue.

Ecoclub has prepared a case for the introduction of such services by operators. The calculations and recommendations are set out in the manual "[District Heating in Communities](#)". It contains examples of documents necessary for making such decisions, technical and economic calculations, and new models of services that can be provided by utility companies to consumers.

**Result achieved:** The manual was downloaded by more than 380 [website](#) users.



## ■ Developed technical documentation for the renewal of central heating systems



Together with the experts involved, Ecoclub developed 11 feasibility studies for the installation of heat pumps in district heating systems in communities (Lutsk, Khmelnytskyi, Zviahel, Kostopil). The documents contain technical analysis and calculations of the feasibility of project implementation, so that communities can look for funds and partners. [Read](#) the documents.

**Result achieved:** The cities of Kostopil (Rivne Oblast) and Zviahel (Zhytomyr Oblast) found the funds to install heat pumps in their district heating systems thanks to the feasibility studies.

## ■ Event "Increasing energy resilience of communities as a basic level of energy security of Ukraine"

In July, Ecoclub held an [event](#) to present its experience of cooperation with communities in installing solar power plants and heat pumps in district heating systems. The invited speakers:

- Olena Lenska, Director of the Renewable Energy Development at the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine;
- Yuriy Shafarenko, Directorate for Economic Policy, Office of the President of Ukraine;
- Oleksandr Lysenko, mayor of Sumy;
- Mykola Borovets, mayor of Zviahel;
- Svitlana Olshanska, Deputy Mayor of Zhytomyr;
- Yuriy Kuzniuk, Deputy Mayor of Kostopil.

Watch the video of the event [here](#).





## ■ Webinar "How to reform district heating: new approaches and community experience"

Together with the experts involved, Ecoclub held an event on the importance of preserving and developing district heating systems, approaches to reform, and how to attract funding. We also presented a manual for district heating companies.

**Result achieved:** the event was attended by 100 representatives of Ukrainian communities.

## ■ Signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Energy Efficiency Fund

The state institution [Energy Efficiency Fund](#) has announced a support program for private households and apartment buildings "GreenDim". It will provide grants for the installation of heat pumps and solar power plants. Ecoclub signed a memorandum that strengthened cooperation with the Fund.



**Result achieved:** Ecoclub, as a partner of the program, will advise grantees during project implementation. During 2023, our experts advised condominiums in Lutsk and Volodymyr, which developed design and estimate documentation for the installation of heat pumps.

## ■ Provided with seven grants to improve energy efficiency and develop renewable energy projects in communities

As part of a [grant competition](#) in the field of renewable energy, Ecoclub, together with the NGO Ecoaction awarded eight grants to implement sustainable projects in communities. The winners of the competition and their **results**:



**1. Regional Development Agency, Kyiv region.** Started developing a "Biogas Industry Development Plan for Kyiv Region" with concepts for biogas projects and a pre-feasibility study for one biogas project.



**2. Dubivska rural community, Volyn region.** Implemented the energy management system in the community, developed and approved the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP).



**3. Khmelnytskyi Energy Cluster, Khmelnytskyi region.** The organization installed a solar power plant for the vocational school No. 25, organized a number of educational events: advanced training for craftsmen, a course on solar energy, and an open lesson for the students. Together with the educational institution, the NGO is working on opening a new specialized specialty "Installer of solar power plants".



**4. NGO "Association for the Support and Development of Associations of Apartment Building Co-Owners and Self-Organization Bodies".** The organization developed two feasibility studies and design estimates for apartment buildings (installation of a heat pump and a solar power plant). As part of the project, plans for energy efficiency measures and renewable energy development were approved at general meetings for 37 condominiums. They also conducted 10 energy audits for apartment buildings.



**5. The NGO "Center for Adult Learning and Education 'Pivden' in partnership with the Mykolaiv City Council** developed two documents for creating a revolving fund in the community. They also created focus groups and developed various implementation scenarios.



**6. Zviahel territorial community, Zhytomyr region.** Developed a comprehensive renewable energy development program and installed a solar power plant for a municipal institution.



**7. Sumy city territorial community, Sumy region.** Improved the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). Installed a solar power plant for heating in a children's educational center.





As part of the grant competition, Ecoclub organized training for sub-grantees in Rivne. The participants learned:

- How will the adoption of the National Recovery Plan and the process of gaining membership in the European Union affect local governments?
- What opportunities will the EU candidacy bring to local governments and NGOs?

The participants were also given a tour of the installed SPP for the City Dental Clinic, where they learned about the features and challenges of the project.

## ■ Series of webinars "Fundamentals for implementing energy management on the path to energy sustainability"

Together with the [United Nations Development Program in Ukraine](#) and the [State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving](#), we organized a series of training webinars for energy managers and employees of utility companies. More than 2,000 participants learned about:



### More than 2,000 participants learned about:

- creating an energy management system;
- regulatory framework for the implementation and operation of energy management systems;
- energy monitoring for energy management;
- ways to improve energy efficiency.

**Result achieved:** More than 820 participants were tested and received certificates confirming advanced training in energy management and energy monitoring.

## ■ Attended the Ukraine Recovery Conference in London

Within the framework of the conference in London, Andriy Martyniuk, Executive Director, and Natalia Kholodova, Program Coordinator, attended the event "Sustainable Inclusive Recovery: Developing community leadership to meet local needs".

We also met with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, who were told about the needs and demands of communities for sustainable recovery, and emphasized the importance of supporting communities in developing decentralized renewable energy sources. Read more about the messages delivered during the meetings in the [position](#) paper.



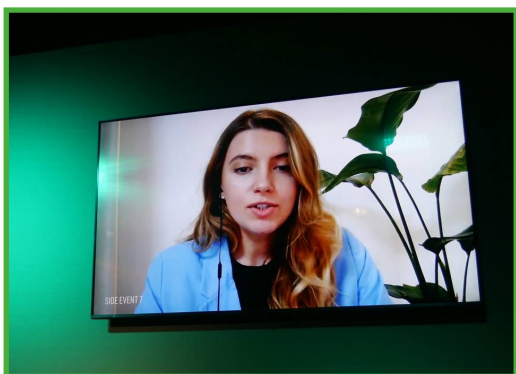
## ■ Spoke at the Berlin Energy Transition Days conference

In late March, Andriy Martyniuk spoke at the [Co-operation Dialogue: The forum for energy and climate partnerships](#) in Germany. He emphasized that community access to financing and support should be one of the components of energy decentralization in Ukraine. And the development of local government capacity is an essential part of any recovery efforts.



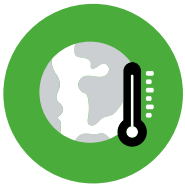
## ■ Spoke at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP28)

In December, Ecoclub program coordinator Natalia Kholodova spoke at the event "Renewable Energy and Climate Impact: Ecocide, Green Reconstruction, and Indigenous Rights in War-Affected Ukraine."



She emphasized the importance of international support in continuing decentralization, development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in Ukrainian municipalities.

## GOAL 2.



**Climate change mitigation and adaptation are integrated into Ukraine's post-war reconstruction plans, national and local development policies due to public demand and participation of all actors.**

### Objectives:

- 2.1. The need to consider climate change threats in post-war reconstruction plans is clear to communities.
- 2.2. Climate change vulnerability assessment is a mandatory part of community strategic documents.
- 2.3. The development of climate change adaptation measures is based on the standards of the Covenant of Mayors initiative of the European Commission and the EU.
- 2.4. Raising people's awareness of climate issues and the need to take them into account in politics (local teams, campaigns, election races).
- 2.5. Promote an ambitious and fair national climate policy, taking into account the opinions of communities and the public.

Ecoclub continued to promote the importance of community adaptation to climate change, informing about the need to implement appropriate measures. We organized and participated in more than 15 workshops with local government representatives and activists.

### ■ **Consulted communities in the development of climate change vulnerability assessments, SECAPs and studies**

- We worked with the Kostopil community, which will develop the adaptation part of the SECAP until 2030. For this purpose, 295 residents of Kostopil and 174 residents of the community's rural settlements were interviewed in 2023.
- Discussed and commented on the Rivne community's SEAP until 2030, which was approved at the city council session in December. For the sections on climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation measures, the community used the Ecoclub's [study](#) "Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Rivne Community and Recommendations for Adaptation Measures".



- Together with external experts, we updated the SECAP of the Zhytomyr community. The developers made changes to the sections on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the adaptation part: they added cartographic material on flood zones and flooding of the community's territories. The document was approved by the community.
- We worked on updating the Korosten community's SECAP in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Research Center of the European Union. We developed vulnerability indicators, which were shared with all city council departments and utilities and received digital indicators from them. The community plans to add this list to the SECAP.
- We joined the development of the [study](#) "Ecological Restoration of Liubotyn. Development of Recommendations" prepared by the Center for Public and Media Initiatives.
- We deepened our cooperation with the NGO Ecosense. And [joined](#) the development of a document on climate change adaptation in Zaporizhzhia. In particular, we proposed adaptation measures and recommended that they should be implemented as a matter of priority during the post-war recovery.

## ■ Co-organized energy and climate internships in Europe



In cooperation with the Czech organization [Nadace Partnerství](#) and the [NGO Ecosphere](#), we organized energy and climate internships in Central Europe, mainly in the Czech Republic.



More than 40 participants, including representatives of the public sector, small and medium-sized businesses, and journalists, learned about the experience of foreign municipalities in the following areas:

- RES and energy independence;
- sustainable restoration of buildings and infrastructure;
- adaptation to climate change;
- treatment of drinking water and wastewater;
- waste disposal.

Based on the results of the internship, together with the [Ukrainian Climate Network](#), we organized the [event](#) "Green Reconstruction of Ukraine Using the Best Practices of the Czech Republic". The participants shared their knowledge at the event.

## ■ The manual "Green Recovery of Ukrainian Communities"

Awareness of local governments about sustainable recovery is important to accelerate it. That is why Ecoclub published and distributed the [manual](#) "Green Recovery of Ukrainian Communities", which contains information on:

- the role of communities in the country's sustainable recovery (including energy and climate change);
- European integration within the framework of the [European Green Deal](#);
- inclusive approaches to the restoration of municipalities.

**Result achieved:** the manual was downloaded by more than 3,600 users of the Ecoclub's website.



## ■ The manual "Adaptation to climate change: a quick guide for communities"

[The manual](#) contains step-by-step instructions on how to start a community's climate change adaptation plan, an overview of information sources, and recommendations for engaging stakeholders in developing a vulnerability assessment.





The authors have collected more than 40 links to sources that communities can use when developing an adaptation plan.

**Result achieved:** the manual was downloaded by more than 500 users of the Ecoclub's website.



## ■ Manual "How to mow grass in cities: recommendations and practical experience"



Using the experience of Polish cities, Ecoclub issued a [manual](#) on the best practices for urban grass care.

The manual contains recommendations for communities on how to solve the problem of frequent and poor-quality mowing, and how to develop a new grass care plan that will comply with the European Green Deal.

**Result achieved:** the manual was downloaded by more than 200 users of the Ecoclub's website.



## GOAL 3.



Local civil society organizations (CSOs) are a driving force for change and a channel for disseminating best practices and solutions in the climate and energy sector.

### Objectives:

3.1. Support to the Ukrainian Climate Network, Energy Transition Coalition.

3.2. Participation and support of other civil society networks and mechanisms of civic participation, including international ones, such as CAN Europe and others.

### ■ Became a member of the leading European climate network CAN



Ecoclub, along with other Ukrainian NGOs such as [Ecoaction](#), [Green Wave](#), [Khmelnysky Energy Cluster](#), and [NECU](#), became a member of the leading European climate network Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe.

Membership in CAN Europe will help accelerate European integration processes in the field of climate and energy, and strengthen the work of the Ecoclub on energy and climate policy of Ukraine and the European Union.

**Result achieved:** Ecoclub was able to learn from the experience of 190 European environmental NGOs from 38 countries and share Ukrainian best practices.

### ■ Coordinated the work of the Energy Transition Coalition

In 2023, Ecoclub coordinated the overall work of the [Energy Transition Coalition](#), a group of NGOs, municipalities, and active citizens who joined forces to promote Ukraine's transition to economical energy consumption and the use of renewable energy sources.

We provided funding for the management of the Coalition's internal activities, initiated coordination meetings, and established joint work between its members and partners. We held six meetings to determine how to strengthen the work of all involved. Ecoclub also helped to communicate the results of the Coalition's work to increase its visibility.

**Result achieved:** Two communities joined the Coalition: Serhiivka (Poltava region) and Teofipol (Khmelnitskyi region) and two CSOs - [Razom We Stand](#) and the [Regional Center for Economic Research and Business Support](#). The total number of participants is 10 CSOs and 4 communities.

## ■ Organized a discussion on "Green recovery for Ukrainian communities"

In May, local government officials and civic activists discussed where to look for potential partnerships for reconstruction, how to raise funds, and how to establish cooperation with foreign donors for sustainable recovery.



The event was attended by 30 participants who learned about:

- stages of Ukraine's accession to the European Union;
- the role of local governments in developing mechanisms for implementing the Association Agreement;
- opportunities of European integration for post-war recovery.

Manana Kochladze, project coordinator at [Bankwatch Network](#), was among the invited speakers at the event. She spoke about the experience of other countries in post-war recovery (Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Georgia) and where to look for foreign partnerships and funding for reconstruction.

**Result achieved:** Dialogue participants discussed planned sustainable projects in groups; learned how to improve grant applications to attract funding.

## ■ Sent 14 appeals to the central executive authorities

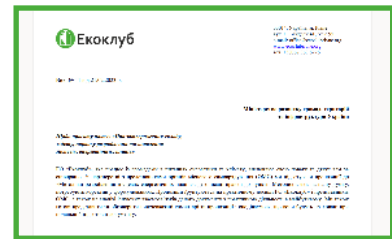
Ecoclub unites communities that are or could be producers of energy from renewable sources. We receive requests from municipalities for advice on legal and technical issues, training, and recommendations for the development of RES.

In 2023, Ecoclub, together with representatives of local authorities and experts involved, prepared 14 appeals to central executive authorities:

- [comments](#) on four versions of the draft law on the transformation of the Ukrainian energy system (oral and written in terms of the net billing mechanism and the instrument of "guarantees of electricity origin");

The proposed amendments were based on the experience of local government representatives, energy managers, and experts involved. Some of the comments described the compliance of the draft law with legal technique, while others focused on the relationship of information in the documents to future practice.

- [comments](#) and suggestions to the Methodology for developing local energy plans (MEPs). They were prepared jointly with representatives of local authorities developing the plans. Proposals for changes were based on the experience of energy managers and local experts;



- [comments](#) on creating incentive conditions for the use of renewable energy by medical institutions. They were collected to resolve unresolved issues faced by local governments when installing solar power plants for community needs;
- [proposals](#) to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Energy and Housing and Communal Services on the priorities for Ukraine's implementation of the EU's 4th Energy Package in terms of design.
- [comments](#) on the obstacles to the implementation of the mechanism of self-generation of electricity from RES (Net billing prototype). We researched and reported to the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine on the obstacles to implementation.
- [comments](#) and proposals to the Concept of the State Target Economic Program for Stimulating the Development of Distributed Electricity Generation from RES until 2030. It was emphasized that the Concept should contain provisions that will maximize such development: expanding the list of state support mechanisms, developing energy cooperatives, measures to ensure the autonomy of electricity supply through the development of small distribution systems on the ground and the installation of power supply systems;

- [comments](#) and proposals to the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On the Introduction of Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Generated from RES". We submitted proposals on the mechanism for issuing, circulating and redeeming guarantees of origin of electricity produced from RES;
- [a letter](#) on the resolution on settlements with RES electricity producers. We analyzed the draft resolution that would determine the procedure for implementing the self-production mechanism. We provided recommendations to ensure clarity on the terms of concluding contracts, metering of energy produced, and transparent and fair conditions for connecting generating facilities to the energy system;
- [a request](#) for clarification on permits for the construction of SPPs. We provided justification for the ambiguity in obtaining permits for the installation of rooftop solar power plants;
- [recommendations](#) for updating the State Strategy for Regional Development for 2021-2027. We submitted recommendations that reflect the needs of communities in energy and climate issues.

The image shows a screenshot of a document with a green border. The text is in Ukrainian and appears to be a table or a list of items. The text is too small and blurry to read accurately, but it seems to be a structured list or table with multiple columns and rows.

## Result: The comments and suggestions of Ecoclub are reflected in the



- The Law "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Restoration and Green Transformation of the Energy System of Ukraine" and its regulations.
- "State Strategy for Regional Development for 2021-2027".
- "Concepts of the State Target Economic Program to Stimulate the Development of Distributed Electricity Generation from RES by 2030".
- Methodology for developing municipal energy plans for communities.

## ■ Supported the global movement to strengthen sanctions on the purchase of Russian fossil fuels

Ecoclub, together with the [Energy Transition Coalition](#), joined the global movement to strengthen sanctions against Russia. We initiated and sent two appeals to the governments of other countries:

- An open letter to European and American officials, politicians and the public on the need to impose sanctions on the Russian nuclear industry in the context of the war in Ukraine.
- An open letter to European officials, politicians and the public regarding the introduction of sanctions against liquefied natural gas of Russian origin.



In November, together with [Razom We Stand](#), we held a press briefing "Will the New US and EU Sanctions Stop the Export of Russian Liquefied Natural Gas and Oil?". We discussed the possible consequences of the new US and EU sanctions against Russian liquefied natural gas and oil. Video of the press briefing is available [here](#).

We also supported six appeals from partner NGOs regarding sanctions on Russian energy resources.

**Result achieved:** Ukrainian NGOs' demands for tougher sanctions on Russian resources were conveyed to European officials and disseminated in foreign media.



## GOAL 4.



**Ecoclub is a sustainable, responsible, influential environmental organization in Ukraine that is constantly improving.**

### Objectives:

4.1. Ecoclub is known as an expert organization in its fields for communities, government, the public sector and the media.

4.3. Ecoclub makes efforts to build mutually beneficial partnerships on environmental, energy and climate issues with political parties and businesses.

4.5. Ecoclub has decent and competitive jobs.

4.2. Ecoclub is able to respond effectively to urgent environmental challenges by supporting solutions that will help return ecosystems to their natural state.

4.4. Ecoclub team is constantly improving its expert level in accordance with individual plans.

4.6. Ecoclub improves its management and decision-making systems.

Throughout the year, Ecoclub continued to change its approaches to planning its activities and achieving its strategic goals.

The Ecoclub team comprises 20 employees. Detailed information about our team members can be found here - <https://ecoclubrivne.org/en/about-us/>.



**Administrative Department:** The Executive Director oversees the organization, ensuring effective planning and successful fundraising efforts. The project management team includes two program managers, two project coordinators, two project managers, and six specialists.

**Financial Department:** This department is managed by an accountant and two financial managers, who are responsible for budgeting, expense management, and preparing financial reports.

**Communications Department:** The Communications Coordinator and a Communicator execute the organization's communication strategy, enhance brand awareness, and manage media relations.

**Engineering Team:** Comprising two engineers, this team develops and reviews technical documentation, supervises the installation of solar power plants, and provides technical support during project implementation.

This year, with the involvement of external experts, we developed a system of competencies for various positions, taking into account the prospects for the organization's development and increase in the number of employees. It consists of five sections: efficiency and quality, leadership, communication and advocacy, teamwork, and development and innovation. Based on the results of the assessment, Ecoclub employees will learn what skills they need to develop for more effective work and career growth.

## ■ Took part in the #COMMS4Green training

Communicators and coordinators took part in the [European Climate Foundation's \(ECF\) #COMM4Green](#) mentoring program. Its goal is to help non-governmental environmental NGOs develop sustainable relationships with national media.



During the training, Ecoclub employees learned how to formulate and practice messages for interviews, participated in anti-crisis communications training, and developed a media kit as part of the [Solar Aid to Ukraine](#) project.

**Result achieved:** more than 150 media [mentions](#), 31 videos with comments from Ecoclub experts, 9 appearances on the national telethon "United News".



## ■ Helped five energy managers

Ecoclub provided one-time assistance in the amount of EUR 100 (in UAH equivalent) to five energy managers who found themselves in difficult circumstances due to the war. We supported those who were in the area of fierce fighting, in the occupied territories or in cities affected by missile strikes.

**Result achieved:** Since the beginning of the full-scale war, Ecoclub has helped 35 energy managers. Total amount of assistance: 3,500 euros.

Stories of energy managers about their work in the war (in Ukrainian):



Support for energy managers: Natalia Kopyl



Support for energy managers: Sashko Pavlo



Support for energy managers: Rosina Shepelya



Support for energy managers: Olga Krymova



Support for energy managers: Alyona Medvedeva



## COMMUNICATION



Throughout the year, Ecoclub members continued to fulfill the goals and objectives of the communication strategy approved at the organization's general meeting on May 23.

Team members involved in communication:

- press officer,
- communications specialist,
- webdesigner,
- videographer.

### Materials developed:

- 429 posts on social media;
- 56 articles on the [website](#);
- 28 issues of the Energy and Climate Digest for Communities;
- [20 videos](#) about the installed SPPs;
- 8 published interviews;
- 4 press tours;
- 1 animated [video](#);
- 1 developed media kit.



## GOAL 5.



**Rivne community develops with the ideas of sustainable post-war recovery and implements nature-based solutions.**

### Objectives:

5.1. The strategic development documents of the Rivne community take into account the assessment of vulnerability

5.2. Climate change adaptation measures are integrated into community programs.

5.3. The community is implementing a program to restore water bodies (Basiv Kut Lake, Ustia River).

5.4. The community has new rules for landscaping with the implementation of nature-based solutions.

In 2021, Ecoclub developed an [assessment of](#) the Rivne community's [vulnerability](#) to climate change. Based on the results, we developed recommendations on how to adapt and what measures should be implemented for the comfort of Rivne residents. We also consulted the community during the development of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), which was adopted in December at a session of the city council. However, the management decisions made by the local authorities at the same time contradicted the document: the community decided to purchase 100 diesel minibuses without prior calculations and consultations with Rivne residents.

### Created a petition against the purchase of diesel buses in Rivne



Following the Rivne City Council's decision to [take out a loan](#) to purchase 100 diesel minibuses, Ecoclub member Ilya Eremenko created a petition to develop convenient transportation. The petition called on officials to develop a Sustainable Mobility Plan that would define the development of sustainable electric transport in the community. In a day and a half, it was signed by more than 300 Rivne residents.

Ecoclub, along with nine NGOs, also [appealed](#) to Ukrgasbank not to lend money for the purchase of diesel minibuses.

[A story](#) by TSN journalists with comments by Ecoclub (in Ukrainian).

## ■ Protest against the destruction of the green zone in Rivne

In December 2023, members of the Rivne City Council planned to transfer a plot of green space to communal enterprise RivneElectroAutotrans to build parking spaces for diesel buses. The project envisaged cutting down trees and shrubs. Ecoclub, the Ecological Center of the Palace of Children and Youth, and concerned Rivne residents protested against this decision.

**Result achieved:** Rivne City Council members postponed the decision for further study.



## GOAL 6.



**Local governments are responsible and aware of their liability for environmental damage.**

### Objectives:

6.1. The EIA procedure is reformed, transparent, clear and effective.

6.2. Changes to the EIA procedure are in line with EU standards.

Ukraine is moving towards the European Union, where the EIA procedure guarantees environmental protection and transparency in decision-making. As a result, the impact on the environment and people's lives is taken into account before implementing new projects, changing or expanding them.

Currently, Ukrainian EIA legislation does not always ensure effective public information and participation in decision-making. This is due to the low institutional capacity of the EIA authorities, inefficient work of the regulatory authorities, and inconsistency with other permitting procedures, such as obtaining an emission permit, construction documentation, SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment), etc. Therefore, it is important to adapt the legislation to the EU rules and regulations to ensure that the reconstruction of Ukrainian communities meets the principles of sustainable recovery and that new investment projects are safe for the environment and the population.

Throughout the year, Ecoclub prepared positions and letters on taking into account the environmental component and public interests in decision-making processes during community reconstruction. In particular, we submitted proposals to:

- [of the State Strategy for Regional Development](#);
- The strategies of the recovery plan, the list of measures to implement the Plan of Ukraine;



- amendments to the Law on EIA ([No. 8410](#));
- amendments to the Law on Forestry ([No. 9516](#)). In July, a draft law on amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine on effective forest management was registered, which provided for the narrowing of the EIA, abolished the procedure for sanitary felling, and contradicted Directive 2011/92/EU.

This year, we also prepared a [position](#) on the importance of implementing key reforms in the field of environmental protection and European integration, including the need to reform the EIA.

## ■ Participated in five public discussions of EIA cases



Ecoclub experts analyzed five EIA reports and joined public discussions, submitting suggestions and comments on the planned activities. Among them:

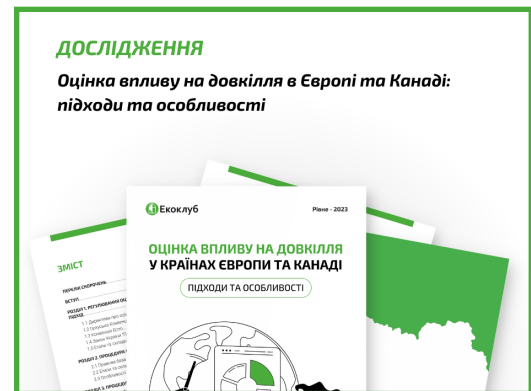
- Completion of the construction of the Tashlyk hydroelectric power plant. **Result achieved:** After reviewing the report materials and public comments, the Ministry of Environment refused to issue an EIA conclusion.
- Use of alternative fuel for the operation of enterprise Volyn-Cement. **Result achieved:** the EIA conclusion took into account the requirements of Ecoclub.
- Utilization of medical waste (Clever LLC). **Result achieved:** the company opened a new case in the EIA register.
- Reconstruction of buildings at Kronospan Rivne LLC. **Result achieved:** Kronospan Rivne LLC took into account the comments and suggestions of Ecoclub.
- Relocation of production facilities of Color S.I.M. LLC. **Result achieved:** the first attempt to obtain an emission permit without fulfilling the terms of the EIA conclusion was unsuccessful.



## ■ Presentation of the study "Environmental Impact Assessment in Europe and Canada: Approaches and Features"

Ecoclub experts analyzed Ukrainian and foreign practices in the field of EIA legislation. The [study](#) provides information on countries that regulate EIA in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU, the ESPO Convention and the Aarhus Convention.

**Result achieved:** more than 6,500 users of the Ecoclub's website read the study.



## ■ Developed a position on amendments to the EIA legislation

Ecoclub believes that high-quality EIA reform takes into account the interests of community residents, businesses, and authorities. The [amended EIA procedure](#) should comply with EU directives and the [requirements of](#) the Ukrainian public for sustainable post-war recovery.

**Result achieved:** the position was sent to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and specialized committees.

## ■ Communicated with the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

In 2021, Ecoclub [filed a complaint](#) with the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee regarding the imperfect legislation on environmental impact assessment (EIA) in Ukraine. This year, we informed the Aarhus Convention Bureau about the strategic lawsuits of the woodworking company Kronospan Rivne against the public ([SLAPP](#)). We also participated in the Committee's meeting on the hearing of the Kronospan case.












**Result achieved:** the Ecoclub's complaint was accepted.










# FINANCIAL REPORT

## INCOME

### Funds received from projects

UAH 16 077 690,38		Promoting the installation of solar power plants at water utilities in war-affected regions to improve the reliability of drinking water supply (solar power plants for water supply)
UAH 4 008 526,71		Renewable energy sources for a sustainable Ukraine (R2U)
UAH 3 082 273,35		Empowering Ukrainian communities through the deployment of renewable energy sources (RES) and the development of a multi-level climate policy, enhancing energy security, reducing costs, and promoting sustainable practices amidst geopolitical challenges
UAH 2 802 504,45		Promotion the use of renewable energy sources in municipal institutions of Ukraine
UAH 1 863 660,1		Closing the loop: a just energy transition designed by capitals and regions
UAH 1 097 681,97		Strengthening the NGO network "EkoNet for climate and environmental protection in Eastern Europe and Central Asia"
UAH 1 090 862,39		Mainstreaming low carbon heating approaches among Ukrainian municipalities and to prepare Ukrainian society for a reduction in energy supplies.
UAH 549 988,23		Development of renewable energy generation in the municipal infrastructure sector
UAH 400 995,83		Ensuring compliance with environmental requirements at the new Kronospan plant under construction
UAH 395 640,86		Monitoring and pushing for sanctions against Russian energy sources
UAH 93 205,92		Delivery of solar-powered power banks and paramedic backpacks to Ukrainians in need

### Funds for the construction of a solar power plant

UAH 1 161 287,6		WECF
UAH 954 571,2		European Climate Foundation
UAH 497 735,06		«wirWerk» gGmbH
UAH 118 832,68		STOWARZYSZENIE PRACOWNIA NA RZECZ WSZYSTKICH ISTOT
UAH 83 009,93		NESEHNUTI BRNO
UAH 82 013,16		Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation
UAH 76 424,17		CECH AKUMULACE A FOTOVOLTAIKY








### Donations from individuals for the construction of SPPs

UAH 13 489,21	Donations from individuals for the construction of SPPs
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### Other

UAH 933 822,39	Income from exchange rate differences
UAH 336 798,02	Charitable assistance
UAH 265,07	Bank percentages

### Other activities

UAH 964 241,04		TOPINFRA
UAH 122 763,58		OXFAM
UAH 48 000		Костопільська міська рада
UAH 47 499,03		MENLO ELECTRIC SPOLKA AKCYJNA
UAH 8 000		ГО "Екосенс"
UAH 6 430		ЦЦГМІ, Громадська організація "Центр громадських та медійних ініціатив"
UAH 6 020		ГО "Екодія"

### Charitable assistance

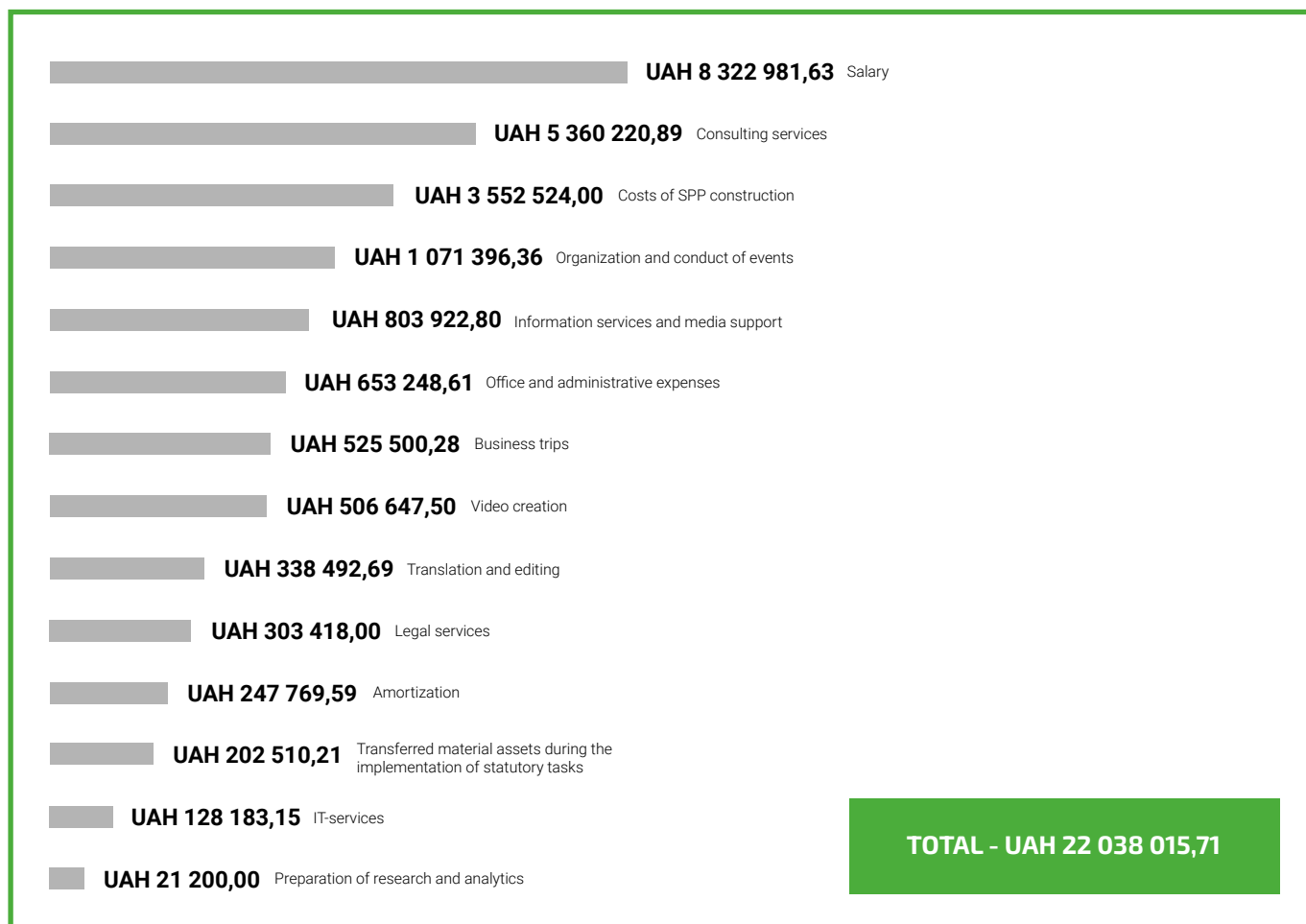
UAH 30 566,5	Donations from individuals to the organization
UAH 7 527,31	Charitable assistance
UAH 4 164,23	Membership contributions

**TOTAL - UAH 36 966 490,37**



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## EXPENSES



# PARTNERS



# HOW TO SUPPORT ECOCLUB

There are several ways to support Ecoclub:



1. **Subscribe to the newsletter.** We inform you about current news and events in the life of the organization, as well as development opportunities.



2. **Subscribe to the biweekly energy and climate digest** for Ukrainian municipalities.



3. **Become a [member](#) or volunteer of the organization.**

We invite volunteers and members to events and trainings, and involve them in the preparation of street actions, master classes, and all-Ukrainian information tours. To become a volunteer, fill out the application [form](#).

Members of the organization receive:

- a membership card and a branded souvenir;
- an email newsletter with news, opportunities, useful materials and research;
- priority participation in events, competitions, and internships organized by Ecoclub and its partners;
- the possibility of consultations/recommendations and other support from experts.



4. **Make a charitable contribution.** By supporting us financially, you will help us to work on activities that do not involve the areas of work of Ecoclub.



**[ecoclubrivne.org](http://ecoclubrivne.org)**  
**[office@ecoclubrivne.org](mailto:office@ecoclubrivne.org)**