



**Ecoclub
Annual Report**

2025

Preface



In 2025, Ecoclub continued to do what we believe matters most: helping Ukrainian municipalities become more resilient today while laying the foundation for a safe, climate-resilient Ukraine of tomorrow. We supported the installation of solar power plants for hospitals, water utilities, and social care institutions; helped municipalities plan their energy future; advanced climate adaptation efforts; advocated for strong environmental standards; and contributed to improvements in national policy.

To me, these achievements are more than numbers or completed projects. They demonstrate that even during a prolonged war, Ukrainian civil society is doing more than responding to immediate crises—it continues to help build a country where decisions are made with respect for people, communities, the environment, and future generations.

This is how Ecoclub sees its role: combining practical support for municipalities with advocacy for climate and environmental policies that strengthen Ukraine and bring it closer to its European future.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrii Martyniuk

Executive Director of the NGO "Ecoclub"

About Ecoclub



Ecoclub is a public organization from Rivne that has been working since 1998 to preserve the environment. For more than 20 years, we have focused on energy conservation, as the energy sector has one of the greatest impacts on the environment. We also work on community development, supporting local environmental initiatives, environmental impact assessment advocacy and climate education. We believe that nature is a value in itself, regardless of its practical benefit to humans.

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

Vision of Ecoclub:

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

We inspire people by:

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

We believe, that increasing energy efficiency and the spread of renewable energy sources are vital measures to prevent further environmental degradation, including climate change. Such measures are a priority for the development of Ukraine.

Our Areas of Work



Sustainable energy



Environmental impact assessment



Adaptation to climate change



Building the capacity of municipalities



Saving district heating

Our strategic priorities:

- involvement of people in the formation and implementation of energy policy;
- progressive policy decisions in the energy sector at the local and national levels;
- available energy sources that do not harm the environment and climate;
- disseminating knowledge and empowering communities to adapt to climate changes;
- taking into account the opinion of communities on the decision to build industrial facilities;
- an effective procedure for environmental impact assessment in Ukraine, which makes it impossible to build industrial facilities that may pose a threat to people and the environment.

Ecoclub's Strategic Goals for 2023–2025:

Goal 1.



Large-scale improvements in energy efficiency and the deployment of renewable energy become a standard component of post-war community recovery and development plans.

Goal 2.



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

Goal 3.



Local civil society organizations serve as key drivers of change and as channels for sharing best practices and innovative climate and energy solutions.

Goal 4.



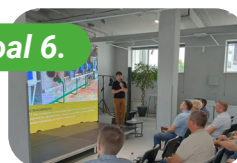
Ecoclub is a sustainable, accountable, and influential environmental organization in Ukraine that continuously improves its work and impact.

Goal 5.



The Rivne community develops in line with the principles of a green post-war recovery and actively implements nature-based solutions.

Goal 6.



Local governments acknowledge and assume responsibility for preventing and addressing environmental damage.

Board Members



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.



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.



Oksana Holovko,
Board member

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



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.



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)".

In 2025, two new members joined the Ecoclub's board:



Yuliia Kvitka,
Board member

Holds a PhD in Economics and a Master's degree in agro-chemistry and soil science, as well as in environmental and natural resource economics. She has worked in the field of sustainable development and environmental policy for over ten years, including at Ecoclub, where she worked on advocacy for reforming environmental impact assessment, legislative analysis, and promoting transparent environmental decision-making.



Vasyl Novachok,
Board member

Holds degrees in organizational and administrative management from Khmelnytskyi National University and Khmelnytskyi University of Economics and Entrepreneurship, and has taken part in energy and environmental study trips to Germany, Denmark, and the USA. Since 2016, he has worked within Khmelnytskyi City Council, currently serving as Deputy Mayor and Director of the Infrastructure Department. Under his involvement, Khmelnytskyi has installed a solar power plant at the infectious disease hospital, begun landfill reclamation and waste-complex construction, contracted 50 new trolleybuses, started new treatment facility construction, and adopted a green-space program that ended harmful tree "rejuvenation" pruning.

2025 in numbers



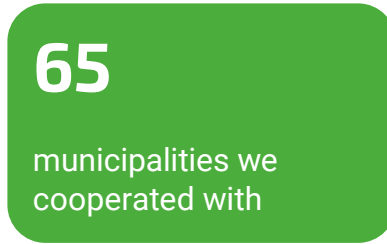
400+

consultations provided to municipalities during the development of Municipal Energy Plans (MEPs)



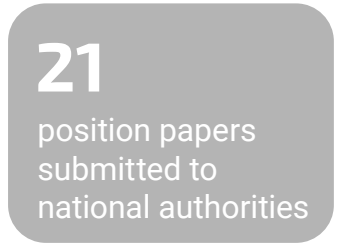
65

municipalities we cooperated with



21

position papers submitted to national authorities



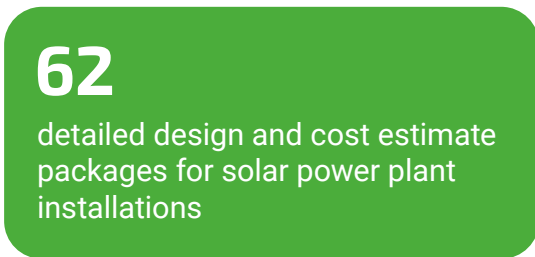
32

solar power plants installed for water utilities, hospitals, wastewater treatment facilities, and social care institutions, with a total PV capacity of 1,773 kW



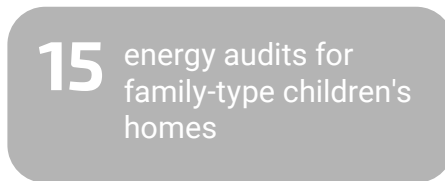
62

detailed design and cost estimate packages for solar power plant installations



15

energy audits for family-type children's homes



5

energy audits for social and healthcare institutions



10

feasibility studies for solar power plant installations



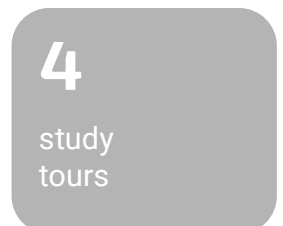
50

applications received and 3 winners selected in the Adapterra Awards climate adaptation competition



4

study tours



27+

training events



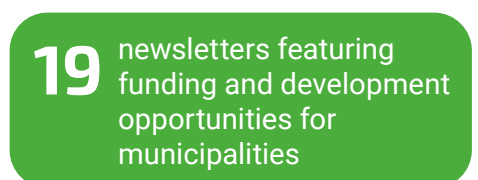
1000+

participants attended events



19

newsletters featuring funding and development opportunities for municipalities



6

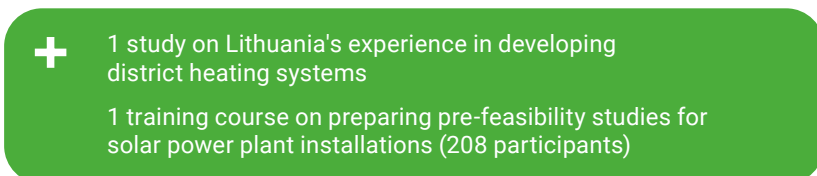
support mechanisms for community energy and climate solutions



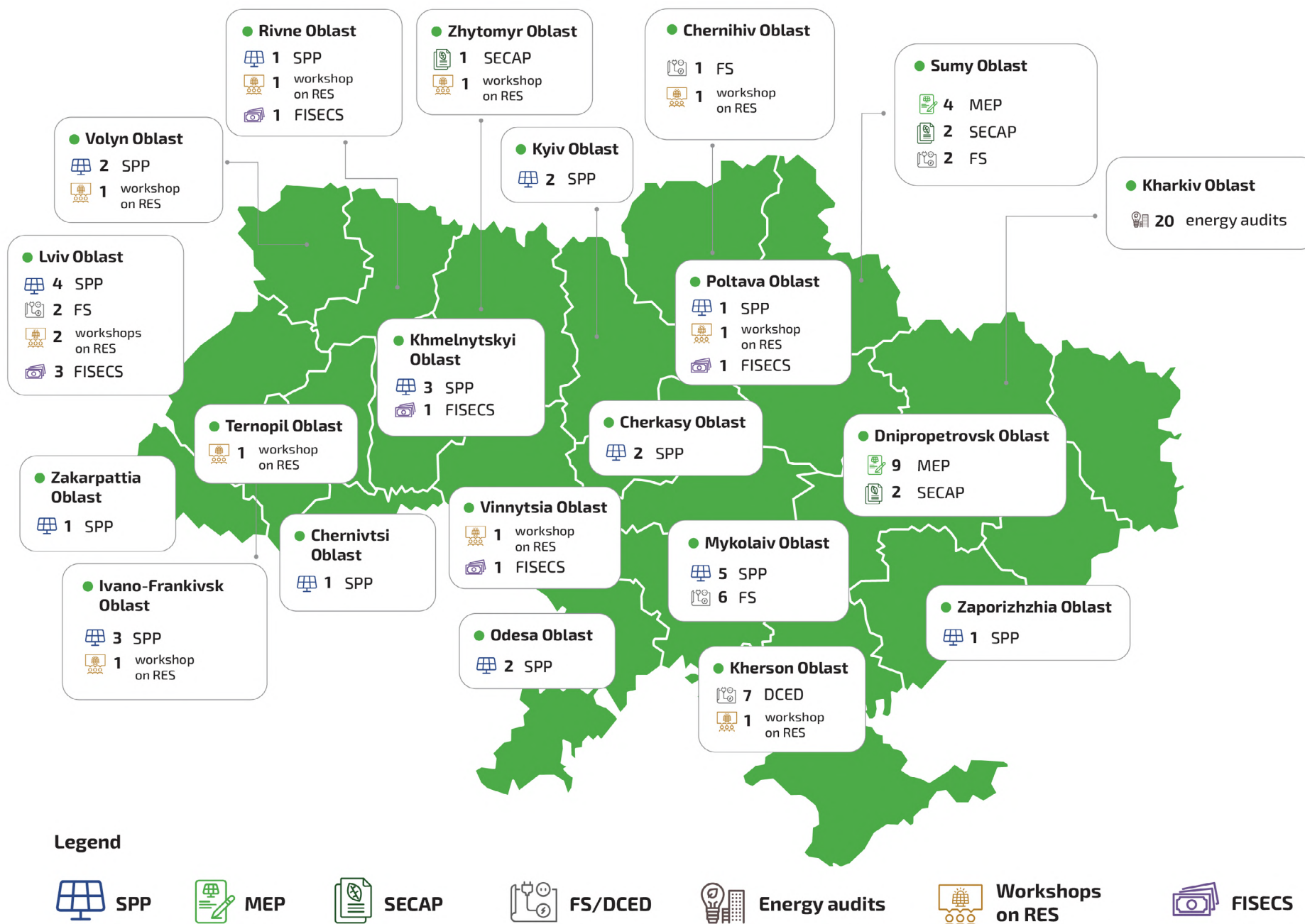
+

1 study on Lithuania's experience in developing district heating systems

1 training course on preparing pre-feasibility studies for solar power plant installations (208 participants)



Geographic scope of operations



In 2025, Ecoclub's work combined practical solutions in communities with impact on national-level policy. We helped communities install solar power plants, prepare energy plans, technical documentation, and financial instruments, while simultaneously using this practical experience to advocate for changes in legislation, permitting procedures, energy planning, and environmental safeguards.

This approach allows us to work on short-term and long-term challenges at the same time. In the short term, communities receive solutions that support the operation of hospitals, water utilities, treatment facilities, social institutions, and other critical infrastructure during power outages. In the long term, they gain plans, technical documents, knowledge, and examples that help attract funding, scale up renewable energy, and move toward climate neutrality.



That is why, for us, the results of 2025 are not just the number of installed plants, events held, or documents prepared. They are changes in communities' capacity to act independently, in the state's readiness to take practical experience from the ground into account, and in the emergence of new models for supporting energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change adaptation.

Terms and Abbreviations

-  **Renewable energy sources (RES)** – these include solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and other sources that renew naturally and are not depleted.
-  **Solar power plant (SPP)** – a system that converts solar energy into electricity using solar panels.
-  **Design and cost estimate documentation (DCED)** – a package of documents that includes technical solutions, drawings, and cost calculations needed to implement a project.
-  **Feasibility study (FS)** – a document that assesses the technical and financial viability of a project.
-  **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)** – a community's strategic document defining the measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve building energy efficiency, and adapt the community to climate change.
-  **Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)** – a procedure for assessing the environmental impact of a community's strategies, plans, and programs before their approval.
-  **Municipal energy plan (MEP)** – a community document that sets out goals, measures, and investments for energy development, improved energy efficiency, and the transition to renewable energy sources.
-  **CO₂ emissions** – emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Their main source is the burning of fossil fuels. CO₂ emissions are a key driver of climate change.
-  **FISECS** – a financial instrument for supporting energy and climate solutions.



Goal 1.

Renewable Energy Development

Why do we work on this?

Energy has a significant impact on the environment, which is why Ukraine's energy transformation — shifting to safer renewable energy sources (RES) for Ukrainians — is a priority area of Ecoclub's work. Today this transformation carries double significance: beyond reducing the greenhouse gas emissions driving the current climate catastrophe, RES also helps power critical infrastructure in communities.

Communities often lack the expert capacity on the ground, so we support them through training, assistance in preparing energy development plans, technical documentation for further RES projects, or direct implementation of such projects.

Knowing the real state of affairs and the needs of communities, we also work to identify shortcomings in Ukraine's RES-related legislation and put forward proposals for its improvement.



What was Ecoclub's main goal in this area in 2025?

To strengthen the energy resilience of communities and ensure the uninterrupted operation of critical infrastructure facilities — above all healthcare and water supply facilities — through the deployment of renewable energy solutions.



What we did to achieve this:

- 1 **We prepared preliminary feasibility studies and design and cost estimate documentation** for communities planning to install solar power plants at hospitals, water utilities, and other critical infrastructure facilities. These documents are required to calculate the plant's capacity, construction cost, and payback period; to obtain the necessary permits; to attract funding from donors or investors; and to find a contractor to implement the project.
- 2 **We supported the construction of solar power plants:** running tenders, selecting contractors, and monitoring the quality of the work. We also reviewed and approved technical documentation and supported the commissioning process so that the plants could operate at full capacity.
- 3 **We trained representatives of local authorities and staff of hospitals, water utilities, and other critical infrastructure facilities** on how to plan and implement energy projects. We ran trainings, provided consultations, and helped develop documents (municipal energy plans, sustainable energy and climate action plans), so that communities can implement RES solutions on their own.

What did we manage to achieve? The most significant changes

Over the course of 2025, together with partners and engaged experts, we:

- developed **10 feasibility studies** for the installation of solar power plants for communities in Mykolaiv, Sumy, and Lviv oblasts;
- installed **32 solar power plants and backup power systems** for social institutions and critical infrastructure facilities (water utilities, hospitals, treatment facilities, a psychoneurological boarding institution, a child development center);
- prepared **62 packages of design and cost estimate documentation** — all the technical and financial documents needed to begin construction of solar power plants or energy efficiency projects.

The documentation covers specific facilities and measures:

- **solar power plants** (for water utilities, outpatient clinics, and educational institutions)
- **heating systems** (for replacing or upgrading existing equipment at social facilities)
- **thermal modernization** (insulation and energy efficiency upgrades for a hospital, an outpatient clinic, and a kindergarten).

This will allow communities to reduce their dependence on centralized power supply and lower utility costs.

- organized a **training for representatives of communities in Kherson oblast** on how to independently carry out technical calculations for RES projects from start to finish. After the training, one community independently installed a solar power plant.
- developed **3 practical solutions for the catalogue of solutions for water utilities**. They describe Ecoclub's experience installing three types of solar power plants:
 - **a grid-connected plant** for the water utility's treatment facilities in the city of Zvyahel;
 - **a hybrid plant** with an energy storage system at the water utility's treatment facilities in the city of Rohatyn;
 - and **a containerized plant** for a borehole pump in the village of Prohresivka, Mykolaiv oblast, which supplies drinking water to 230 village residents.

The descriptions include specifications, technical information, operating principles, competitive advantages, cost estimates, and other details that may be of interest to communities wishing to implement similar projects.

- as part of a campaign to promote solar energy, **received equipment from easy-solar.eu** for installing small solar power plants at home or at their own businesses. This equipment went to 13 veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war (installation and connection will take place in 2026).

Videos about installed solar power plants

5 solar power plants installed in Mykolaiv oblast:

<https://youtu.be/oJDcUbm8rg8?si=CQNRPhON38pU1f5f>



A solar power plant for a psychoneurological boarding institution:

https://youtu.be/0KVFoJ_Qw1Y?si=ajKMXNs216eGPRpo



Solar energy saves children's lives at Saint Nicholas Hospital in Lviv:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sr1rVTC9g_E



A solar power plant is now operating on a hospital roof in Sambir:

https://youtu.be/0cewJhA9BPk?si=Yr8hpGBAvdyMeJ_X



The Bohuslav community is cutting electricity costs thanks to solar energy:

https://ecoclubrivne.org/bohuslav_spp/



Our practical work with communities also gave Ecoclub arguments for change at the national level. Working with hospitals, water utilities, social institutions, and municipalities, we see firsthand which permits, procedures, technical requirements, or financial barriers are slowing the faster deployment of RES. In 2025, this experience formed the basis of position papers and proposals to government authorities on simplifying conditions for renewable energy development, aggregation services, the use of geothermal energy, and preserving environmental safeguards during the implementation of RES projects. Some of the proposals have been taken into account; others remain under consideration.

What were the challenges?

One of the main challenges is finding contractors who do quality work on time. This is especially true for solar power plant construction, since it affects both the speed of project implementation and whether the plant will operate reliably for years. At the same time, we are learning to better document decisions made and to involve local communities in the work from the very beginning, not only at the final stage.

There is also an unfortunate story. We prepared a feasibility study (FS) — a document showing whether building a solar power plant is viable and realistic — for a water utility in one of the communities in Chernihiv oblast.

The head of the water utility was actively seeking funding and, having received the draft FS, used it in negotiations with another donor and secured funds for construction. In effect, the community found funding before our project was even completed. But this community subsequently found itself in an evacuation zone due to the approach of hostilities, and the plans had to be halted. We hope this work can resume once conditions allow it to be safe.

A few stories of implemented solutions

- 1 Thanks to the solar power plants installed by Ecoclub and its partners, **over 500,000 Ukrainians** continued to receive medical services, as well as water supply and sanitation, despite lengthy daily power outages.



One of the solar power plants installed in Kherson Oblast

- 2 In partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and with funding from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we installed one of the first [solar power plants in the country at a facility of this kind – a women's psychoneurological boarding institution in Mykolaiv oblast.](#)

The facility is home to 201 permanent residents, some of whom were displaced from Donetsk and Kherson oblasts. In its very first full month of operation, in winter, the solar power plant generated 6,101 kWh of electricity, saving UAH 79,250.

Under the most favorable conditions in the spring–summer period, the plant will cover up to 52% of the facility's electricity needs for lighting, water supply, cooking, hygiene, and the operation of its own bakery.

The installed capacity of the solar panels is 108.29 kW, with a battery storage capacity of 204.8 kWh. The total cost of developing the design and cost estimate documentation and construction was UAH 5,539,700.80. The estimated payback period is 4 years and 3 months.

This project has already become a landmark case and a basis for scaling up. We currently have 2 projects planned that will install at least 8 more solar power plants for long-term residential care facilities.

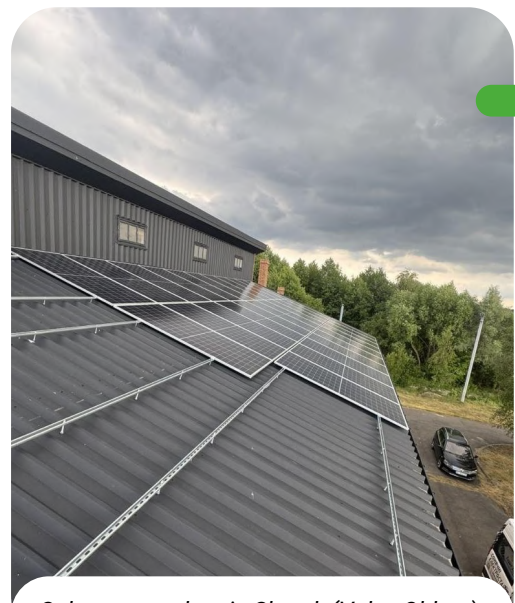


Відкриття СЕС для соціального закладу на Миколаївщині



Opening of a solar power plant for a social institution in Mykolaiv Oblast

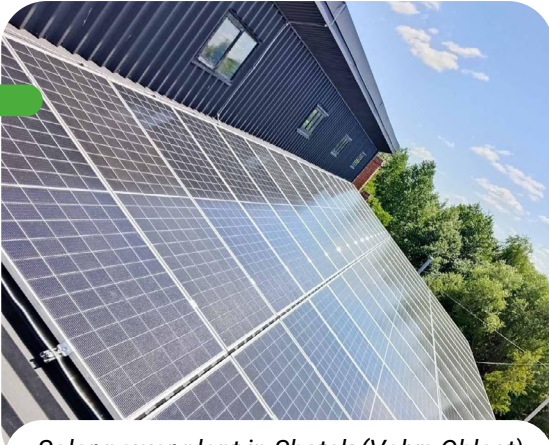
3 In partnership with the German non-profit organization [Svarog Ukraine](#), with the involvement of German RES development experts Helmut Wollmann and Astrid Schneider, and with a share of funding from the community of Shatsk (Volyn oblast), we installed a solar power plant for sewage treatment facilities. Even during outages lasting a full day, residents of the community experienced no inconvenience, since the solar power plant guarantees Shatsk reliable wastewater removal and proper treatment. This helps prevent pollution of the lakes within the national park.



Solar power plant in Shatsk (Volyn Oblast)

The plant's capacity is 50 kW, with a battery storage capacity of 46.08 kWh. This amounts to over 42,000 kWh of electricity per year, covering an estimated 29% of the facility's annual energy consumption.

At July 2025 tariff rates, this generation will allow the community to save more than UAH 420,000 annually. The total project cost is approximately UAH 1.5 million.



Solar power plant in Shatsk (Volyn Oblast)

- 4 Since 2022, as part of the Solar Aid for Ukraine campaign, Ecoclub and its partners have now built **86 solar power plants in Ukrainian communities across all parts of the country.**

The combined capacity of the photovoltaic modules is 4.4 MW, and the battery capacity is 2,250 kWh.

Comments from the coordinators



"Today, the development of renewable energy is impossible without strong partnership among communities, donors, the state, and expert organizations. It is precisely this kind of cooperation that allows us to quickly implement solutions that strengthen the energy resilience of critical infrastructure. Combining resources and expertise is becoming a key factor in scaling up RES in Ukraine,"

Dmytro Sakaliuk, Ecoclub's RES development project coordinator.

"Ecoclub sees great potential in continuing to support communities — both in installing solar power plants and in training them to implement such solutions independently. International advocacy for RES development in Ukraine is a separate area of our work. In 2025, at the COP climate conference in Brazil, we conveyed the voice of Ukrainian communities and used examples from our work to show that the development of renewable energy in Ukraine continues even under the conditions of war,"

Olena Kondratiuk, Ecoclub RES development program manager.





"Today in Ukraine, the development of renewable energy is not only about saving resources and achieving climate goals – it is also a matter of communities' survival and ensuring basic needs, such as water supply or the provision of emergency medical services. That is why our work begins with a systematic assessment of communities' needs and priorities, which allows us to formulate clear requests to international partners and to provide strategic financial and organizational support for RES projects at the local level,"

Yaroslava Denisova, Ecoclub RES development project manager.

Partners



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK



easy-solar.eu



We would also like to thank Helmut Wolman, Astrid Schneider, and Dr. Gero Scholz for their expert support and cooperation.





Goal 2.

Working with Communities: Energy Planning and Climate Education

Why do we work on this?

Ukrainian communities — especially during wartime — face a shortage of experience and resources to address energy, climate, and environmental challenges. Local management teams do not always have sufficient capacity to develop their own energy plans and strategies, implement renewable energy development projects, or systematically care for the environment. At the same time, having ambitious yet realistic climate and energy plans is the first step toward concrete action.

That is why Ecoclub works directly with communities: sharing successful experience, supporting the implementation of proven solutions, and helping them not only solve local problems but also participate in national-level decision-making. After all, self-sufficient, proactive communities capable of planning and implementing energy and climate projects are a solid foundation for Ukraine's post-war recovery.



What was Ecoclub's main goal in this area in 2025?

To strengthen the energy resilience of Ukrainian communities through the transition to renewable energy sources, to build the capacity of local self-government bodies in energy and climate planning, and to improve national legislation in these areas.

What we did to achieve this:

- 1 Together with communities, we developed **municipal energy plans (MEPs and SECAPs – Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans)** – documents that identify how a community consumes energy, where it loses resources, and what steps can help reduce its dependence on centralized supply and cut greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2 We ran **educational tours, trainings, and workshops on energy planning for community representatives, residents, and representatives of business and civil society**, where participants learned to independently analyze energy needs, prepare project documentation, and calculate budgets – in other words, to carry a project from idea through to implementation.



Consultations with communities participating in the "Strengthening Climate Action in Ukrainian Communities"



Study tour "Solar Power Plants and Heat Pumps in Communities"



Study tour "Solar Power Plants and Heat Pumps in Communities"



Study tour "Solar Power Plants and Heat Pumps in Communities"



Study tour to Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, and Vinnytsia for heads of district heating companies and government representatives

3 We conducted **energy audits in Kharkiv oblast** – detailed reviews of how much energy buildings consume and where it is being wasted. The audits covered 15 family-type children's homes and 5 social and medical institutions that serve them – facilities where uninterrupted power supply is critically important.

4 We provided **individual consultations for communities**: site visits, online meetings, comments on documents they had prepared, and phone consultations.

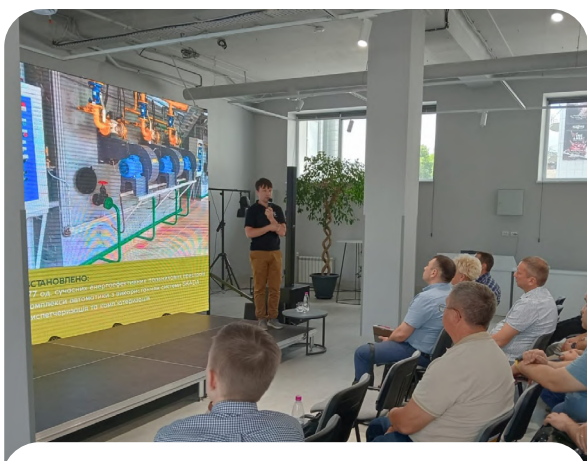
5 We searched for **participants to take part in internships offered by the Czech Partnership Foundation Nadace Partnerství**: local self-government leaders, activists, and business representatives, for training and studying the best practices of Czech enterprises in the areas of energy efficiency, climate change adaptation, and community engagement.



Study tour "Solar Power Plants and Heat Pumps in Communities"



Covenant of Mayors tour "Project Management and Project Planning for Municipal Infrastructure"



Study tour to Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, and Vinnytsia for heads of district heating companies and government representatives



Covenant of Mayors tour "Project Management and Project Planning for Municipal Infrastructure"

What did we manage to achieve? The most significant results

In cooperation with **16 communities in Dnipropetrovsk and Sumy oblasts, we prepared energy plans (MEPs and SECAPs)**, which became working tools for prioritizing projects, forming budgets, and attracting funding for energy efficiency and RES projects. These communities introduced or improved their energy management processes, learned to develop strategic documents, and strengthened their energy resilience.

For these communities, developing MEPs and SECAPs was not a formal requirement but a way to understand their own energy system: which facilities are critical, where the biggest losses occur, which measures will have the greatest effect, and which projects can be the first submitted for funding. In 2025, Ecoclub supported communities in Dnipropetrovsk and Sumy oblasts throughout this process – from data collection and consumption analysis to prioritizing measures and preparing further technical solutions.

According to a survey of communities conducted after the main stage of work, all 16 partner communities indicated that the assistance was timely, and all communities were satisfied with the project's results. They named the preparation of MEPs/SECAPs, training and expert support, mentoring, and access to funding opportunities as the most useful elements. This matters because once the project ends, what remains in the community is not just documentation, but people who better understand energy data, can plan measures, and can substantiate requests to donors and budgets.

The documents prepared have already begun moving into practical implementation. Some communities have approved their MEP or SECAP through decisions of local councils, while others have prepared draft decisions for approval. Communities have also begun incorporating energy and climate measures into development strategies, socio-economic development programs, local targeted programs, medium-term public investment plans, and the DREAM system. This means that energy planning is becoming part of a community's management cycle rather than a standalone document produced for reporting purposes.

Based on the results of **20 energy audits conducted by Ecoclub (15 for family-type children's homes and 5 for the social and medical institutions serving them)**, energy efficiency measures were implemented: funded by the French international humanitarian organization Action Against Hunger and with technical support from Ecoclub, two heat pumps and **12 solar power plants** were installed, and thermal modernization of buildings was carried out (window and door replacement, insulation).

At 2 trainings on energy planning, community representatives learned how to identify priority projects for their community and assess their technical, economic, and social feasibility. Participants developed project documentation and learned to avoid common mistakes in its preparation, explored funding sources, worked on real-life cases (school insulation, boiler house modernization, solar power plant installation), and gained practical energy monitoring tools. Particularly valuable was the exchange of experience between communities, including those operating under frontline conditions.



The communities of Nizhyn, Kalush, and Zhytomyr received assessments of their baseline energy status, and during joint meetings, representatives of various municipal departments, civil society organizations, and businesses in these cities identified which renewable energy development projects (solar, wind, and other renewable sources) and energy efficiency improvements are the priorities for their particular community.



Workshops with partner communities –
Nizhyn, Kalush, and Zhytomyr



Workshops with partner communities –
Nizhyn, Kalush, and Zhytomyr

6 communities ([Sambir](#), [Myrhorod](#), [Slavuta](#), [Rivne](#), [Pustomyty](#), [Drohobych](#), and [Koziatyn](#)) developed financial instruments to support energy and climate solutions (*revolving funds, support programs for the housing sector, homeowners association (HOA), and businesses in the fields of energy efficiency and RES*).

Approximately **60 representatives from communities** across various regions of Ukraine completed practical internships in the Czech Republic on five topics: sustainable construction (April), renewable energy (September), climate change adaptation and water supply (June), resident participation in decision-making (May), and waste management and water treatment (November). After returning, participants formed a community for sharing experience and continue to work together on implementing the knowledge they gained in their own communities.

At the national level

At the request of the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, Ecoclub prepared concrete proposals on how to reduce the number of permits and approvals required for the construction of solar, wind, and other renewable energy facilities, and how to improve conditions for their development in communities. The organization was engaged as a practitioner, thanks to its hands-on experience implementing RES projects in communities.

We analyzed and submitted proposals to the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine to Improve Certain Provisions Related to Conducting Business Activity in the Energy Sector." Ecoclub's proposals were taken into account, and the draft law is currently awaiting a vote. **The changes we proposed:**

1. An amendment to Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On Regulation of Urban Development Activity": solar power plants are now classified as facilities with minor environmental impact. This means fewer permits and approvals are required for their construction, making the process faster and simpler for communities and investors.
2. An amendment to Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On Public Procurement" allowing energy aggregation services to be procured without going through the full public procurement procedure. Aggregation is a mechanism whereby multiple energy consumers or producers combine forces to jointly balance supply and demand within the energy system. This change simplifies the work of aggregators and speeds up the deployment of flexible energy solutions in communities.
3. An amendment to Part 10, Article 71 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Electricity Market" simplifying the replacement and upgrading of equipment at existing power plants. Electricity producers can now replace outdated equipment without going through the full permitting procedure, which remains mandatory only for the construction of new facilities. This allows power plants to be modernized more quickly and reduces the administrative burden on producers.
4. Abolition of the fee for the permit to use ground heat for geothermal energy production. Previously, enterprises and communities had to pay for this permit, which made the technology more expensive and less attractive for investment.

Thanks to this change, geothermal projects will become more economically viable, and communities will be able to attract more funding for their implementation without placing an additional burden on the local budget.

Together with the district heating company of Lviv, **Ecoclub developed legislative proposals for establishing a municipal aggregator – a structure that brings together energy consumers or producers to jointly manage energy consumption and the sale of electricity to the grid.** Amendments were proposed to the Law of Ukraine "On Public Procurement" allowing state and municipal enterprises to sell electricity generated at their own facilities (such as solar power plants) without going through complex public procurement procedures. This simplifies the work of municipal enterprises, opens up opportunities for attracting investment in renewable energy, and enables more efficient use of their own infrastructure.

We provided comments that were taken into account by the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine and incorporated into the presentation on the "Renewable Energy" section presented to the European Commission at a bilateral meeting in Brussels in July, as part of reporting on Ukraine's fulfillment of EU accession conditions. The comments concerned bringing permitting procedures for RES projects into line with EU requirements, as well as removing provisions that lower environmental impact assessment (EIA) standards, contradict current legislation and Ukraine's international obligations, and narrow opportunities for public participation in decision-making.

We prepared and sent **14 position letters to national authorities** (the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, the National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission (NEURC)) containing specific proposals for legislative changes in the fields of energy, the environment, and climate policy.

These included:

- proposals developed jointly with partner NGOs to the Action Plan for the implementation of Ukraine's Energy Strategy through 2050 (*concerning the regulation of tariff policy for centralized water supply and sanitation; incentivizing the development of the centralized district heating system and improving its energy efficiency; introducing a mechanism for regular review of electricity transmission tariffs; simplifying permitting procedures for the construction of renewable energy facilities; and others*);
- joint appeals on the need to allocate funding (UAH 1 billion) from the State Budget of Ukraine in 2025 for the operation of the Energy Efficiency Fund, which provides support for energy efficiency measures and the renovation of multi-apartment buildings with condominium associations (OSBB).

- proposals to the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine on changes and additions to the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine to Improve Competitive Conditions for Electricity Production from Alternative Energy Sources" (*to allow producers of electricity from renewable sources to change their power source hourly instead of once a day – enabling faster responses to changes in energy production and consumption; and to simplify procurement by including aggregators and aggregation services among the exceptions under the Law on Public Procurement, in order to support the development of mechanisms for balancing supply and demand in the energy system*);
- an analysis of problems in the energy sector, with proposals submitted to the Ministry of Energy on how to address them, aimed at: ensuring the institutional independence of NEURC; facilitating the prompt adoption of legislative amendments implementing EU law on energy market integration; making the procedures and costs of grid connection more transparent; and improving the "green" auction mechanism (*a support mechanism for renewable energy under which producers of electricity from RES compete for the right to receive a guaranteed price for the electricity they generate, which stimulates the sector's development, attracts investment, and contributes to the country's energy independence*);
- proposals to the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories for the development of a National Action Plan for the modernization and decarbonization of Ukraine's centralized district heating systems. In particular, we proposed: *simplifying the mechanism for connecting new buildings to district heating and raising safety requirements for autonomous and individual heating systems; banning the installation of individual gas boilers in multi-apartment buildings; ensuring transparency and justification of tariffs and protecting consumers from artificially inflated prices; and creating incentives for operators and local authorities to invest in modernizing district heating systems and deploying renewable energy sources.*
- comments and proposals submitted to the Ministry of Energy on the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on the Implementation of European Union Legislation in the Field of Renewable Energy Sources." In particular, we *insisted on including government authorities, communities, individuals, and other categories among those who may act as customers or participants in RES projects. We also called for strengthening sustainability requirements for biofuels and the transparency of their accounting, and for more clearly defining territories for RES development, including through the use of environmental data and the exclusion of environmentally sensitive protected areas, among other proposals.*

- we sent a letter to the Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture calling for the construction of Power Units No. 3 and No. 4 of the Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plant to be excluded from the priorities of the Government's Action Program. *We noted that the adoption of the relevant draft law on the siting, design, and construction of Power Units No. 3 and No. 4 of the Khmelnytskyi NPP could take place in violation of environmental protection legislation and without compliance with Ukraine's international obligations.*
- as members of the working group preparing Ukraine's negotiating positions on EU accession in the field of energy, we provided comments to the Ministry of Energy that were taken into account and included in the presentation on the "Renewable Energy" section. *It was presented to the European Commission during a bilateral meeting in Brussels in July, as part of reporting on Ukraine's fulfillment of EU accession conditions.*
- we prepared responses to the European Commission's questionnaire on Chapter 15 "Energy," to be taken into account in the preparation of the European Commission's third Annual Report on Ukraine.

What were the challenges?

In 2025, we faced several serious challenges: due to the security situation and shelling, two communities (Nova Sloboda and Mezheva) had to withdraw from the project in which they were learning energy planning, while three others (Romny, Sofiivka, and Chupakhivka) were unable to continue work on developing municipal energy plans (MEPs) due to a shortage of specialists.

Additional complications included difficulties accessing data from energy companies and lengthy, multi-stage document approval procedures within communities. Ecoclub addressed these issues through joint meetings with community leadership and a training format that combined in-person trainings with webinars, which strengthened the competence of local specialists and enabled communities to develop MEPs/SECAPs and plan energy efficiency projects on their own.

Also, due to its location near the border and regular shelling, one community (Znob-Novhorod) found it impossible to carry out construction work to build a solar power plant, making the development of design and cost estimate documentation impractical. Together with the grantor, we decided to redirect the funds toward purchasing equipment for a mini solar power plant with a battery for a water tower, with the community taking on the installation itself.

Out of these challenging conditions, this situation became an example of a flexible approach and prioritizing rapid assistance to the most vulnerable communities.

Comments from the coordinators



"Climate and energy are directly connected, since the energy sector is one of the key sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Decisions made in the energy sector determine how vulnerable – or, conversely, how resilient – a community will be to climate change.

In our work with communities, Ecoclub emphasizes that the climate impact of planned decisions must be taken into account already at the energy planning stage – this makes it possible to implement more sustainable and economically beneficial solutions. As a result, communities gain more reliable infrastructure, lower costs, and better living conditions for Ukrainians,"

Olha Lyashchuk, coordinator of Ecoclub's community climate education program.

"Energy policy is effective when it takes into account the context and needs of communities, since it is at the local level that this policy is put into practice. Integrating communities' interests into national-level decisions helps ensure that these decisions are realistic, applicable across different conditions, and capable of delivering concrete results that people can actually feel,"

Nataliia Lytvyn, project manager for renewable energy development at Ecoclub.





"Communities that develop their own energy plans understand their needs better, collect higher-quality data, and learn to plan and implement projects without outside help. That is why it is important not simply to prepare documents on behalf of communities, but to teach them to do this themselves – through trainings, individual consultations, and hands-on work with calculations and prioritizing measures. It is precisely this kind of support that builds long-term capacity, which remains in the community long after any given project ends,"

Maryna Halushko, Ecoclub project coordinator for community energy development.

Partners





Goal 3.

Ecoclub's work for the Rivne Community



Rivne is the city where Ecoclub is based — this is where we live, and it is where we have the deepest understanding of the local context: which decisions the authorities make, which environmental problems are the most acute, and where public pressure can change the situation. The city faces challenges typical for Ukraine as a whole: outdated infrastructure, the destruction of green spaces, water pollution, and slow adaptation to climate change. Ecoclub's presence in Rivne allows us to respond more quickly to specific violations, provide recommendations on city programs and documents already at the drafting stage, and engage residents in protecting the environment of their own community.

What did we do?

We provided **comments and recommendations on Rivne's development strategy through 2028**. Key recommendations concerned adding quantitative indicators to assess the achievement of goals, analyzing the funding sources for planned measures, clearly defining the development of the city's district heating system, and expanding the section on climate change adaptation, particularly regarding green spaces, cycling infrastructure, and storm-water management.

We prepared **comprehensive proposals for the City Greening Program**. In them, we advocated for creating urban meadows and rain gardens, digital tree registration, protecting old-growth trees, and transitioning to European standards for the maintenance of green spaces.

We recommended paying **particular attention to systemic changes in management**, including establishing the position of city chief gardener, developing strict standards for protecting trees during construction, and transitioning to European norms for grass maintenance and mowing. We also emphasized the need to integrate already-approved strategic documents — such as the SECAP and the "Blue-Green Corridors" concept — into the annual work plans of municipal enterprises.

We submitted [proposals to improve the Urban Electric Transport Development Program for 2026–2030](#). Above all, we stressed that funds allocated under the Electric Transport Development Program should be spent exclusively on electric transport, without being redirected to other programs, as happened in June 2025, when UAH 19.25 million was redirected to road transport. We also emphasized that, when procuring vehicles, priority should be given to trolleybuses with autonomous battery-powered range that charge while in motion, and that modern European technologies should be introduced for building the overhead contact network.

Ecoclub assessed and criticized the "Emerald Community" program, particularly because of its plan for mass felling of trees older than 45–60 years, since these are precisely the trees that cool the city most effectively and absorb the most CO₂. We proposed replacing the felling with professional inspection and preservation of such plantings, since the cost of replacing trees is neither economically nor environmentally justified.



We responded to appeals from city residents and sent **official inquiries regarding the illegal pruning of trees in the Hidropark area**, the protection of an old-growth oak tree near the "Zaliznychna" bus station, and the destruction of an urban meadow planted by students of the Ecological Center of the Rivne Palace of Children and Youth on Soborna Street. In each case, we demanded explanations from the responsible authorities and concrete action to protect green spaces.

We held **a meeting with members of the "Plast" youth organization**, where we talked about Rivne's environmental challenges: pollution of the Ustia River, the problem of street flooding, the importance of preserving trees and meadows, and where to turn in the event of violations.

We carried out information activities: we published an article on grass-mowing practices and biodiversity conservation in the city, and gave an interview on adapting urban areas to climate change.

We also [commented on the results of air and soil pollution monitoring near industrial enterprises](#) in the town of Kostopil and the village of Horodok — noting that Ukrainian environmental standards are less strict than EU norms (particularly regarding formaldehyde content), which can create a false sense of safety even at higher pollution levels. Ukrainian legislation also does not provide for an assessment of the cumulative environmental impact of several enterprises located near one another, even though their combined emissions can pose a significantly greater threat to the health of local residents than each enterprise individually.

Comment from the coordinator



"Our work is grounded in a constant presence in the community — that's precisely why, living in Rivne, we're able to understand the local context more deeply: to see which environmental issues concern people the most, and to be there when support or clarification is needed."

We aim to be part of the dialogue — providing expert comments, sharing recommendations while documents or programs are still being drafted, and helping residents figure out where to turn with a given issue. It matters to us that the community's voice is heard, and that environmental topics are discussed openly and based on facts. Every such interaction is a contribution to a shared cause: preserving the trees, meadows, clean air, and water of the city we ourselves live in"

Anastasiia Yakhniuk, Ecoclub project coordinator.



Goal 4.

Climate Change Adaptation

Why do we work on this?

Even now, while the war is still ongoing, communities need to be thinking about what Ukraine and their own recovery will look like after the war. Communities that are drafting recovery plans now have an advantage, since they can factor climate challenges — flooding, droughts, heat waves, and extreme weather events (hail, heavy rain, blizzards) — into those plans from the very start. It is far more effective to build these solutions in at the planning stage than to have to rebuild infrastructure decades later.

This approach benefits everyone: residents get more comfortable living conditions and suffer less damage from the effects of climate change, while communities save the funds that would otherwise be needed to deal with the consequences and to carry out costly reconstruction in the future. In addition, communities that recognize climate risks and work to reduce them have a better chance of securing international funding for their projects. That is why one of Ecoclub's key goals is to help build prepared, proactive communities that plan their own recovery and are aware of climate challenges and the solutions needed to address them.



What was Ecoclub's main goal in this area in 2025?

To inform communities about concrete ways to prepare for the effects of climate change (droughts, floods, heat) using examples of real projects already operating in Ukraine and around the world. To show that such solutions are accessible and realistic, and to provide practical, step-by-step recommendations for those who want to implement similar measures in their own community.

What did we do to achieve this:

- 1 We searched for examples of well-implemented climate change adaptation measures abroad and in Ukraine. We researched solutions that have already proven effective and could be useful for Ukrainian communities.
- 2 We created a space for sharing the experience and expertise gained — we developed and launched the national climate change adaptation platform [Adapterra.org.ua](https://adapterra.org.ua):
 - **Presentation of the platform and the competition for adaptation solutions Adapterra.org.ua** 
<https://youtu.be/POswoe8Tbmw?si=nKfW5ht3y9o3fKR3>
- 3 Організували Adapterra UA 2025 – конкурс, що допомагає знаходити, відзначати та поширювати реальні заходи з адаптації українських громад до зміни клімату: озеленення міст, підвищення енергоефективності, ощадливого використання води; просвітницьких кампаній та інші.
- 4 We held an award ceremony for the winners of the Adapterra UA 2025 competition. The event was attended by 65 people, including representatives of the international organizations GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) and Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Ukraine, an expert from the Covenant of Mayors – Eastern Partnership (a European initiative supporting local climate policy), as well as Ukrainian experts, activists, and community representatives.



Adapterra UA 2025 Award Ceremony



Adapterra UA 2025 Award Ceremony



Adapterra UA 2025 Award Ceremony

What did we manage to achieve? The most significant results

- 17 expert articles were published on the Adapterra.org.ua website on how communities can prepare for climate challenges. They include examples of flood protection through green spaces, water resource restoration, storm-water management, open gardens and wildflower meadows, changing approaches to managing green areas, and more. The articles are aimed at local government representatives, civic activists, and environmental protection specialists. Work on expanding this catalogue of measures useful for communities will continue through 2029.
- Already in the first year of the Adapterra UA 2025 competition, we received 50 applications, reflecting communities' strong interest in implementing climate change adaptation measures. 2,592 people voted to select the 3 winners, demonstrating a high level of public engagement.
- 9 materials dedicated to the competition's winners and finalists were published on the Adapterra.org.ua platform. These publications describe the projects implemented: what was done, how it works, and what results it produced.

Thanks to this approach, the practical experience of these leaders serves as an accessible learning resource for scaling up and implementing effective changes across Ukraine.



Ecoclub at the award ceremony of the Czech climate change adaptation project competition Adapterra Awards

The impact of the adaptation focus area in 2025 was that Ecoclub helped make climate change adaptation visible, practical, and understandable for communities. The Adapterra.org.ua platform became a space bringing together examples of solutions that can be studied, replicated, and adapted to local contexts. The Adapterra UA 2025 competition demonstrated that Ukraine already has communities, civil society organizations, initiative groups, and educational projects addressing the consequences of climate change not theoretically, but through concrete action.

In the first year of the competition, Ecoclub received 50 applications, selected 9 finalists and 3 winners, and 2,592 people took part in the online voting. This reflects not only interest in the topic, but also the public's willingness to support solutions that help cities and villages adapt to heat, water scarcity, flooding, the loss of green spaces, and other climate risks.

It is particularly important that Adapterra.org.ua platform does not end with the competition. Publications about the winners and finalists turn local initiatives into learning examples for other communities. *In this way, Ecoclub is building a knowledge base that helps scale up nature-based solutions, educational programs, and local climate practices across Ukraine.*

What were the challenges?

One of the first challenges was developing a convenient and flexible platform. We managed to build a functional foundation, but we already see opportunities for its further improvement. Going forward, we plan to add at least 10 international and 12 national adaptation solutions to the database each year.

When launching the competition, we expected 15–20 applications, but received 50, which significantly exceeded our expectations. One challenge was assembling a jury with sufficient expertise to evaluate a wide range of different solutions (water, greening, urban improvement, and so on). At the same time, we succeeded in achieving a high level of public engagement through online voting.

Inspiring examples

Three projects won the Adapterra UA 2025 competition — each in its own way, but together they convincingly show that climate change adaptation is already happening in Ukraine, driven above all by the hands of people who care.

- 1 The "**A Shared Home for People and Nature**" project, run by the Ecological centre of the Rivne Palace of Children and Youth, promotes the preservation and care of an urban park through the regular involvement of children in hands-on environmental activities. The park hosts educational activities on studying biodiversity, seasonal changes in nature, and caring for plants and animals. In this way, the green space functions not only as a recreational area but as a permanent, open-air educational venue that combines climate change adaptation (preserving green spaces, supporting the ecosystem) with building environmental awareness among children.



"A Shared Home for People and Nature" project, run by the Ecological Centre of Palace of Children and Youth (Rivne)



- 2 As part of the "**Green Revolution on Studentska Square**" project, run by the NGO "Eco Misto" (Chernihiv), more than 150 concrete slabs were removed from a city square where they had created a local heat island (an area of the city where concrete and asphalt cause temperatures to be significantly higher than in the surrounding area).

In their place, trees (oaks and plane trees) were planted, along with around a hundred shrubs and more than 200 perennial plants; a drip irrigation system was installed, and soil mulching was applied.

As a result, the square gained shade, better moisture retention, and reduced surface overheating in summer. The space became more comfortable to spend time in, began performing ecosystem functions, and became an example of a nature-based solution within an urban environment.



"Green Revolution on Studentska Square" project, run by the NGO "Eco Misto" (Chernihiv)



- 3 **The "Climate ABC" and "Climate Box"** courses, developed by Iryna Sankovska, are educational and methodological kits for students in grades 3–6 that explain the causes and consequences of climate change, teach practical actions for energy and resource conservation, and engage students' families in changing everyday habits.

They include methodological guidance for teachers and workbook materials for children. As a result, they help foster long-term changes in behavior and attitudes toward climate.



Winner of the Adaptterra UA 2025 competition with the "Climate ABC" and "Climate Box" courses

Comment from the coordinator



"Ecoclub plans to continue developing the [Adapterra.org.ua](https://adapterra.org.ua) platform and running the Adapterra UA 2025 competition as an annual tool for supporting adaptation solutions. Sharing knowledge and best practices in climate change adaptation helps communities prepare for growing climate risks — from droughts and heat waves to extreme precipitation.

Every year, this work becomes even more critically important, since climate challenges are not going away, and they continue to place greater strain on infrastructure, essential community services, and people's health and safety,"

Yevheniia Dmytrenko, Ecoclub project coordinator for climate change adaptation.

Partners



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety





Goal 5.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Why do we work on this?

Before a factory, road, or power plant can be built, the state must first check whether it will harm nature or human health. This is precisely why environmental impact assessment (EIA) exists — a mandatory procedure that also requires public participation in such decisions.

However, in Ukraine this system does not work effectively. Even before the war, it allowed the construction of enterprises that themselves acknowledged, in their own reports, that they exceeded emission limits for hazardous substances. During the war, the EIA procedure has been partially restricted, creating additional risks: as the country rebuilds, facilities that harm the environment and people could be approved.

Ecoclub is working to reform the EIA system so that Ukraine's reconstruction is not only fast, but also safe.



What was Ecoclub's main goal in this area in 2025?

To identify the main shortcomings in Ukraine's EIA legislation and to propose concrete changes that will make the procedure more effective and transparent, and one that genuinely protects the environment and the interests of people.

What did we do to achieve this:

- 1 We monitored draft laws that proposed simplifying or abolishing the mandatory environmental impact assessment before the construction of new facilities, and took part in their public discussion. We prepared official positions on 6 such draft laws, with concrete comments and recommendations.
- 2 We prepared 3 analytical documents on how the EIA and SEA (strategic environmental assessment – the review of the environmental consequences of state plans and strategies) procedures work, and where and why they fail to work:
 - [An analytical note](#) on compliance with EIA and SEA rules in Ukraine (**jointly with WWF-Ukraine**)
 - [An analytical note](#) on shortcomings and violations in EIA materials for renewable energy construction projects (**with the participation of the Bankwatch network, which brings together civil society organizations from Central and Eastern European countries, the NGO "Ecoaction," and the Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group**)
 - **A white paper, "Environmental Impact Assessment: Between Legislation and Practice."** This document is intended to serve as a practical reference for shaping policy and management decisions in the field of environmental governance and for ensuring an environmentally responsible post-war reconstruction of the country.
- 3 We took part in the public discussion of 3 EIA cases:
 - regarding the construction of Power Units 5 and 6 of the Khmelnytskyi NPP;
 - regarding the completion of the Tashlyk Pumped Storage Power Plant and the raising of the water level of the Oleksandrivske reservoir, which could have destroyed unique natural and cultural monuments in Mykolaiv oblast;
 - regarding the construction of a wind power plant in Volyn oblast;

and 1 SEA:

 - we provided comments and recommendations on Rivne's development strategy through 2028 (*more details in the "Ecoclub's Work for the Rivne Community" section*).

- 4 We sent official comments to the Secretariat of the Energy Community regarding accelerated renewable energy construction areas. The comments concerned: establishing the size of protective zones around solar power plants, protecting rare and endangered plant species, and the unclear criteria for siting energy facilities on agricultural land.
- 5 We prepared proposals and maintained active communication with international partners on the key problems with the application of EIA and SEA rules in Ukraine, as well as recommendations for improving the EIA procedure, within the framework of the Ukraine Recovery Conference.

What did we manage to achieve? The most significant changes

- Thanks to a campaign by environmental organizations, including Ecoclub, the EIA conclusion for the Tashlyk Pumped Storage Power Plant was denied. Its expansion would have flooded protected nature reserve areas, archaeologically valuable sites, and Emerald Network territories in Mykolaiv oblast.
- Thanks to cooperation with Ukrainian and international civil society organizations (Ecoaction, Ecosphere, Greenpeace, WWF Ukraine), provisions that created additional threats to the environment and citizens' rights were removed from the version of the draft law "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on the Implementation of European Union Legislation in the Field of Renewable Energy Sources" submitted to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. These provisions would have made it possible to bypass the mandatory environmental impact assessment procedure — that is, to build energy facilities without properly assessing their environmental impact and without taking local residents' views into account.

What were the challenges?

Throughout this work, we have faced challenges such as low public engagement in environmental impact assessment processes: Ukrainians generally show little interest in this topic unless it directly affects them. The exception is high-profile cases that receive wide media coverage, such as the situation involving development on the Runa mountain plateau.

Another ongoing challenge is that government bodies and the public often have differing views on how environmental impact assessment should work. In particular, the state periodically attempts to exempt certain sectors from mandatory environmental review — for example, forestry, industrial parks, and the construction of renewable energy facilities. Ecoclub considers such exemptions dangerous, since they deprive the public of the right to influence decisions that directly affect the environment and their quality of life.

Another difficulty is identifying priority cases for Ecoclub's involvement: EIA and SEA procedures cover an extremely large number of facilities and decisions, so selecting those where the organization's involvement will genuinely make a difference is itself a separate and challenging task.

Comment from the coordinator



"In 2026, Ecoclub will expand its work in the field of environmental protection: not only monitoring compliance with environmental assessment procedures, but also working to improve nature conservation legislation more broadly.

Our goal is to achieve concrete changes that ensure a proper review of the impact of construction and economic activity on nature, and that guarantee citizens the right to participate in decisions affecting the environment of their communities,"

Yurii Zadorozhnii, Ecoclub specialist on improving environmental impact assessment in Ukraine.

Partners





Goal 6.

Central Heating

Why do we work on this?

Almost half of all heat received by Ukrainians comes through district heating networks, which serve entire neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, and other public buildings. This is the most efficient way to provide heating to a large number of consumers at once.

However, an outdated system, worn-out pipes with significant heat losses during transportation, and inefficient equipment are pushing people – and even entire cities – to abandon district heating in favor of individual heating. Consumers are unwilling to receive and pay for low-quality services: underheated homes and no hot water supply in summer. We are convinced this is the wrong path – it is disadvantageous for communities, more expensive for consumers, and worse for the climate, since individual boilers consume more energy and, in total, generate more CO₂ emissions.

The experience of other countries (Sweden, Denmark, and others) and of individual successful Ukrainian district heating companies (Cherkasy) shows that, on the contrary, modernizing district heating makes it possible to lower costs for consumers, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide communities with energy independence and stable heating – which is especially important given the conditions of war and global climate change. In addition, the existence of district heating networks dramatically reduces the cost of integrating new technologies such as geothermal heat pumps. That is why Ecoclub works to preserve and develop these systems in Ukrainian communities.

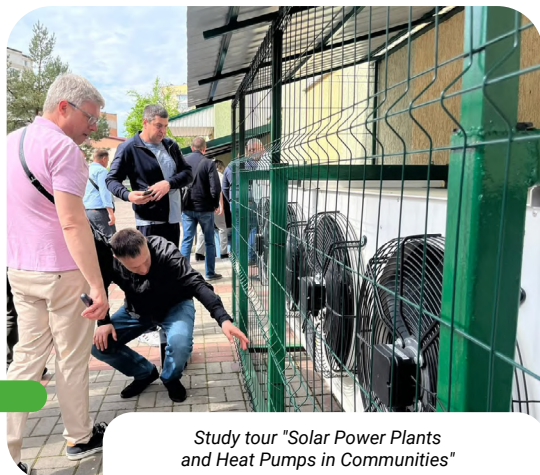


What was Ecoclub's main goal in this area in 2025?

To bring together local communities, district heating companies, and government authorities around a shared vision: how to preserve, modernize, and develop district heating in Ukraine so that it becomes more efficient, more affordable, and more climate-resilient.

What we did to achieve this:

- 1 We created a working group on district heating system development** — a platform for dialogue among all stakeholders: representatives of district heating companies, the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, NEURC, and local self-government bodies. The group works on joint solutions that will enable the modernization of heating networks and improve service quality for consumers.
- 2 We took part in two working groups at government bodies: one at the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories**, working on reducing CO₂ emissions in district heating systems; and one at the National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission (NEURC), which is developing a methodology for calculating heat tariffs for enterprises that produce both electricity and heat simultaneously (cogeneration). Participation in these groups allows Ecoclub to directly influence the shaping of state policy in the field of heat supply.
- 3 We organized events for training and exchanging experience among stakeholders involved in developing and reforming heat supply** in Ukrainian communities, and for identifying modern, effective solutions for modernizing heating systems.
- 4 We submitted proposals for amending legislative acts.**



Study tour "Solar Power Plants and Heat Pumps in Communities"



What did we manage to achieve? The most significant results

- **Heat pumps as a way to strengthen district heating.** As a result of proposals submitted by Ecoclub, events held, and effective communication, the state Energy Efficiency Fund included projects for installing heat pumps (equipment that uses ambient environmental energy for heating or hot water production) in its new — yet already very popular — GreenHome program. Under this program, homeowners associations (HOA) can now receive funding to install heat pumps.

As of early 2026, one homeowners associations (HOA) in Rivne had installed a heat pump and a solar power plant, allowing its residents to avoid using energy-intensive heaters and instead use their own generated heat to supplement district heating — saving money, improving comfort, and enhancing energy security all at once. This is especially relevant during the shoulder heating season.



Event in Lutsk "Energy Home. Results and Plans for Condominium Associations (HOA)"

- **Working to overcome barriers to geothermal energy development.** Ecoclub developed a feasibility study for installing a heat pump and a solar power plant for the Teplokomunenerho utility company in the city of Khmelnytskyi. The document demonstrated the real benefits of the company shifting from traditional gas combustion to heat pumps (*one of which uses heat from outdoor air and will be effective in summer, while the other – a geothermal heat pump – will use heat from the ground and be equally effective year-round*). Combined with the operation of a solar power plant, this will reduce the cost of thermal energy, which can be used primarily for producing hot water or supplementing the heating system (*particularly during the shoulder season, when it is cold outside but the heating period has not yet officially begun – during October or April, which in 2026 was quite cold, and residents had to use electric heaters to stay warm*).

While preparing the design and cost estimate documentation, we discovered that the fee charged by the State Service of Geology and Subsoil of Ukraine for a permit to drill wells for this project costs significantly more than the drilling work itself – a major obstacle to implementing geothermal energy projects. Enterprises are forced to pay for a permit to use ground heat, which makes the technology more expensive and less accessible.

We formed an initiative group and, together with other participants, including the Khmelnytskyi City Council, appealed to the responsible government authorities requesting that this fee be abolished.

At the end of 2025, the Ministry of Energy submitted legislative amendments to abolish this fee. (*As of April 2026, Ecoclub continues to monitor the progress of the case and is preparing inquiries to the Ministry of Energy to determine what stage it has reached.*) This is important because, once the fee is abolished, geothermal heat extraction projects will become more economically attractive for investment.

Key events

- 1 **[A study tour of district heating company representatives to Lithuania.](#)** During the study visit, participants learned about practices for modernizing district heating and transitioning to renewable energy sources.

Lithuania's experience showed that moving away from imported gas and using local resources (*particularly biomass – wood waste and pellets*) makes it possible to increase energy independence, reduce heating costs, and improve air quality.

Participants paid particular attention to the companies' long-term planning (over a ten-year horizon), the digitalization of systems, and the use of diverse energy sources, including heat recovery and energy storage. The visit confirmed that preserving and modernizing district heating can become the foundation of sustainable, climate-neutral energy in Ukraine, provided there is a systematic approach, planning, and infrastructure renewal.

Based on the study tour to Lithuania, Ecoclub published [a study on Lithuania's experience reforming the sector](#). To date, the publication has been downloaded 245 times.

- 2 **The Second All-Ukrainian Forum of Heat Energy Producers, "District Heating of Ukraine 2025."** Over 70 participants from across Ukraine gathered in Cherkasy to see the projects implemented in the city and to learn from the experience of the local utility, which stands as an example of systematic technical re-equipment and the deployment of modern solutions and efficient technologies. District heating in Cherkasy is one of the most affordable in Ukraine: city residents have hot water year-round, and the utility is protected from electricity and gas supply disruptions.

As a result, the city budget does not need to spend money compensating tariffs and can instead direct these funds toward new, promising projects.



All-Ukrainian Forum of Heat Energy Producers
"District Heating of Ukraine 2025"

Forum participants discussed the development strategy of the sector through 2050, including: a step-by-step reform of district heating companies and the protection of their infrastructure during the war; transforming municipal utilities into joint-stock companies to attract investment; Lithuania's experience in reforming heat supply – moving from imported gas to local renewable energy sources.

Also discussed **the new digital resource [ReWarm](#)** from GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation), hosted by the Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine – an open digital library for everyone working in the field of district heating in Ukraine, from specialists at heating companies and government bodies to researchers and the public. *The platform gathers analytics, research, regulatory documents, case studies, and educational materials. ReWarm's goal is to accelerate the sector's reform, support the professional development of specialists, and help Ukraine integrate into international energy efficiency standards.*

- 3 **A study visit to Germany.** In September, in cooperation with GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation), we organized a study visit for 22 representatives of Ukrainian communities and district heating companies to four small towns in eastern Germany: Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Aschersleben, Hettstedt, and Sangerhausen. The purpose of the trip was to study the path these towns had taken – from the Soviet-style model of district heating to a modern, efficient, and climate-neutral system. After German reunification in 1990, these towns faced the same challenges Ukraine faces today: outdated infrastructure, a shrinking population, and the need for decarbonization.

Participants saw how municipal utilities operate that simultaneously supply a town with heat, water, electricity, and gas, and how this integrated approach reduces costs and improves the reliability of supply. Particular attention was paid to digital tools for managing heating networks: GIS systems for network mapping, SCADA for real-time monitoring, and hydraulic calculation software.

Participants also learned about long-term decarbonization plans through 2045, including the shift from coal and gas to geothermal energy, solar thermal power, and biomass. They visited real-world facilities: boiler houses, solar thermal plants, and an energy-efficient apartment building converted from a Soviet-era panel building into a nearly self-sufficient energy facility. The trip gave participants a practical understanding of how small towns can systematically modernize their heat supply and what steps are needed to start taking today.



Study trip to Germany for representatives of Ukrainian communities and district heating companies

The study visits to Lithuania and Germany helped show Ukrainian communities and district heating companies that modernizing district heating is possible even in countries that shared a similar legacy of outdated infrastructure.

Lithuania's experience is particularly important for Ukraine: the country managed to reduce its dependence on imported gas, develop local energy sources, digitalize the management of heating networks, and make district heating part of its energy security.

Ecoclub used this experience not as an abstract example, but as practical material for working with Ukrainian communities, district heating companies, and government authorities.

The study on district heating reform in Lithuania, the forum of heat energy producers in Cherkasy, and the study visit to Germany helped build a common language among communities, district heating companies, regulators, and international partners. This matters because the future modernization of heat supply requires not only technical solutions, but also trust, agreed-upon rules, and an understanding of the sector's economics.

Comment from the coordinator



"An ineffective tariff policy in the heat supply sector only postpones the problem of modernizing the industry rather than solving it. It deprives district heating companies of the resources and opportunities needed for modernization, which deepens the crisis in district heating.

At the same time, the tariff-setting system must prevent abuse in the form of artificial price increases by district heating companies. To change this, people need to understand how tariffs are formed, why they are set the way they are, what heating network modernization actually means, and how renewable energy can make heat cheaper and more reliable. Ecoclub will continue to serve as a bridge between communities, district heating companies, and the authorities, in order to shape the context for decisions that truly work,"

Mykhailo Lukianyk, coordinator of Ecoclub's district heating program.

Partners



ReWarm





Goal 7.

International Advocacy

Why do we work on this?

Ukraine is at the center of international attention as a country simultaneously defending itself against an aggressor on the battlefield, planning its reconstruction, and carrying out a climate transformation. International partners, development banks, and donors are looking for effective models to support Ukrainian communities and are ready to invest in organizations with real, hands-on experience on the ground.

Ecoclub works at the international level to ensure that the voice of Ukrainian communities — which have both the desire and the political will for change — is heard where decisions on funding and policy are made. Without the involvement of practitioners, international strategies often fail to account for the real financial, regulatory, or infrastructural barriers that communities face every day.



What was Ecoclub's main goal in this area in 2025?

To represent the interests of Ukrainian communities at international venues and to convey three key messages to international organizations, development banks, and donors: that small, local power plants (solar, wind, and others) are an effective solution for Ukraine's energy resilience; that Ukrainian towns and villages need systematic support in implementing energy projects; and that access to international funding for communities should be simpler and faster.

What did we do to achieve this:

- 1 **We presented Ecoclub's experience in community energy development at the international IKI event ([International Climate Initiative of the German government](#))**, dedicated to investment in a climate-resilient Ukraine through 2035. At a panel discussion on decentralized renewable energy, we shared our experience installing solar power plants for hospitals, water utilities, and other important facilities as part of the Renewables for Resilient Ukraine project. We discussed what is hindering the scaling up of such solutions in Ukraine, including limited access to financing and legislative constraints. As a result of the event, we established new contacts with international experts and drew donors' attention to the needs of Ukrainian communities.



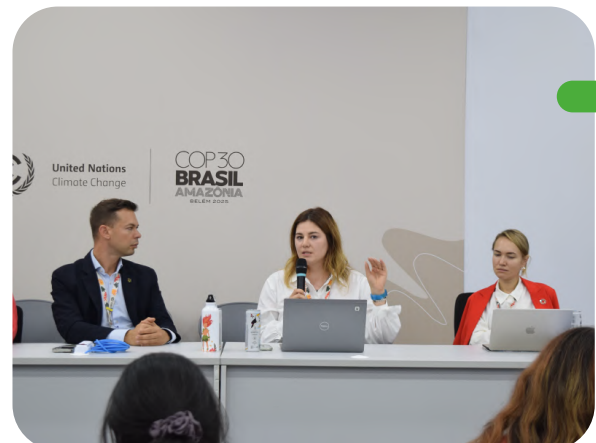
- 2 **We took part in a series of meetings with members of the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** – an international financial institution that funds reconstruction and development projects in Ukraine.

Ecoclub's representatives outlined the position of Ukrainian communities on what reconstruction should look like: compliant with environmental standards, with accessible financing for small communities, modernization of heat supply, and consideration of climate risks. We also studied the experience of Central and Eastern European countries in implementing the EU directive on the energy efficiency of buildings.



- 3 **We took part in the 2025 climate negotiations (COP30)**, which were held November 10–21 in Belém, Brazil. Ecoclub's representative spoke at the event "Article 6 and the Voluntary Carbon Market in Ukraine: Environmental Recovery and Resilience for Municipalities," where we shared Ecoclub's experience working with communities and discussed opportunities for implementing pilot energy and climate projects at the community level.

We also took part in a panel discussion at the Ukrainian pavilion entitled "Ukrainian Civil Society – Climate Resilience in Times of War and Recovery". We discussed how Ukrainian civil society has become a key driver of important energy decisions, using examples such as the installation of solar power stations for critical infrastructure facilities (hospitals, water supply and sewerage systems, and social and medical institutions).



- 4 We took part in the [Ukraine Recovery Conference](#), where we presented our position on reforming Ukraine's environmental assessment system. We emphasized that, even during the war, the EIA procedure must not be turned into a mere formality for the sake of speeding up reconstruction.

Together with WWF, we presented an analytical note at a side event, amplifying civil society's voice on preserving environmental standards throughout the country's recovery process.



Ecoclub at ReBuild Ukraine 2025

Success story

At one of the largest international energy conferences in Germany, **the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2025**, one of the panel discussions was dedicated to Ecoclub's Renewables for Resilient Ukraine project. The discussion, with the participation of Dr. Philipp Behrens, head of a department at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, focused on the role of decentralized energy infrastructure in strengthening the energy resilience of Ukrainian communities.



Ecoclub at Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2025

Ecoclub presented the results of the project, which covered 20 Ukrainian municipalities. Under the project, 3 civil society organizations, led by Ecoclub, built 19 solar power plants and installed 1 heat pump.

In our presentation, we emphasized that it is the local level — not only the national level — that is key to Ukraine's energy transformation.

Comment from the coordinator



"International attention to Ukraine has not diminished, but the window of opportunity is not endless. Donors and international financial institutions are currently actively shaping their priorities for reconstruction, and if Ukrainian communities are not represented in these discussions, decisions will be made without accounting for their real needs. It is important not only to be present at international venues, but to arrive there with concrete data, implemented projects, and clear proposals for changes to regulation and financing."

Climate transformation and reconstruction are not two separate processes, but one – and right now is the chance to build energy infrastructure that will still be resilient 30 years from now. That is why Ecoclub will continue working at the international level and serving as the voice of Ukrainian communities wherever the country's future is being shaped,"

Nataliia Kholodova, Ecoclub program manager.

Partners





Goal 8.

Organizational Development

Continuous development of the Ecoclub team is an investment in the quality of our work, which is why training is an integral part of our activities.

Throughout 2025, Ecoclub staff developed their expertise in the following areas:

- **Energy and climate:** Project management training at the New Energy Academy of the European Climate Foundation, and the SAYP program "Green Transition to Low-Carbon Societies" at Lund University (Sweden).
- **Resource management and solar power plants:** A study visit to the Netherlands at the invitation of VNG International and VEI B.V. (Dutch organizations actively cooperating with Ukraine, including in the restoration and improvement of water supply infrastructure), focused on water resource management, energy consumption optimization, and the technical maintenance of water supply facilities. The visit resulted in a certificate from the World Water Academy.
- **Training and certification for two Ecoclub staff members in solar power plant design from the company "Atmosfera."** The training deepened participants' knowledge of photovoltaic system design, modeling, and the preparation of technical documentation.
- **Modernization of district heating:** a study tour to Lithuania and Germany on district heating transformation and the transition of heating networks to biofuel.
- **Sustainable development:** the program "Innovation in Governance for Nature-Based Urban Solutions" at Lund University (Sweden).
- **Leadership and management:** the Civil Society Leadership Programme (NGO Academy, ERSTE Foundation, WU Vienna), for deepening skills in strategic planning, governance, fundraising, impact measurement, leadership, and emotional resilience.

- **Project management and advocacy:** project management training from the company CompassGroup, and training in developing and running advocacy campaigns from the ANTS Advocacy School.
- **Safety and internal policies:** HEAT training on how to act in extreme conditions (during shelling, explosions, and in the event of injury), and the update of internal policies on organizing tenders and procurement.
- **Media and climate:** training at the "Climate Media School" (NGO "Ecoaction") on studying the causes and consequences of climate change and water-related issues.

Financial Indicators

↓ Revenue:

Funding for the projects implementation and the installation of SPPs

Donor	Name of project	Total, UAH
Danish Refugee Council in Ukraine (DRC)	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 29 645 007.90
FORTUM	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 6 727 427.53
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	"Supporting Ukraine in implementation of the Paris Agreement and Adaptation to the impact of climate change in the Black Sea Region (PAABS)" project	UAH 4 458 656.34
European Climate Foundation	"Promoting the Use of Renewable Energy Sources in Ukrainian Municipal Institutions" project	UAH 3 625 672.60
VNG International	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 3 051 014.38
Svarog e.V	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 2 349 745
Grinteko SES, LLC	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 2 256 191.10
wirWerk gGmbH	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 2 182 314.33
Action Against Hunger	Emergency support and winter preparation for children deprived of parental care in Kharkiv Oblast	UAH 1 996 537.47
Austausch e.V.	"Econet. Strengthening the Transnational NGO Network for Climate and Environmental Protection" project	UAH 1 759 199.60
Yellowblue Force Foundation	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 1 538 075.00
CEE Bankwatch Network	"Improvement of 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" project	UAH 987 282.94

LLC "BOHUSLAVENERGY"	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 971 200
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 930 449.68
LLC "Clean Energy"	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 902 719
NESEHNUTI Brno	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 831 014.24
NESEHNUTI Brno	"Strengthening the Resilience of Critical Infrastructure in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Using Decentralized Energy Sources" project	UAH 753 895.13
Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe (HLF)	"Solar Resilience for Water and Care" project	UAH 733 399.50
Heinrich Böll Stiftung Kyiv	"Supporting dialogue within the framework of European integration and monitoring Ukraine's energy and environmental commitments project"	UAH 581 500
Norwegian Refugee Council Ukraine (NRC)	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 506 150.07
Woman Engage for a Common Future (WECF)	"Sub-Granting for Ecofeminist Policy Action at National, Regional and Global Levels" project	UAH 390 732.80
Eidgenoessisches Departement	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 340 386.75
Embassy of the Slovak Republic	"Installation of Solar-Powered benches in public spaces of the city of Lviv" project	UAH 275 000
LLC PROHRESIVKA BETA	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 169 802.26
NGO Ukraine2Power (U2P)	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 146 935
JSC Ukrgasvydobuvannya	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 74 087.88
PVcase UAB	Solar Power Plant Installation	UAH 72 201.15

Donor	Total, UAH
Clovek v tisni, o.p.s (People in Need)	UAH 13 643 219.85
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	UAH 11 558 688.73
European Climate Foundation – "To enhance the 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"	UAH 3 924 189.90
Public Union "CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT"	UAH 1 051 943.92
NGO "Ecoaction"	UAH 982 920.68
EnGreen s.r.l. – "Addressing Needs for a Clean Energy Transition. Readiness of Ukrainian Cities for Innovative Financing. Examples and Measures (ANEW – LIFE)" project	UAH 896 157.78
Czech environmental Partnership foundation (Nadace Partnerství) – "Climate Change Adaptation Contest - Adaptera UA" project	UAH 671 741.78

Other revenues

Category	Total, UAH
Foreign exchange gain	UAH 4 056 322.23
Humanitarian aid	UAH 378 454
Charitable donations	UAH 90 634
Membership contributions	UAH 4 267.75



Total: UAH 104 595 538.44



Expenses:

main areas of spending

	UAH 34 171 251	Solar power plant installation works
	UAH 26 494 264	Salaries and unified social contribution
	UAH 7 482 315.37	Consulting and information services
	UAH 3 676 849.30	Sub-grantees
	UAH 2 945 557.06	Development of FS and PKD
	UAH 2 506 404.92	Event organization services
	UAH 2 068 070.55	Administrative expenses
	UAH 1 721 567.27	Travel expenses
	UAH 933 759.53	Foreign exchange loss
	UAH 930 000	Energy audits
	UAH 666 610	Legal services
	UAH 488 337.10	Equipment transfer
	UAH 425 258	Photo and video production
	UAH 321 890.12	Humanitarian aid provided to veterans
	UAH 299 227	IT services
	UAH 282 392.16	Bank fees
	UAH 151 150	Translation
	UAH 136 000	Audit services



Total: UAH 87 855 687.68

Partnerships with organisations



Partnerships with government



The results of 2025 were made possible thanks to Ecoclub's partners: international organizations, donors, experts, members of the organization, and communities who share our vision of a sustainable and secure future for Ukraine.

We sincerely thank everyone who supported our ideas with resources, expertise, and trust – from implementing solar power plants in frontline communities to representing Ukraine's interests at international venues. Let's continue this work together!

Partnerships with local communities



Ananiv
City Council



Boguslav
Community



Brody
City Council



Vasylkiv
Settlement Territorial
Community



Verkhnodniprovsk
City Territorial
Community



Vyhoda
Settlement Council



Vyzhnytsia
City Council



Vinkivtsi
Community



Volodymyr
City Council



Horodnia
City Council



Horodok
City Council



Horokhiv
Community



Drohobych
City Council



Dubovykivka
Territorial Community



Zhytomyr
City Council



Zaporizhzhia
Community



Zelenodolsk
City Territorial
Community



Znob-Novhorod
Settlement Territorial
Community



Zolochiv
City Council



Kalush
City Council



Kamiansk
Territorial Community



Kodyma
City Council



Koziatyn
City Council



Kolomyia
Community



Krasyliv
Community



Kremenets
City Council



Kryvyi Rih
City Territorial
Community



Lypova Dolyna
Settlement Territorial
Community



Lychkove Rural
Territorial Community



Lviv
City Council



Mykolaiv
City Council



Mykolaiv
Oblast Council



Myrhorod
City Council



Mlyniv
Community



Nizhyn
City Council



Okhtyrka
City Territorial
Community



Pavlohrad
City Territorial
Community



Petrykivka
Settlement Territorial
Community



Poltava
Community



Popivka
Rural Territorial
Community



Pustomyt
City Council



Rivne Territorial
Community



Rozhniativ
Community



Saksahansk
Rural Territorial
Community



Samariv
City Territorial
Community



Sambir
City Council



Slavuta
City Council



Solone
Settlement Territorial
Community



Sumy
Community



Trostianets
City Territorial
Community



Uzhhorod
City Council



Fastiv
City Council



Kharkiv
Territorial Community



Chyhyryn
Community



Shatsk Settlement
Territorial Community

Participation in Working Groups

- Climate Action Network (CAN)
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- WASH Cluster
- Ukrainian Climate Network
- Energy Transition Coalition
- "Build Ukraine Better" Coalition of Civil Society Organizations
- Negotiating working group preparing Ukraine's negotiating positions for accession talks with the European Union on energy (Chapter 15)
- Youth Council of the Ministry of Environmental Protection
- Negotiating working group on Chapter 27 (environment and climate), coordinated by the Interagency Working Group established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
- Working group at the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories on the decarbonization of district heating
- Working group at NEURC on developing a methodology for calculating heat tariffs for cogeneration enterprises (producing electricity and heat simultaneously)
- Working group on sustainable energy development in Rivne oblast.



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