ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Ecoclub

SUMMARY 2024

We have installed 38 SPPs

Total capacity — 2,094.77 kW, which generated 1,123 MWh of electricity as of December.

The SPPs were built for hospitals, water utilities, and social infrastructure and transferred to the ownership of communities

We received requests from 635 municipalities

43% of all Ukrainian municipalities asked us for assistance in RES deployment

We ensured that local and national decisions considered renewable energy and climate change adaptation

We received funding from 30 donors

Together with our partners, we created revolving funds to support energy efficiency in apartment buildings

We trained over 1,500 community representatives

Built the capacity of municipalities through more than 100 online meetings, 600 consultations, 30 training events

We secured heat pump financing within the Energy Efficiency Fund's "GreenDim" program

Proposed changes to the National program on decentralized power generation support and increase of resilience and independence of local energy

Analyzed environmental impact assessment reports and prepared position papers to ensure environmental sustainability and compliance with environmental requirements in energy and infrastructure projects

Conducted a study of the efficiency of Ukrainian heat supply operators and provided recommendations for improving tariff policy, upgrading infrastructure and integrating renewable energy

We supported municipalities that installed solar power plants on their own


SOLAR AID FOR UKRAINE


UkraineRecovery
Conference
11–12 June 2024 – Berlin, Germany


- екстремальну спеку
- екстремальну кількість опадів
- засуху
NET
ZERO
CITIE
Екоклуб


Служба у справах дітей
7 днів
Треба сквер а не стоянка
Рівне — для людей
Посади
Збережи клімат!
Адаптуємо місто до зміни клімату!
Дерева рятують клімат!

2024 IN NUMBERS

14 000
followers
on social media

2 900
subscribers to the Energy
and Climate Digest

300
mentions in the media

122
events attended

61
members

38
installed
SPPs

30
organized
events

25
technical documents
for the construction of SPPs

9
position papers on plans and decisions
in the field of energy, climate, and EIA

5
analyzed
EIA reports

4
studies
prepeared

3
grants for the development of renewable energy
sources and energy efficiency

2
study tours (Berlin–Lublin;
Zviahel–Kostopil–Rivne)

1
forum
held

CONTENT

6 **FOREWORD**

7 **ABOUT ECOCLUB**

11 **HOW TO JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION**

12 **REPORT ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STRATEGIC GOALS**

12 STRATEGIC GOAL 1 — *Energy efficiency and renewable energy*

45 STRATEGIC GOAL 2 — *Climate change adaptation*

48 STRATEGIC GOAL 3 — *Green development of CSOs*

51 STRATEGIC GOAL 4 — *Institutional development of the Ecoclub*

54 STRATEGIC GOAL 5 — *Green development of the Rivne community*

56 STRATEGIC GOAL 6 — *Liability for environmental damage*

59 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

62 **PARTNERSHIPS WITH ORGANIZATIONS**

63 **PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITIES**

64 **LIST OF INSTALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES**

FOREWORD

2024 was another year of unprecedented challenges for Ukraine. But it has also strengthened the understanding of what is truly important for a sustainable future. To rebuild effectively, we must move beyond the narrow vision of “economy first” and instead embrace an economy that grows in harmony with climate action and ecosystem restoration.

European integration provides invaluable guidance, as we have a unique chance to learn from the European experience: both successes and mistakes. Ecoclub implements these lessons by empowering communities to increase their resilience with renewable energy, fostering local energy independence, and advocating for policies that enable a just green recovery.

We are proud to play our part in this collective effort. Together with municipalities, local communities and international partners, we ar laying the foundations for a greener and more sustainable Ukraine, where economic recovery harmoniously merges with climate neutrality and environmental protection.

Andriy Martynyuk,
Executive Director of Ecoclub

ABOUT ECOCLUB

Ecoclub is a non-governmental organization in Rivne 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.

Mission

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

Vision

We believe that the undisturbed 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) disseminating knowledge about the importance of environmental protection;

2) encouraging participation in the development and implementation of energy and environmental policies;

3) solidarity and cooperation, ensuring that the value of the environment is properly considered at all levels of human existence.

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

Values of Ecoclub

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

Strategic goals of Ecoclub until 2025

Goal 1

Large-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy are standard in post-war community development plans.

Goal 2

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

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

The ideas of green post-war recovery and nature-based solutions are integrated in the development of the Rivne community.

Goal 6

Local governments are accountable for environmental damage and conscious of their responsibility.

Board of the organization

In 2024, Ecoclub continued to change and develop. Its Board members– *Oleh Hetun, Oksana Holovko, Tetyana Tsykun, Oksana Paramud, Vasyl Korbutyak* – helped to keep the organization focused and strengthened the implementation of strategic goals.

Oleh Hetun, Chairman of the Board, participated in the organization's annual and mid-year planning, contributing to discussions and reviewing annual reports from topic coordinators.

Oksana Paramud and the team of the German charity foundation wirWerk gGmbH raised more than EUR 15,000 to install solar power plants in Ukrainian communities. These funds were used to purchase equipment for the solar power plant at Sumy Hospital.

Oleh Hetun, Chairman of the Board

Environmentalist, entrepreneur in the field of active recreation and geopositioning systems. He works with children and youth in Plast, the National Scout Organization of Ukraine (NSOU), and is involved in environmental protection with Ecoclub.

> *Despite the fact that in 2024 the world has changed and the challenges have increased, Ecoclub remains committed to its values. Time will tell whether these efforts are significant or productive*

Tetyana Tsykun, Board member

Researcher at 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.

> *I believe that the most significant and important contribution of Ecoclub last year was the active installation of solar power plants for utilities across Ukraine. This ensures decentralization and autonomy of power generation for critical community needs, which is extremely important during the ongoing war. Adapting local communities to climate change is also important. Despite the geopolitical storms, climate change is ongoing and we need to be prepared for its negative consequences.*

Oksana Holovko, Board member

PhD in Agricultural Sciences (specialty “Ecology”),
Head of the Research Sector
of the Derman-Ostroh National park.

I believe that Ecoclub’s activities are important both this year and throughout the entire period of the organization’s operation. In times of war, when the energy infrastructure is constantly under attack, it is extremely important to have alternative energy sources, especially for such strategically important facilities as water utilities. That is why the installation of SPPs by Ecoclub is essential. Working with communities to adapt to climate change is also important.

Oksana Paramud, Board member

Bachelor’s degree in GIS and Technologies from the National University of Water and Environmental Engineering; Bachelor’s degree in Land Management from the Technical University of Munich; Bachelor’s degree in Geography and Master’s degree in Anthropogeography and Sustainable Development from Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich. Environmental, energy, and waste management specialist in the municipality of Gräfelfing, Germany. She is the founder of the Help For Rivne/Ukraine humanitarian aid initiative for Ukrainians. Employee of the German charity foundation wirWerk gGmbH.

This year, the work of Ecoclub had a significant impact on the country’s energy security. The implemented solar power plants projects for critical infrastructure have become an important step towards ensuring the stability of energy supply in times of war. This contribution is significant and strategically important for the future of our country.

Vasyl Korbutyak, Board member

He joined Ecoclub’s Board in 2023. Vasyl graduated as a hydraulic engineer with a degree in hydraulic engineering from The National University of Water and Environmental Engineering. In 2008, he defended his PhD thesis on “Improving methods for calculating maximum flows based on channel process parameters (on the example of rivers in the Ukrainian Carpathians)”.

The activities of Ecoclub do not require funding from the state budget, but bring significant benefits to communities.

HOW TO JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION

You can become *a member* or *a volunteer* — one of those who support our strategic goals and values, strengthen our activities, and help to influence the acceleration of processes.

By becoming ***volunteers,*** individuals gain early access to information about Ecoclub events and have the opportunity to organize their own initiatives with our backing.

To become a volunteer, fill out the application form

Members of the organization receive:

- a membership card;
- emails with news, opportunities, useful materials and research;
- priority participation in events, competitions, and internships organized by Ecoclub and its partners;
- the opportunities to receive consultations/recommendations and other support from experts.

Learn more about applying for membership

Why Ecoclub is worth supporting?

Support us *financially*

- Municipalities trust us.
- We defend the interests of the people of Ukraine internationally and raise funds for sustainable recovery.
- We implement practical measures that improve the lives of citizens.
- We report to our members on the projects implemented and the funds raised for them.

REPORT ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal 1 Large-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy are standard in post-war community development plans

Objectives:

1.1 Monitor the preparation of post-war sustainable recovery and ensure the role of communities in it.

1.2 Promote the introduction of municipal instruments to stimulate investment in low-carbon development (cooperatives, revolving funds, local budget support programs).

1.3 Increase the capacity of communities to make a just transition to low-carbon development while reducing the impact on ecosystems.

1.4 Implement pilot projects with communities.

Implementation of pilot RES-projects in communities

As a result of russian attacks on energy infrastructure, many communities in Ukraine are forced to live in conditions of power outages. Municipalities are responsible for stable water supply and uninterrupted operations of schools, hospitals and local administrations. Therefore, during the war, their interest in installing solar power plants to strengthen energy resilience has increased significantly, especially for water utilities, where solar energy is a cost-effective solution.

The deployment of renewable energy sources not only helps to meet urgent humanitarian needs, but also creates opportunities to accelerate Ukraine's energy transition and lay the foundations for sustainable post-war development. Ecoclub provides comprehensive support to municipalities, accompanying their communities from the initial planning to construction and

commissioning of solar power plants. We assist in identifying promising sites, prepare feasibility studies, and provide advice on obtaining the necessary documentation. We also assist in raising funds, coordinate cooperation with contractors, monitor the quality of construction and provide ongoing media coverage.

The SPPs installed with the support of Ecoclub are small distributed generation assets that become the property of utility companies and, therefore, the property of municipalities. In this way, communities receive an additional source of income and promote energy self-sufficiency, demonstrating an example of a just energy transition. Pilot projects also significantly accelerate the adoption of relevant technologies in communities and contribute to the growth of political support for such initiatives. Most importantly, solar power plants ensure stable operation of critical facilities during outages.

In 2024, Ecoclub received applications from 635 municipalities (43% of all municipalities in Ukraine) that requested assistance in developing renewable energy. During the year, 37 solar power plants were built together with the communities, including 27 for hospitals and 10 for water utilities. Ecoclub has been promoting the model of owning renewable energy assets since 2020, when the first in Ukraine solar power plant for a water utility was constructed in Voznesensk, Mykolaiv region.

Building a renewable energy facility for a utility company requires a feasibility study and project documentation. Ecoclub supports communities in this process by training their specialists, creating templates of documents, and providing hands-on support. In 2024, we held more than 100 online meetings, delivered 600 individual consultations, and helped develop 15 feasibility studies. We also facilitated the preparation of 30 simpler, pre-feasibility, studies, which are often the first step in project implementation.

Ecoclub coordinates its efforts on deployment of renewable energy sources in communities with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster (WASH). The cluster brings together the largest international humanitarian organizations working in Ukraine to restore access to clean water, repair sewage systems and district heating infrastructure. The Cluster also makes a major contribution to providing hygiene products to the most vulnerable populations in war-affected areas.

Ecoclub's goal is to empower communities to implement pilot projects on their own. This strategy is yielding results: in 2024, two municipalities

installed SPPs for water utilities on their own, and several others financed the development of their own project documentation. 90% of communities we worked with co-financed projects with funds from local budgets.

Thanks to a grant from the European Climate Fund (ECF), Ecoclub has stepped up its support for communities to install solar power plants for critical community facilities. The project helped to remove obstacles that usually prevent local authorities from deploying renewable energy sources, covering the entire process from selecting potential locations to preparing feasibility studies and securing financing.

In cooperation with the Yellowblue Force Foundation (YBF), Scatec Ukraine, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ukraine, and JSC Ukrgazvydobuvannya, Ecoclub installed solar power plants for more than 20 hospitals, in particular in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv regions. At the same time, we increased the capacity of communities to implement such projects and actively involved them: from drafting a design assignment to putting the SPP into operation.

The project "Renewables for Resilient Ukraine"

Renewables for Resilient Ukraine, R2U, is a joint project of a consortium of four Ukrainian NGOs — Ecoclub (the leader of the consortium), Ecoac-

tion, ENERGY ACT FOR UKRAINE Foundation, and RePower Ukraine Charitable Foundation — initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate with the support of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) in Ukraine and implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ Ukraine).

The initiative was aimed at strengthening local energy security and accelerating the national energy transition. Under the project, the consortium, together with the communities, installed 19 SPPs and 1 heat pump for critical and social infrastructure.

Video about the project.

The project "Promoting the installation of solar power plants at water utilities in war-affected regions to improve the reliability of drinking water supply"

With the support of Oxfam GB, Ecoclub installed three SPPs to ensure a reliable supply of drinking water in the war-affected areas. First, we developed 10 feasibility studies for communities, then selected three to install SPPs for water utilities: in Myrhorod, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi, and Sumy. In total, the utilities supply water for approximately 340 000 residents. Each system is equipped with a battery pack to maintain water supply even during interruptions, which significantly increases local resilience, reduces operating costs and dependence on the grid.

This project demonstrated an effective model of decentralized energy solutions for Ukraine's critical infrastructure and created the preconditions for scaling up SPPs in other communities.

We saw how SPPs can improve the reliability and stability of one of the water pumping stations. During the blackout, which lasted almost 14 hours, the SPP helped the well to remain operational for two hours, creating reserves of drinking water in tanks to be delivered by car tankers to medical facilities.

The operation of the SPP in conjunction with backup diesel generators minimized the impact of power outages on consumers living in the service area of this water pumping station. To become more resilient to the challenges of the war, the water utility needs to install higher capacity SPPs at all of its pumping stations. So we keep working in this direction, looking for funding and partners, — Oleksiy Zhukov, Chief Engineer of Sumy Water Utility.

Video about the installed solar power plants for:

Sumy Vodokanal
Myrhorod Vodokanal
Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi water utility

Link to the section with a list of constructed renewable energy facilities

Heat pumps installation

Heat pumps, a key low-carbon technology, reduce energy demand for heating or hot water by a factor of 2 to 4, enhancing electricity's competitiveness for heat supply. Widespread use of heat pumps will reduce energy consumption and increase the use of renewable energy sources.

In 2024 Ecoclub implemented ***two pilot heat pumps*** installation projects: at the multidisciplinary hospital in Kostopil (Rivne region) and at the Dolphin Child Development Center in Zviahel (Zhytomyr region).

Kostopil, a multidisciplinary hospital

Heat pump capacity: 16 kWh. The pump provides one of the buildings with year-round hot water supply: the number of hot water outlets increased from 30 to 119, and electricity consumption decreased from 196 kWh/day to 75 kWh/day.

The total cost of the project was UAH 1,536,385 of which UAH 1,045,462 was received from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kyiv and UAH 490,922 was contributed by the Kostopil City Council.

Payback period of the project, taking into account the restoration of the hot water supply network in the hospital, is 3.7 years.

Zviahel, Dolphin Child Development Center

Heat pump capacity: 50 kW. The total cost is UAH 3,290,000 of which UAH 2,990,000 was received within the framework of the Renewables for Resilient Ukraine (R2U) project, organized by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action with the support of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) in Ukraine and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Another UAH 300,000 was contributed by Zviahel City Council. The pump heats the kindergarten pool for all preschoolers in the community all year round, which previously worked only during the heating season. Payback period of the project: 6.7 years.

It's a great pleasure, the kids are very excited because now the pool is open all year round. We receive positive feedback from parents, so we plan to provide additional services in the future. In addition to comfort, the pump will save money on utility bills, — Alla Peleshok, director of the Dolphin Child Development Center.

The heat pump partially uses electricity generated by a 24 kW solar power plant installed in the same facility. The funds were received as part of the project “Closing the loop: a just energy transition designed by cities and regions” from the European Commission and co-financed by the community.

The children are happy, they rush to the kindergarten knowing that they will swim in the pool. I am sincerely glad that my child has the opportunity to attend this kindergarten, — Khrystyna, a mother.

Watch a video about the projects.

Event “Increasing the resilience of water supply in communities with solar power plants”

In June 2024, Ecoclub, with the support of Oxfam GB, organized an event dedicated to securing water supply with solar power plants. The event presented the results of the project “Promoting the installation of solar power plants at water utilities in war-affected regions to improve water supply reliability”. Participants, including representatives of communities, international and Ukrainian NGOs, donors, and the WASH cluster, discussed practical experience in solar power plants application for water utilities. The recommendations have been developed to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy in Ukrainian communities.

Olena Kondratyuk, project manager of Ecoclub, presented the results of the project — the installed SPPs in Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi, Myrhorod, and Sumy. She emphasized that the SPPs have demonstrated their effectiveness during power outages, ensuring a stable water supply for thousands of residents. Vadym Lytvyn, Director of the Center for Efficient Energy Use, spoke about the technical, economic and humanitarian aspects of using SPPs in water utilities, focusing on their cost-effectiveness and long-term benefits.

The key topics of discussion were regulatory barriers and ways to overcome them. Andriy Martynyuk and Olena Baida, an energy expert, proposed specific regulatory changes needed for large-scale deployment of renewable energy. The participants also discussed financial instruments to support communities ready to implement such projects, emphasizing the importance of humanitarian aid for critical infrastructure. Following the event, the next steps for the development of solar energy in water supply were identified, including the development of new technical documents and the search for additional funding to install another 30 SPPs.

The event "Expanding the legislative framework for sustainability: the path to energy decentralization"

In July, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ukraine, we organized an event for representatives of local councils, relevant government agencies and the public sector. The event consisted of two parts:

- ***The roundtable*** focused on discussing the government's need to develop local power generation, improve related regulations, and support the growth of renewable energy sources (RES) in communities.

As a result of the roundtable (in particular, at the request of a representative of the Office of the President of Ukraine, who was one of the speakers), a letter was sent to the President's Offices and re-

levant government agencies describing the obstacles to the development of distributed renewable energy generation and proposed solutions. 40 communities supported the joint letter. The President's Office, in response to the letter, invited the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Energy, Housing and Utilities to incorporate the issues raised into their legislative work.

- ***Experience exchange visit for communities to Zhytomyr city.*** Serhiy Sukhomlyn, the city Mayor, presented the results of already implemented projects (reconstruction of water treatment facilities, biomass CHP, SPP on the roof of a local hospital), how the funding was secured, and strategic community priorities for the coming years. As a result of the visit, a brochure with recommendations "What should be considered when planning and implementing decentralized power generation projects?" was prepared.

Assisting communities in preserving and modernizing district heating

District heating (DH) is essential to achieving Ukraine's strategic goal of climate neutrality by 2050, while ensuring that the benefits of decarbonization are shared equitably. Therefore, it needs to be maintained and modernized as an important component of a just energy transition. DH is a technology that enables rapid integration of renewable energy, waste heat, and heat pumps into heating systems, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. Thanks to existing district heating networks, Ukraine can utilize local sustainable resources such as biomass and geothermal energy, which not only reduce emissions but also strengthen energy security, which is critical in times of war and reconstruction.

Preserving the district heating infrastructure not only ensures equal access to quality services, especially for vulnerable populations, but also contributes to the sustainable energy development of communities. A well-managed transition to modern district heating can prevent energy poverty, stabilize energy prices, and create jobs in communities through infrastructure modernization and the implementation of renewable energy projects.

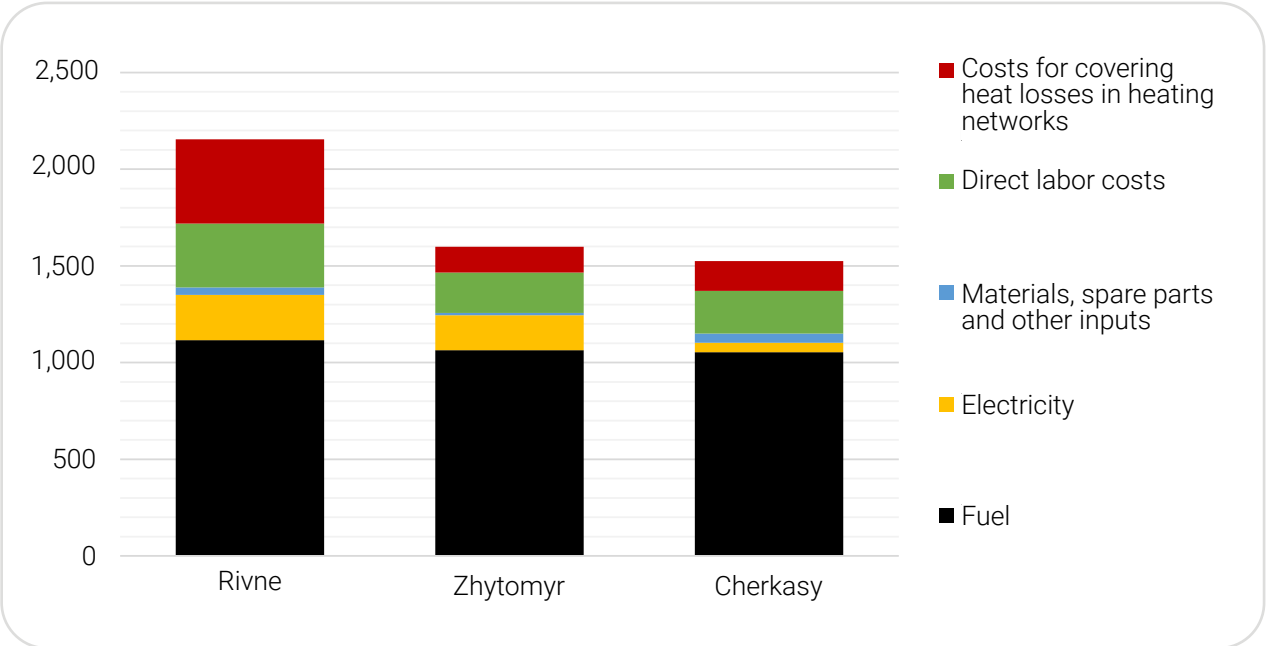
In 2024, Ecoclub studied the district heating operators active in the market, promoted innovative approaches to their work, and worked to raise

their awareness. It also helped to establish communication between all stakeholders to ensure the effective development and sustainability of the DH system.

Research in district heating

Ecoclub presented a "Comparative analysis of operations of certain heat supply companies". We analyzed the operations of heat supply companies in Ukraine (Rivneteploenergo LLC, Zhytomyrteplocomunenergo, Poltavateploenergo, Cherkasyteplocomunenergo). ***Main conclusions:***

1. The annual reports of operators show that they work on the verge of profitability or suffer losses.
2. Physically and morally worn-out equipment and uninsulated networks increase the cost of heat production and make it uncompetitive compared to individual heating.
3. The privately owned company in Rivne demonstrates significantly worse performance compared to municipality-owned enterprises.
4. Gas and electricity prices, along with heat losses during transportation, contribute most to the heat production costs. The combined heat and power production used in Cherkasy is an effective solution. *The chart below shows the five largest cost items in the heat cost structure in 2023, UAH/Gcal.*



The results of the study were presented at the First Forum of Heat Producers, sent to representatives of Rivne local authorities, and distributed on social media.

We also analyzed DH development in different countries in the study "DH systems operation in the world". We studied technological solutions, tariff policy and regulatory framework. The study showed that there is no single vision of the development of this industry in the world. For instance, the Northern European countries prioritize DH industry development due to its existing advantages: safety, economic efficiency, and adaptability to renewable energy. There are countries that have traditionally developed this industry in view of the increasing population density of large cities. There are also negative examples where countries have abandoned district heating systems.

Ecoclub has identified the main tasks in the development of the industry based on international experience:

1. Reform the tariff policy, create transparent conditions for setting tariffs that are fair to consumers and profitable for producers. To structure heat tariffs for consumers, we recommend a two-rate model that would involve a constant annual payment and a variable payment during the heating season, determined by heat usage;
2. Reduce losses during heat transportation by insulation and replacement of networks;
3. Use more efficient equipment and technologies, such as combined heat and power production instead of traditional boilers;
4. Allow transition to individual heating only under the condition of 100% use of renewable energy sources (e.g., heat pumps and solar power);
5. While it's not feasible for Ukraine to transit to RES in DH in the short term due to high costs, the attention should be paid to long-term planning and programs to stimulate the use of RES in district heating;
6. The use of heat pumps for hot water production is a cost-effective solution during the warm period, which generates additional revenue and reduce electricity consumption for DH operators. The practice of using large heat storages significantly reduces the cost of water heating.

Best practices for district heating operators

The current system for district heating regulations in Ukraine stipulates that operators receive profit exclusively from the sale of heat. Operators are disincentivized from supporting consumer energy efficiency measures, due to the resulting revenue losses. At the same time, operators have qualified engineering staff that can implement such measures.

In 2024, Ecoclub pioneered the first cases of paid energy efficiency services aimed at reducing costs for consumers provided by district heating operators in Zviahel and Kostopil. Preliminary calculations have shown that if provided to public facilities equipped with individual heat substations (IHS), such a service is profitable for operators: the estimated savings significantly exceed the income from heat sales.

Based on these calculations, Zviahel selected two public buildings as pilot sites to introduce these services. Preparations are underway to train Zviahelteplo specialists.

These agreements resulted from extensive work, including ***Ecoclub's training webinars*** for heat supply operator representatives on July 16–18, 2024. During these webinars, we presented successful enterprise modernization practices and offered calculations supporting heat economy services for customers, provided by DH operators. These calculations were included in the webinar presentations.

The conference "District heating reform: the use of heat pumps"

On May 15, Ecoclub together with DiXi Group organized a conference on the use of heat pumps in district heating systems. Representatives of the Ukrainian government — the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development, The National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission (NEURC), and the State Agency for Energy Efficiency – spoke at the event about the expected changes in the district heating sector, in particular, tariff policy and regulations.

The conference participants received analytical materials on the use of geothermal energy from our international partners — the ReWarm project (GIZ), the European Geothermal Energy Council and the European Committee of the Regions.

Together with the Association of Energy Auditors of Ukraine, we presented the possibilities of using heat pumps in district heating systems, as well as a developed manual for district heating operators. View the presentations.

The video recording of the event.

The First Forum of Heat Energy Producers

On October 10–11, the First Forum of Heat Energy Producers was organized in Zhytomyr at the initiative of Ecoclub in cooperation with the Zhy-

tomyr City Council. The event was attended by representatives of central authorities — The National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission, the Ministry of Community and Territorial Development, the State Agency for Energy Efficiency, as well as community representatives and top management of heat producers. Photo from the Forum.

The participants discussed the key challenges and prospects for the industry, and shared their experience in reforming and modernizing heat supply companies. The forum featured site visits to utility facilities demonstrating successful implementations of cogeneration, network insulation, biomass use, and heat storage. ***Outcomes of the forum:***

1. Ecoclub will join working groups at the NEURC and the Ministry of Infrastructure.
2. In 2025, the Second Forum of Heat Producers will be held in Cherkasy.

Building capacity of communities

Ecoclub is convinced that a successful energy transition and green post-war recovery are impossible without the active participation of communities. In every community, there are enterprises, residential buildings, and government agencies that consume energy. Improving energy efficiency and switching to renewable energy sources is an urgent need. However, most Ukrainian municipalities lack the experience, technical guidance,

or qualified professionals to implement energy projects. Ecoclub bridges these gaps by training, creating replicable financial and technical models, and offering direct advisory support.

The capacity building activities conducted in 2024 included individual consultations, webinars, meetings, study tours, and dissemination of thematic materials. Ecoclub's capacity building programs reached over 1,500 local authority and Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives, with four communities subsequently using these skills to develop preliminary feasibility studies.

A brief list of key activities for local authorities and CSOs:

Webinar "How to effectively communicate grant projects". Recommendations on communication strategies, messages, press releases, and media relations.

Webinar "How to maintain solar power plants. Tips for communities"

Webinars on the net billing mechanism: legal and procedural steps to reduce electricity costs. There we presented the instruction "Self-generation of electricity (net billing): basic aspects of implementation and the basis of legal regulation in Ukraine".

Webinar "Net billing: how to reduce electricity costs"

Webinar "Net billing self-generation mechanism: how to save on electricity"

A series of webinars "Energy Saving in Action" about baseline data, data collection and real success stories for energy managers

Webinar "Greendim Program: New Opportunities for Condominiums". Presentation of the state program under which condominiums can install SPP or heat pumps.

Online training on developing preliminary feasibility studies for solar power plant installation (determining required capacity). The course included three webinars, during which representatives from three local councils, to-

gether with Ecoclub engineers, learned the methodology and calculated the required capacity for solar power plants planned for municipal facilities. As a result of the course, local government representatives developed five pre-feasibility studies, which were reviewed and verified by Ecoclub engineers.

Study tours for local governments

In 2024, Ecoclub held two thematic study tours for representatives of district heating operators and municipalities.

The study tour to Germany and Poland

The study tour organized in partnership with GIZ in cooperation with the Berlin Pankow-Rivne Partnership, was a key event aimed at promoting the development and reform of district heating systems. The event was co-financed by Ecoclub as part of a project supported by the European Climate Fund. From September 28 to October 5, 2024, the tour brought together 28 participants, including representatives of Ukrainian central authorities, local governments, and district heating companies, to learn best practices and innovative solutions in the energy sector.

The trip also focused on the regulatory framework and financing programs that support the efficient operation and modernization of dis-

trict heating systems. During the trip, presentations were made by the German Energy Agency (DENA) and the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), which highlighted the legislative and financial mechanisms to support the green transition in the German district heating sector.

The study tour facilitated a meaningful exchange of views between Ukrainian participants and European experts, establishing cooperation and sharing practical experience. Participants gained valuable knowledge on heat management, energy efficiency, and strategies for attracting financing for modernization projects. Details of the trip are in the material.

A three-day study tour for representatives of Ukrainian communities to the cities of Zviahel, Kostopil and Rivne

On November 20–22, Ecoclub organized a three-day study tour for representatives of Ukrainian communities to the cities of Zviahel, Kostopil and Rivne. The participants visited five sites: solar power plants installed with the assistance of Ecoclub, as well as three sites with installed heat pumps — two air-to-water and one geothermal. Event sparked intense interest: we received more than 70 applications within the first few registration days, indicating strong community interest in renewable energy deployment. As a result of the trip, a number

of participants expressed their readiness to start implementing similar projects in their communities as early as 2025. Photo report of the event.

Project "Closing the Loop: A Just Energy Transition Designed by Cities and Regions"

Ecoclub, together with the NGO Ecoaction, has completed a three-year project funded by the European Union. As part of the project, 10 grants were awarded to implement renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in municipalities.

The sub-grant program, launched in January 2023, proved crucial in empowering local governments and NGOs to champion green transition. We received 506 applications (318 from municipalities and 188 from NGOs), which was a clear indication of the interest of local authorities and communities in energy innovations

The project also organized a workshop on strategic planning and project management for 21 participants. We taught the sub-grantee teams the basics of strategic planning and project management in the field of green energy, and how to use these tools to turn their ideas into funding requests for donors.

Key results of the grant program:

- **500+** applications received (communities and NGOs);
- **10** grants issued by Ecoclub;
- **€ 88,281** total amount of grants;
- **500 000+** Ukrainians will benefit from the implemented projects;
- **279.6 tons** of CO_2 reductions per year as a result of project implementation;
- **4 SPPs installed with a total capacity of 54 kW**
  - 7 kW in Sumy
  - 24 kW in Zviahel
  - 3 kW in Khmelnytskyi
  - 20 kW in Radomyshl
- **15** energy audits conducted
- **2** feasibility studies developed
- **2** design and estimate documents developed for the installation of heat pumps in condominiums
- **2** energy management systems in Dubove and Poromiv communities
- **1** feasibility study for a biogas plant.

More details on the projects that received sub-grants: https://ecoclubrivne.org/results_theloop/

Project “Strengthening Climate Actions in Ukrainian Communities”

Ecoclub has started to implement the project “Strengthening Climate Actions in Ukrainian Communities” aimed at developing and implementing local financial instruments for the development of sustainable energy and climate initiatives. As part of the project, 10 communities will be trained and create their own financial mechanisms enabling greenhouse gas emissions reduction. A range of multi-level measures will enable this, including the installation of solar power plants and heat pumps, as well as the thermal modernization of private homes and condominiums. As a result of the project, the two communities will receive €10,000 to support the mechanism.

Ten communities, selected through a competition, attended the three-day training. Participants learned to integrate climate goals into community strategic documents, explored key energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, and discussed implementation algorithms. Special attention was paid to climate change adaptation and its benefits for communities. With expert support, local governments are now working on developing their own financial mechanisms.

A series of publications designed to help communities increase their capacity:

- A roadmap for implementing energy management in communities (In Ukrainian)
- List of standard documents to install a solar power plant (In Ukrainian)
- Study "Challenges and opportunities for solar power plants in the water supply and wastewater sector of Ukraine"
- Instruction "Self-generation of electricity (net billing): basic aspects of implementation and legal regulation in Ukraine" (In Ukrainian)

Developing solutions together with municipalities

Ecoclub helps communities implement effective climate and energy solutions by working with municipalities to develop best practices in these areas.

Helping communities create revolving funds

One of the obstacles to energy-efficient modernization of apartment buildings is the limited financial capacity of residents. While insulating or mod-

ernizing heating systems involves high initial expenditures, these measures offer considerable long-term financial benefits. An effective solution to this problem is the creation of revolving funds — special financial mechanisms from which condominiums can receive almost interest-free loans for energy efficiency measures. Once the money is returned to the fund, they become available again for new projects.

Since the outbreak of the war, the relevance of this financial instrument has increased, as lending to condominiums has been suspended. Communities often lack the expertise to develop the relevant regulatory documents. In 2023–2024 Ecoclub, together with the Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine, helped to create revolving funds in Rivne and Kostopil:

- organized consultations and meetings with municipalities;
- drafted decisions and agreements;
- Kostopil in late 2023 and Rivne in the fall of 2024 allocated public money for these funds;
- As of today, at least six condominiums have already benefited from the funding, which allowed them to implement energy efficiency measures.

Work at the national level

Net billing is a mechanism whereby a consumer (e.g., a utility company) can install a solar power plant and transfer part of the energy produced to the grid. At the same time, they pay only for the difference between their own generation and consumption of energy from the grid. The self-generation mechanism increases the number of objects for which SPPs is profitable even without a green tariff, including public institutions and utilities.

Ecoclub promotes just low-carbon transition at the community level by helping to identify barriers and needs for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Communities better understand the barriers that hinder the transition. That's why we work with them to implement pilot projects and develop local solutions. In 2024, our work to improve legislation was based on proposals from 131 communities that participated in the consultations we organized throughout the year. Such an approach allows Ecoclub to actively communicate their needs to the national authorities and international partners.

In 2024, Ecoclub prepared two appeals to the NEURC with proposals to improve regulation in the field of renewable energy:

- Simplification of documentation for rooftop solar power plants.
- Clarifications regarding electricity producers under the self-generation mechanism (net billing).

The responses to these appeals allowed us to prepare a detailed instruction for communities: "Self-generation of electricity (net billing): basic aspects of implementation and the basis of legal regulation in Ukraine ".

Cooperation with the Energy Efficiency Fund

Based on the preliminary analysis and prepared documentation, Ecoclub submitted a proposal to include financing for heat pumps in the GreenDim program of the State Energy Efficiency Fund. The Fund supported the proposal.

Heat pump installation in multi-story buildings ensures affordable hot water for residents during warm periods by heating on-site the heat carrier supplied by the boiler facility to the building. This localized heating of the heat carrier, which is supplied to the building's heat substation with

a lower temperature, subsequently reduces heat losses within aging distribution networks.

Under the GreenDim program, 47 condominiums have applied to install solar power plants and heat pumps. The first two applications were submitted by condominiums from Rivne, with a total budget of approximately UAH 6,000,000.

Submission of comments and proposals on legislative acts and strategic documents

In 2024, work continued on amending the Concept of the State Targeted Economic Program for Stimulating the Development of Distributed Electricity Generation from Renewable Energy Sources.

Decentralized generation is a model of energy supply in which electricity is produced by many small and medium-sized producers, not just a few large companies. Such a system is based on climate-neutral technologies, primarily renewable energy, installed in communities. Development of decentralized generation simultaneously:

— Increases the energy independence of communities — allows them to provide themselves with electricity even when disconnected from the national grid.

— Strengthens the resilience of energy infrastructure, making it less vulnerable to shelling and accidents.

Ecoclub proposed 10 amendments to the Concept of the State Targeted Economic Program to Stimulate the Development of Distributed Electricity Generation from RES for the period up to 2030. All changes were taken into account by the Ministry of Energy, a*nd the most important of them were*:

- While the program provided state support for power supply systems (energy storage facilities), it did not set specific targets. Ecoclub proposed a target of 200,000 installed power supply systems by active consumers during the program's first stage. Looking ahead, the goal is to increase this to 500,000 power supply systems by 2030 and to establish autonomous power supply systems in communities.
- Heat pumps will be considered as a RES technology that is a part of the power supply system. This grants access to the state support for the installation of heat pumps under this program, also contributing to the district heating reform.

Comments and proposals on two Documents: the Concept of the "State Target Program for the Energy Modernization of Heat Energy Production Enterprises in State or Municipal Ownership until 2030" and the Draft Program. *Key proposals:*

- State policy in the district heating sector should provide for tariff deregulation and a gradual transition to market-based pricing principles, including the implementation of such rules in the energy resource market (e.g., gas), which would reduce consumers' motivation to switch to individual heating solutions.
- Ensure that the tariff structure for heat energy production, supply, and transmission includes expenses related to modernization, capital repairs, reconstruction of district heating systems, and the introduction of new technologies (such as heat production from renewable energy sources).
- Costs incurred by producers for energy efficiency measures should be mandatorily included in the tariff.
- Resolve the issue of existing debt among heat supply companies (HSCs).
- Update sector-specific technical regulations used as guidance materials in the district heating sector.
- Gradually equip 100% of Ukraine's residential buildings with individual heating substations (IHSs).

Proposals for the National Energy and Climate Plan of Ukraine for 2025–2030:

- Introduce an incentive tariff for heat energy generated from renewable energy sources (RES);
- Introduce tax exemptions for the import of RES-based equipment;
- Improve the auction system for allocating RES support quotas;
- Introduce a market premium mechanism for RES electricity producers;
- Define clear deadlines for the implementation of the programs;

Emphasize the need for harmonized actions in developing plans and revising regulatory acts to avoid duplication of documents.

Proposals for the Draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine to Simplify the Conditions for Doing Business".

- Amend legislation to simplify the permitting procedure for solar power plants;
- Remove restrictions on grid feed-in by generating units owned by active consumers;
- Strengthen the liability of transmission system operators and distribution system operators for failure or delay in fulfilling their obligations regarding technical conditions issuance, application processing, and other procedures prescribed by the legislation in the field of self-generation.

These proposals were NOT accepted; advocacy efforts for their inclusion are ongoing.

Additional comments were submitted on:

Legislation on the implementation of the concepts of Citizen Energy Communities and Renewable Energy Communities, in accordance with Article 16 of Directive (EU) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU, and Article 22 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. The document is currently being revised by the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine.

Comments and proposals on the Draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding the Implementation of EU Legislation in the Field of Renewable Energy Sources". The document is currently being revised by the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine.

Ecoclub's participation in the negotiation process on Ukraine's accession to the EU

Ecoclub became a part of the negotiation process on Ukraine's accession to the EU by joining two working (negotiation) groups to prepare negotiating positions: on energy issues, on the environment and climate change.

The composition of the working groups was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. To participate in the process, it was necessary to confirm experience and track of records in the relevant areas, in particular in improving Ukrainian legislation.

Advocating for green recovery at the international level

Speech at Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024

During the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2024) in Berlin, Natalia Kholodova, project manager of Ecoclub, emphasized the key role of municipalities in the development of renewable energy and the need for their support from the state, international financial institutions, and NGOs. She emphasized that the demand for renewable energy among Ukrainian communities is significant — Ecoclub has received more than 600 applications for the installation of solar power plants for critical infrastructure. However, municipalities are simultaneously hindered by a lack of financial resources, limited technical expertise, and insufficient quality control during project implementation. Overcoming these obstacles necessitates the development of targeted financial mechanisms that consider the specific needs of communities, supply technical support, and strengthen the capacity of local authorities.

Civil society organizations such as Ecoclub play an important role in this process by acting as intermediaries between communities, financial institutions, and project implementers. In addition to developing technical

documentation and quality control, CSOs can promote transparency in the implementation of initiatives, engage in expert assessments, and advocate for legislative changes at the national level. Ecoclub's work shows that using renewable energy is already making a real difference: solar power plants are helping communities save money and keep essential services running during blackouts. The joint work of the government, donors, and civil society will allow these initiatives to be scaled up, making renewable energy the basis for Ukraine's sustainable and resilient development.

Participation in the ReBuild Ukraine 2024 conference

In November Ecoclub took part in the international exhibition and conference ReBuild Ukraine 2024 in Warsaw (Poland). During the exhibition, we set up a stand with information about the organization's activities and presented 9 investment projects received from partner communities to attract funding for the development of renewable energy sources.

Under the content part of the event, Natalia Lytvyn, Project Coordinator, spoke at the panel discussion "Green Reconstruction of Ukrainian Communities: Key Lessons from the 2023–2024 Recovery Projects". During her speech, she voiced proposals that were part of advocacy in the field of energy and environmental issues, in particular:

- request for the construction of SPPs for utilities and resulting benefits;
- the need to create a financial mechanism that would provide communities with direct access to funding.

Advocacy trip to the Czech Republic and Germany

In May–June 2024, Ecoclub, with the support of the Czech organization NESEHNUTÍ, took part in the advocacy trip to the Czech Republic and Germany. The main tasks were:

- search for partners for the sustainable recovery of Ukrainian communities;
- promote the green reconstruction of Ukraine in the Czech media;
- Raise EUR 40,000 to install a solar power plant at a children's hospital in Zaporizhzhya together with NESEHNUTÍ and the German charity foundation wirWerk gemeinnützige GmbH. The documentation for the project was developed in December 2024.

Ecoclub members took part in the UNLOCK conference. We presented their activities and cooperation experience with communities in deploying renewable energy sources for public facilities. Also emphasized the role of non-governmental organizations in accelerating sustainable recovery.

In Prague, Ecoclub met with Tomáš Kopeční, Special Representative for Ukraine's Recovery in the Czech Republic and discussed:

- support for communities in implementing sustainable projects;
- the need to finance decentralized renewable energy for hospitals and water utilities;
- list of requests from communities that need partners and funding to implement RES projects we brought with us;

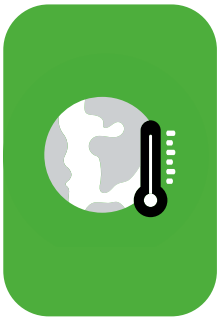
Ecoclub also met with Alena Dering, a representative of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. We discussed support for Ukrainian municipalities in climate change adaptation projects, capacity building, and emphasized the importance of international internships.

- ***Participation in the conference "Navigating Challenges and Shared Good Practices in Climate Action from Local to National Level"***

During the conference in Tbilisi, Olena Kondratyuk emphasized the need to take climate aspects into account in the process of rebuilding communities.

Installing SPPs for critical infrastructure, such as water utilities and hospitals, can reduce dependence on grid electricity, especially during blackouts.

Olena also drew attention to the need to create working groups with mentoring support to develop SECAPs, which will help improve the quality of strategic planning in communities. Ecoclub's experience proves that such approaches accelerate sustainable recovery and help communities attract funding for RES development.



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 recovery 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 European Commission's Covenant of Mayors initiative 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 ambitious and just national climate policy, taking into account the views of communities and the public.

Cooperation with communities in climate change adaptation

Rebuilding and restoring Ukraine requires the investment of enormous resources and significant infrastructure and organizational changes. Adaptation to climate change requires the same. In the absence of adaptation measures, annual losses could amount to up to 4.4% of global GDP, which is also true for Ukraine. Consideration of the climate change adaptation needs at the recovery planning stage will help to combine these needs and avoid unnecessary costs. For example, when rebuilding destroyed roads in cities, rainwater drainage systems could be integrated, and permeable tiles should be used for sidewalks, which reduces the frequency of intersection flooding during heavy rains. To achieve this, Ecoclub works both with communities and at the national level.

In 2024, the Ecoclub focused on ***explaining the need for climate change adaptation*** to a wider range of community representatives and developing specific adaptation measures. Among the activities:

- organizing and participating in 10 seminars for municipalities and activists;
- providing more than 10 consultations on climate change adaptation;
- 10 comments for the media;
- organizing a role-playing game on planning adaptation measures for 11 communities;

We worked with the Zhytomyr and Kostopil communities to ***plan adaptation measures*** in the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), and for Zaporizhzhya, we developed a section on "Adaptation to Climate Change during Recovery" in the city's Green Recovery Book. In January 2024, the Rivne City Council approved an updated SECAP for the city, which took into account Ecoclub's recommendations on climate change adaptation.

To minimize economic losses from the effects of climate change, it is necessary to support adaptation measures in all sectors of the economy. ***Ecoclub will continue to work at the local level***:

- propagate the integration of climate change adaptation into local development strategies and plans;
- cooperate with communities to develop and implement practical solutions that reduce the detrimental effects of climate change.

Internships for CSOs and local government representatives

In cooperation with the Czech Foundation Nadace Partnerství (Partnership Foundation) and Ecosphere NGO. Ecoclub helped 60 representatives of local governments, civil society, small and medium-sized businesses, and journalists attend thematic training sessions to get a deeper understanding of the need to consider adaptation measures in recovery planning. The participants studied the Czech experience on the following topics:

- 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, they organized the event "Czech Experience in Adapting Communities to Climate Change".

Goal 3 Local civil society organizations (CSOs) are a driving force and a channel for disseminating practices and solutions in the climate and energy sector

Objectives:

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

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

Ecoclub has always prioritized supporting local CSOs, as they play a key role in implementing climate and energy solutions that meet the needs of communities. CSOs not only adapt global approaches to the local context, but also become a powerful channel for disseminating best practices, knowledge and solutions. Supporting initiatives such as the Ukrainian Climate Network and the Energy Transition Coalition helps to consolidate efforts in the field of sustainable energy and expands the influence of civil society on government policies.

Participation in international platforms such as CAN Europe and EEB opens up access to new tools, expertise, and partnerships, enabling Ukrainian communities to respond more effectively to the challenges of climate change.

Participation in the Board of the Ukrainian Climate Network

Ecoclub's ability to influence national policy for environmental protection is based on a network of environmental NGOs that we develop and support. We have been actively involved in this through our membership in the Board of the Ukrainian Climate Network since 2016. This network, comprising 40 organizations, is Ukraine's largest coalition of climate organizations advocating public interests at both local and national levels.

Coordination of the work of the Energy Transition Coalition

The Energy Transition Coalition is a group of civil society organizations and municipalities that have joined forces to promote Ukraine's transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. The Coalition represents the interests of communities as current and future producers of electricity from renewable sources.

Together, members contribute to shaping national laws on climate and energy by developing and commenting on legislative proposals to ensure their quality. In the past year, the Coalition's member communities benefited from 25 free consultations on energy and climate matters. Demonstrating the growing interest in RES, 27 communities applied to join the Coalition in 2024.

Membership in international CSO networks

Ecoclub joined two associations of NGOs:

- The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is a network of 180 environmental NGOs from 40 countries that advocates for environmental issues in the EU institutions. Membership will strengthen Ecoclub with expertise on EU environmental legislation and its application in the context of the EU-Ukraine Association process.
- The Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe) brings together 190 organizations from 38 European countries to influence international climate policy, including through climate negotiations. Membership will strengthen Ecoclub's influence on energy and climate policy in the EU and Ukraine, especially in the area of green recovery.

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.

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

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

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

4.5. Ecoclub has decent and competitive jobs.

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

Organizational development of Ecoclub

Ecoclub is constantly working to develop its capacity and increase its expertise. In 2024, we developed seven policies (on cybersecurity, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, a security plan, etc.) and a manual that regulates and simplifies procedures within the organization.

We also organized three joint training sessions for the majority of employees (on digital security, first aid, and a code of conduct for managers). ***Results:***

- two employees were trained in the construction and design of SPPs;
- two employees completed an internship in the Czech Republic on climate change adaptation and renewable energy;
- two employees took a course at the Ukrainian Catholic University on “Monitoring and Evaluation in Strategic Planning for the Recovery and Development of Ukrainian Communities and the Activities of Non-Governmental Organizations.”

Communication

Ecoclub communicates to engage stakeholders in the energy transition and sustainable reconstruction of the country. In 2024, our main target audience remained local governments, energy managers, directors and employees of specialized departments of city councils. Another important target audience was international partners and donors. We communicate to them civil society's stance on the importance of supporting sustainable recovery, especially through better laws and the implementation of reforms.

The main topics of communication were:

- disseminating the templates of documents and decisions developed by Ecoclub;
- promoting successful community experience in developing renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change adaptation;
- legislative changes and building support for our position papers;
- Promoting the benefits of sustainable recovery at the levels of municipalities and central government.

Key results:

- **2 000 000+** views — the total reach of communication materials
- **500+** posts on social media
- **300** mentions in the media
- **60+** articles on the web-site
- **24** issues of the Energy and Climate Digest for Communities
- **13** videos were produced about the successful experience of communities in developing RES

Ecoclub experts also joined the educational project "Listen with your ears" in which we explained to high school students about energy efficiency and nuclear power.

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 climate change vulnerability assessment.

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

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

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

Rivne community and green recovery

Ecoclub monitors the compliance of the city council's decisions with environmental goals and strategic city documents, including the SEAP. It also continues to influence strategic documents: in 2024 the organization's comments were taken into account in the Rivne Community Development Strategy until 2028.

Advocacy work to cancel the procurement of diesel minibuses for city transportation

Ecoclub has actively worked on improving how Rivne's green spaces are cared for and on developing a plan for sustainable transportation in the city. Since 2023, we have been monitoring the city council's plans to purchase diesel minibuses. The plan contradicted the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which is enshrined in the SECAP. Therefore, Ecoclub criticized this decision and demanded to develop the existing trolleybus network instead. We conducted an information campaign, met with members of the city council, and spoke at its session meetings. The attention of the city residents, advocacy work, and an appeal to the bank that was supposed to provide loans for the purchase of the buses allowed us to reduce the number of purchased buses from 100 to 40.

The desire to avoid public criticism and confrontation with the civil society should encourage the city council to put such decisions up for public consultations in advance and to take into account public comments.

Protecting green areas and water bodies in the community

Ecoclub has long focused on the Ustia River, which runs through the entire city and is vital for local wildlife, adapting to climate change, and recreation. Ecoclub provided recommendations for the renovation of the Hydropark park — a system of artificial reservoirs next to the river that are surrounded by a green zone and affect the river's condition. We also opposed the placement of technical structures in the Ustia wetlands and fought to preserve its unique ecosystem.

Another environmental victory for the community was the municipality's decision not to asphalt the park for a parking lot for city public transport minibuses.

Ecoclub united the residents of the area and advocated for the preservation of the park at city council sessions. Thanks to the demands of Rivne residents, the city council found an alternative site that did not require the destruction of a green zone.

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.

Ecoclub continued to work on the effectiveness and transparency of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure. During martial law, the government abolished the need for EIA for certain categories of projects, which Ecoclub sees as a risk to the environment.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool to protect against infrastructure projects that could harm the environment. Key to EIA is holding public hearings and requiring responses to public feedback. A company proposing a project commissions an EIA report from experts and then presents it for public review. The EIA process concludes with a decision on the project, which may include specific environmental safeguards.

Policy brief "REPowerEU: opportunities and challenges for Ukraine"

The Ukraine Facility Plan is a €50 billion financial support program for Ukraine from the European Union in 2024-2027, which will be used to finance the state budget of Ukraine, stimulate investment, and provide technical support for the implementation of the program.

During martial law, some energy projects are excluded from the EIA procedure, and the government plans (as defined in the Ukraine Facility plan implementation indicators) foresee simplification permitting procedures for RES projects. The EU has created the REPowerEU initiative to address this trend: A plan to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels and rapidly promote green transition. This initiative provides for certain rules and restrictions that allow such simplification.

In order to understand whether Ukraine is ready to restrict EIA for RES projects, Ecoclub has developed an analytical paper "REPowerEU: Opportunities and Challenges for Ukraine". The describes of the European initiative, and analyses possible risks and benefits of its implementation. Ecoclub's research indicates that further simplifying EIA for recovery projects is challenging and requires significant effort. Rushing such changes could negatively impact the environment and local communities.

Cooperation with international organizations

Ecoclub strengthened cooperation and promoted the EIA topic at the national and international levels. We interacted with WWF, Bankwatch, and the networks of CSOs CAN-Europe (180 organizations) and EEB (190 organizations). We also ran an information campaign to encourage more CSOs to get involved in shaping EIA procedure.

Ecoclub took part in consultations with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) on the Ukraine Facility plan (EU support program for Ukraine). We conveyed our position on the EIA through calls and official appeals, and at the ReBuild Ukraine conference we presented our position on the need for public participation in reconstruction.

We prepared several joint positions with international organizations on plans to rebuild and reform environmental legislation. As a result, the European Commission's report of October 2024 contains conclusions and recommendations promoted in Ecoclub's position. The European Commission's report concluded that further simplification of EIA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (a similar assessment for government plans) is unacceptable. It also noted their poor implementation during the war and stressed the need for stronger public involvement, information access, and environmental oversight.

Our cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) provided additional leverage to encourage adherence to proper EIA procedures. Participation in meetings with the EBRD Directorate allowed Ecoclub to promote transparency and environmental accountability in projects financed by the bank. Ecoclub prepared proposals on access to information for risk category A and B projects as part of the discussion of EBRD policies: AIP (Access to Information Policy) and ESP (Environmental and Social Policy).

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME for 2024 – UAH 101,813,729, of which:

1. Funds for project implementation

Donor	Project name	Amount, UAH
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Renewables for Resilient Ukraine (R2U)	52,117,719
	Strengthening climate action in Ukrainian communities	1,350,366
European climate foundation	To enhance a deployment of community-owned renewable energy solutions by improving regulatory frameworks, strengthening municipal capacity for sustainable energy planning, and facilitating access to tailored financial instruments in Ukrainian communities	2,853,565
	To empower 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	2,762,732
	Promote the use of renewable energy sources in municipal institutions	755,523
	To mainstream low carbon heating approaches among Ukrainian municipalities and to prepare Ukrainian society for a reduction in energy supplies	244,532
Centre for enviromental initiatives Ecoaction	Closing the loop: a just energy transition designed by capitals and regions	6,520,000
The international research and exchanges board (IREX)	Ukraine Rapid Response Fund" (URRF) / Improving the energy security of the Kodymska Hospital of the Kodymska community, Odesa region	3,108,964
Oxfam GB	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 SPPs for water supply)	2,173,764
	Enhance the Artsyz water station capacity by installing a backup solar power plant	638,643
Austausch e.V.	Ekonet. Strengthening the transnational NGO network for climate and environmental protection	1,976,607
European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency	Addressing the needs of clean energy transition willingness of Ukrainian cities leveraging innovative financing examples and measures (ANEW-LIFE)	1,267,869
VNG INTERNATIONAL B.V	Water for Kherson: immediate damage reconstruction and sustainable solutions	1,072,200

Donor	Project name	Amount, UAH
CEE Bankwatch Network	Improvement of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) tools in Ukraine to ensure public participation and compliance with environmental conservation aspects during the reconstruction of Ukraine and the expenditure of funds from the Ukrainian Facility	749,251
Deutsche Energie-Agentur GmbH (DENA)	Resilient decentralised energy solutions at district/ neighbourhood level and green emergency aid for Ukrainian communities	641,170
Heinrich Böll Stiftung	Supporting municipal participation in the energy transition and climate policy development	600,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Increasing the institutional capacity of the NGO Ecoclub	282,258
Nadace Partnerství	Partnership for sustainable recovery of Ukraine	221,760
Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)	Building the ecofeminist movement	41,280

2. Funds for the installation of solar power plants

Donor	Amount, UAH
JSC Ukrgasvydobuvannya	5,887,700
CO CF “Energy of Victory of Ukraine”	3,106,350
NextEnergy Foundation	2,488,687
LLC "BOHUSLAVENERGY"	2,040,000
wirWerk gGmbH	1,742,100
LLC PV PROGRESYVKA-BETA	1,556,848
"LLC CLEAN ENERGY 2011	1,195,426
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	833,453
NESEHNUTI Brno	774,766
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Embassy of Switzerland in Ukraine	715,555
Quintas Energy SA	663,781
Charitable Fund "Leleka-Ukraine"	289,099

Donations	Amount, UAH
Companies	86,495
Individuals	10,208

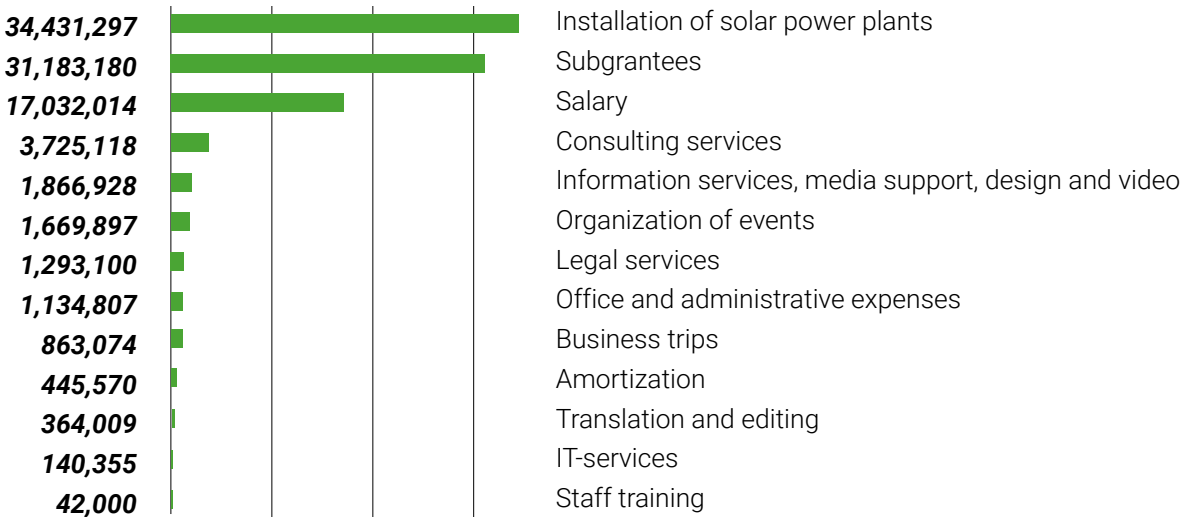
3. Funds for other activities

Donor	Amount, UAH
Oxfam	537,502
International Renaissance Foundation	62,498

4. Other incomes

Source	Amount, UAH
Income from exchange rate differences	423,586
Transferred equipment	20,000
Membership contributions	1,473

EXPENSES for 2024 – UAH 94,191,348, of which:



PARTNERSHIPS with organizations

Network memberships

CAN Europe · EEB European Environmental Bureau · Українська кліматична мережа · Енергетичний перехід · WASH Cluster Water Sanitation Hygiene

Partnerships with government

Міністерство енергетики України · Міністерство розвитку громад та територій України · Міністерство захисту довкілля та природних ресурсів України · Фонд Енергоефективності · Національна комісія, що здійснює державне регулювання у сферах енергетики та комунальних послуг

Assistance from countries *(governments, foreign ministries, embassies, etc.)* ***and their humanitarian organizations***

DRC Danish Refugee Council · giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH · NRC Norwegian Refugee Council · Norway in Ukraine Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kyiv · IREX · Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark Danida · IKI International Climate Initiative · VNG International · Посольство Федеративної Республіки Німеччина Київ · Brot für die Welt · People in Need

Partnerships with NGOs and foundations

CEE Bankwatch Network · Energy Act for Ukraine Foundation · Global 100% RE Ukraine · Greenpeace · partnerství nadace · RePower Ukraine Charitable Foundation · екодія · Ekoltava · Екосфера · pláto · Nese Hnutí · WWF · wirWerk · Хмельницький енергетичний кластер · Partnerschaftsverein Berlin Partner – Kharkiv e.V. · Yellow Blue Force Foundation · ВУП Волинський інститут права · dixigroup · Український екологічний клуб Зелена Хвиля ecoclubua.com · Угода мерів щодо клімату та енергії в Україні

Help from businesses

fortum · Menlo · Scatec · SOLSOL

Companies

altelaw

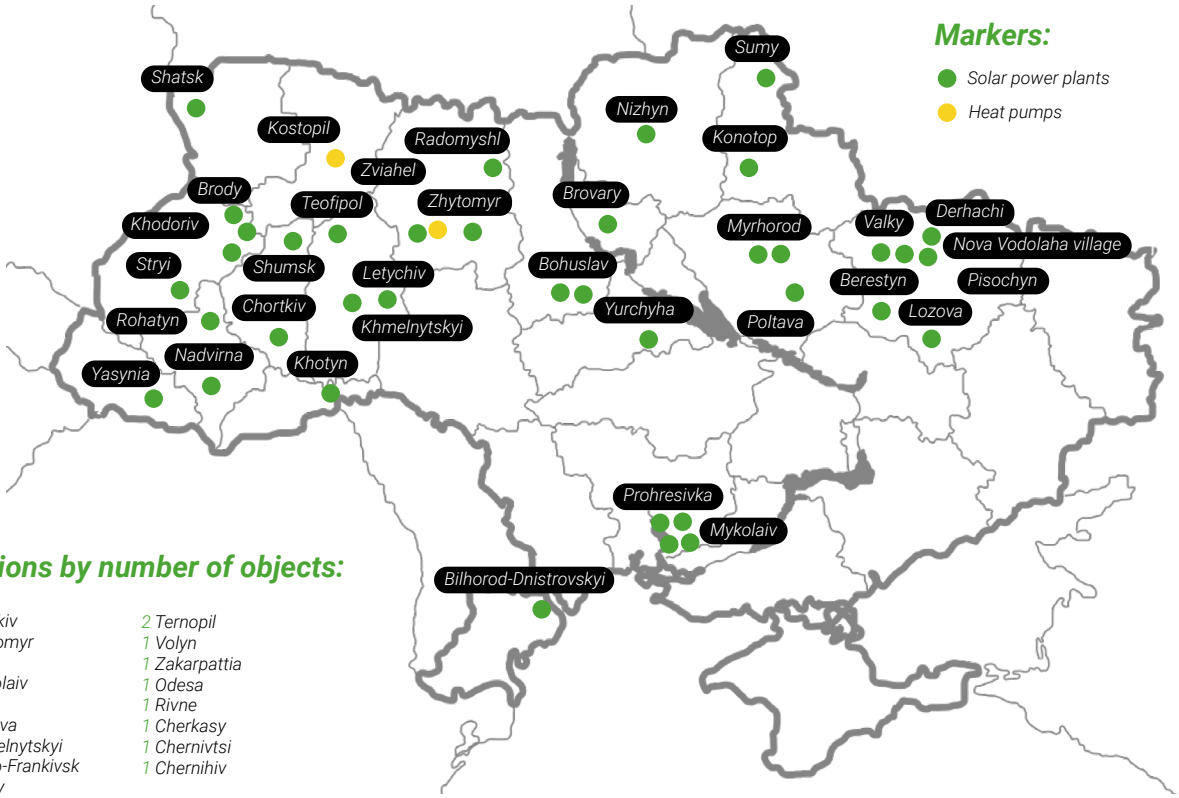
Partnerships with international organizations and foundations

AFIN finance for doing good · Heinrich Böll Stiftung Київ Україна · BluEnergy Revolution · Austausch for a European Civil Society · EnerSaveCapital · Climate Alliance · European Climate Foundation · Fifthvolt · KfW · Oxfam · EnGreen · Міжнародний фонд відродження

PARTNERSHIPS with communities

- Ananiv Territorial Community
- Artsyz City Council
- Balta City Council
- Bar Urban Hromada
- Bashtanka Urban Hromada
- Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi City Council
- Blyzniuky Settlement Council
- Bohuslav City Council
- Bolhrad City Council
- Vyhoda Settlement Hromada
- Volodymyr-Volynskyi Urban Hromada
- Hirska Rural Territorial Community
- Horodenka City Council
- Horodnia Urban Hromada
- Hostomel Territorial Community
- Dykanka Territorial Community
- Drohobych Territorial Community
- Zhytomyr City Council
- Zviahel City Council
- Illintsi Territorial Community
- Kalush City Territorial Community
- Koziatyn Territorial Community
- Kodyma Territorial Community
- Korosten City Council
- Koriukivka City Territorial Community
- Kostopil City Council
- Krasyliv Territorial Community
- Kremenets Territorial Community
- Kulykivka Settlement Territorial Community
- Letychiv Settlement Council
- Lviv City Council
- Merefa City Territorial Community
- Myrhorod Territorial Community
- Nadvirna Urban Community
- Nedryhailiv Settlement Territorial Community
- Nizhyn City Council
- Pavlohrad City Territorial Community
- Palanka Rural Territorial Community
- Pereshchepyne Urban Territorial Community
- Pustomyty Territorial Community
- Pokrovsk Settlement Territorial Community
- Radomyshl Urban Hromada
- Rivne City Council
- Rohatyn Urban Hromada
- Rokytne Settlement Territorial Community
- Romny Urban Hromada
- Sambir Territorial Community
- Slavuta Territorial Community
- Skorokhodove Settlement Territorial Community
- Sosnytsia Settlement Territorial Community
- Stanislav Rural Territorial Community
- Starokostiantyniv City Territorial Community
- Sumy City Council
- Teofipol Settlement Council
- Turka City Council
- Khmelnytskyi City Council
- Shabivka Rural Territorial Community
- Shumsk City Council
- Yasinya Territorial Community

LIST OF INSTALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES



Regions by number of objects:

6 Kharkiv
4 Zhytomyr
4 Lviv
4 Mykolaiv
3 Kyiv
3 Poltava
3 Khmelnytskyi
2 Ivano-Frankivsk
2 Sumy
2 Ternopil
1 Volyn
1 Zakarpattia
1 Odesa
1 Rivne
1 Cherkasy
1 Chernivtsi
1 Chernihiv

1. Solar power plants

No.	Community	Region	Name of the company	Capacity, kW	Battery capacity, kWh	Cost, UAH
1	Berestyn	Kharkiv	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Berestyn City Hospital”	31.15	–	878,705
2	Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi	Odesa	Municipal enterprise “Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Water Utility”	67.8	56,32	3,494,464
3	Bohuslav	Kyiv	KP “Bohuslav Housing and Communal Enterprise of the Boguslav City Council”	75.9	–	1,969,535

No.	Community	Region	Name of the company	Capacity, kW	Battery capacity, kWh	Cost, UAH
4	Bohuslav	Kyiv	Municipal enterprise «Bohuslav Housing and Utility Enterprise (sewage treatment facilities)	73.08	—	2,508,817
5	Brovary	Kyiv	Brovary Multidisciplinary Clinical Hospital	63.18	—	1,706,872
6	Brody	Lviv	Municipal non-profit enterprise “Brody Central City Hospital”	66.4	—	1,382,227
7	Brody	Lviv	Municipal enterprise "Brody Water Utility"	100.28	—	2,850,846
8	Valky	Kharkiv	Municipal not-commercial enterprise “Valky Central District Hospital”	35.2	—	1,001,935
9	Derhachi	Kharkiv	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Derhachi Central Hospital” of Dergachi City Council	18.48	30	1,398,640
10	Zhytomyr	Zhytomyr	Municipal Enterprise "Pavlusenko Hospital No. 2"	105.3	30.72	3,213,658
11	Zviahel	Zhytomyr	Municipal enterprise "Zviahel Water Utility"	153.45	—	5,204,887
12	Konotop	Sumy	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Konotop Central District Hospital named after Acad. M. Davydov”	30.68	—	1,729,886
13	Letychiv	Khmelnytskyi	Letychiv Multidisciplinary Hospital	63.72	—	1,609,616
14	Lozova	Kharkiv	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Lozova Territorial Medical Association”	36.96	—	888,028
15	Mykolaiv	Mykolaiv	Municipal Institution "Mykolaiv City Geriatric Home of Mercy"	20.43	31.8	1,325,610
16	Mykolaiv	Mykolaiv	Mykolaiv City Council Municipal Enterprise "Maternity Hospital No. 3"	85.8	148.4	6,488,164

No.	Community	Region	Name of the company	Capacity, kW	Battery capacity, kWh	Cost, UAH
17	Mykolaiv	Mykolaiv	Mykolaiv City Council's City Emergency Hospital	66	95.4	4,492,264
18	Myrhorod	Poltava	Municipal enterprise "Teplovodservice" of Myrhorod City Council	32.7	–	1,207,256
19	Myrhorod	Poltava	Municipal Non-Profit Enterprise "Myrhorod Intensive Care Hospital"	73.45	61.44	3,312,539
20	Nadvirna	Ivano-Frankivsk	Municipal Enterprise "Nadvirna Non-Profit Primary Health Care Center"	12.29	20	1,079,919
21	Nizhyn	Chernigiv	Municipal enterprise "Nizhyn City Maternity Hospital" of the Nizhyn City Council	80.5	66.3	3,417,071
22	Nova Vodolaha village	Kharkiv	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Novovodolazka Central Hospital”	36.49	–	906,926
23	Pisochyn	Kharkiv	Municipal non-commercial enterprise of the Pisochyn Village Council “Primary Health Care Center No. 2 of the Kharkiv District”	18.48	30	1,656,619
24	Poltava	Poltava	Municipal Enterprise "Children's City Clinical Hospital of Poltava City Council"	70.8	33.6	3,847,385
25	Prohresivka	Mykolaiv	Prohresivka self-funded municipal enterprise Berezansky village council	6.78	21.2	1,221,496
26	Radomyshl	Zhytomyr	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Radomyshl Hospital”	22.42	–	623,503
27	Rohatyn	Ivano-Frankivsk	Subsidiary company Rohatyn-Vodokanal	36.22	40.96	2,401,312
28	Stryi	Lviv	““Intensive Care Hospital” Municipal non-profit enterprise ‘Territorial medical association “Stryi city united hospital” (MNP “TMO ”SMOL”)	32.76	–	1,011,269
29	Sumy	Sumy	Municipal enterprise "Miskvodokanal"	100.57	81.92	5,811,199

No.	Community	Region	Name of the company	Capacity, kW	Battery capacity, kWh	Cost, UAH
30	Teofipol	Khmelnytskyi	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Teofipol Primary Healthcare Center”	30.42	28.8	1,900,202
31	Khmelnytskyi	Khmelnytskyi	Municipal enterprise “Khmelnytskyi City Infectious Disease Hospital”	60.38	28.8	2,362,502
32	Khodoriv	Lviv	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Khodoriv City Hospital”	19.31	30	1,808,261
33	Khotyn	Chernivtsi	MNE "Khotyn Multidisciplinary Hospital"	157.95	—	2,938,279
34	Chortkiv	Ternopil	KNP "Chortkiv Central City Hospital"	52.33	40.8	2,299,104
35	Shatsk	Volyn	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Shatsk Hospital of Shatsk Settlement Council”	35.1	—	1,002,218
36	Shumsk	Ternopil	Municipal non-commercial enterprise of the Shumsk City Council “Shumsk City Hospital”	60.48	—	1,687,570
37	Yurchyha	Cherkasy	Municipal enterprise “Kamiankavodokanal”	51.48	—	1,703,440
38	Yasynia	Zakarpattia	Municipal non-commercial enterprise “Yasynia City Hospital”	30.48	—	1,350,611

2. Heat pumps

No.	Community	Region	Name of the company	Capacity, kW	Cost, UAH
1	Zviahel	Zhytomyr	Dolphin Child Development Center	50	3,548,000
2	Kostopil	Rivne	Kostopil Multidisciplinary Hospital of intensive care	16	1,614,000

Thank you for being with us!

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