

In 2015, Ecoclub put a lot of efforts into the development of local NGOs from all over Ukraine. At the national level, we continued to influence the improvement of climate and energy policies of the country. Ecoclub worked to improve local energy efficiency policy and to create new instruments for its implementation in the Rivne oblast and other parts of Ukraine. Raising people awareness about ways to save energy and internal development of organization remained among our top priorities.

Environment protection movement



Ecoclub has a unique NGO experience, which for the last 10 years demands public requirements and environmental values to be taken into account when making political decisions and influences public opinion as well. The existence of numerous properly functioning NGOs, that care about environment, is a prerequisite for the development of Ukraine. That's why Ecoclub puts the majority of its efforts into development of domestic NGOs.

With the aim to support the environment movement, Ecoclub together with its partners held the second in a row summer camp, [Energizer Camp](#), for environmental activists and organizations. The event was held for 3 weeks and attended by 200 participants. Inspired by eco-camping participants gained knowledge and new friends, returned to their communities and made their own start in eco-activism.

Within CLEEN Project frameworks, Ecoclub provided three special trainings for the activists from Ukraine and Moldova. About 40 people gained skills in energy efficiency sector, advocacy, budget monitoring, and NGO management. For one year, these organizations remained under Ecoclub supervision, developed their skills, and now they actively influence decision making in their communities.

Ecoclub actively interacted with local eco-initiatives. With the support of the organization, the project of The Green Path of Rivne has been developed aiming to create a recreational walking route around the Ustia river in the city of Rivne.

The activists of the town of Shepetivka, the Khmelnytskyi oblast, were given a small grant to organize a separate garbage collection in a local school. Due to this, the facility has been equipped with twelve boxes for collection of used paper and two boxes to collect plastic bottles. Funds received from the collected materials are being spent on energy saving measures.

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As speakers, the employees of Ecoclub attended Energy Change Youth Eco-Forum, where about 150 activists spoke about the state and opportunities for energy development in Ukraine. They also explained to participants which aspects of energy efficiency and conservation belong to the community responsibility and which to government responsibility.

Improving national energy policy



Working in this direction, we aim to extend the use of international experience at national level and take into account the views of local communities in decision making regarding energy efficiency.

In May, Ecoclub offered a training for municipal energy managers to incorporate the requirements of Energy Community Directives in its work. Following the workshop, a working group of energy managers was created, which included about 50 people who now actively exchange information, experiences, and news via mailing list.

In summer, Ecoclub gathered more than 30 activists, energy managers, and speakers from all over Ukraine for the Energy Efficiency High School event. For two days, our participants visited near 20 interactive sessions concerning energy innovation, social entrepreneurship, business incentives to develop renewable energy sources, energy cooperatives, and more. Also under supervision of Ecoclub and the National Ecological Center of Ukraine, they have installed a solar shower - equipment for water heating from the sun.

In 2015, Ecoclub completed one of its most successful projects: *Turn on the Sun - Live Comfortably*. Ecoclub members participated in the organization of a national conference after the three-year project to teach the rural communities how to self-produce solar collectors for the use of energy efficient technologies. Also, the recommendations how to succeed and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in Ukraine were presented at the event.

All year long, the representatives of Ecoclub participated in the development and improvement of *The Environmental Impact Assessment*, a new Law of Ukraine, which aim is to replace an outdated institution of environmental impact assessment by a European approach based on the declaration.

Ecoclub continues to lead the Working Group of NGOs on Climate Change - a network of public ecological organizations from all over Ukraine that cooperate to preserve the climate of the planet through raising public awareness and participating in development and implementation of the climate policy of Ukraine.

We regularly participate in events organized by state authorities (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of State Energy Efficiency, Energoatom) and present Ecoclub's opinion on the issues. Also, Ecoclub is a member of the Public Council under the Ministry of Environment.

The development of local energy efficiency policy



Active and informed managers are the key to the development of energy efficiency in the communities. During the year, Ecoclub organized a number of activities for officials in Rivne and other cities of Ukraine.

One of the largest Ecoclub initiatives was mutual work together with representatives of government, business, activists, and other stakeholders on development of public requirements to the Rivne Regional Energy Efficiency Program for 2016-2020 years. In December, the document was presented to the audience and positively evaluated by Andriy Shyian, the Manager of plans and programs of Energy Efficiency Department.

Also we held meetings with Rivne city and regional officials, developed analytical recommendations for local councils, and joined the commission on the allocation of funds under the regional competition for energy efficiency projects.

In May, a round table on energy management event was organized in Rivne within the international scientific conference: *Present Issues of Heating, Ventilation, Water Supply, and Sanitation Systems*. Ecoclub moderated the discussion of officials, scientists, and activists on energy issues in the Rivne oblast.

During the year, Ecoclub designed and printed posters demonstrating energy efficiency class for six cities of Ukraine - in total for more than 500 government institutions.

With the financial supported of its partners and Slavuta City Council, Ecoclub created and run The Revolving Fund in Slavuta: the first ever mechanism in Ukraine for the residents of the private sector and not only multi-apartment buildings. It aims to provide an affordable efficient energy loans for private homes.

Experience on creating The Revolving Fund was presented at a seminar in Odessa, organized in cooperation with GIZ. Today Ecoclub helps with preparation of documents required to launch a similar Fund for Odessa.

Overall, during the year Ecoclub participated in more than 30 events and organized more than 10 events both at local and national levels (seminars, workshops, exhibitions, etc.)

Information and educational activities



By its work, Ecoclub aims to achieve conscious energy consumption by Ukrainians and gain energy independence along with the preservation of the environment. We organize street actions, workshops, and information events, where we distribute unbiased information on energy and the environment protection.

In April, Ecoclub members attended *Energy Independence is Our Common Goal* informational tour organized by the National Ecological Center of Ukraine. Within the tour, the activists visited nine cities in Ukraine and taught thousands of Ukrainians how to save energy in household and how to use renewable energy sources.

In May as part of *Towards Energy Efficiency* spring construction forum in Lviv, we conducted a training to restore old wooden windows. The event was attended by about forty schools service workers in the Lviv oblast. Under the supervision of Ilya Eremenko, the participants insulated two windows of the school No17.

In September, Ecoclub participated in Sustainable Energy Days in Rivne, Khmelnytsky, and Lutsk. For three days, environmental activists were speaking of manufacturing solar water heaters, energy-saving techniques and energy efficiency of dwellings, they distributed printed publications and showed short films about energy and climate change.

The same month, Ecoclub together with Rivne community activists held a performance at the main square of Rivne and shot a video about the necessity for building insulation. The activists encouraged people to reduce energy consumption and thereby gain energy independence.

In November, Ecoclub created the online calculator to assess energy efficiency of houses and apartments, as well as to assess economic gain of its insulation. The calculator is available to the public. The tool has already benefited more than 200 users. To promote this calculator, we developed animated video why insulating your apartment is much more profitable than keeping your money in the bank. The video was distributed and viewed over 1,000 times.

In order to promote the topics of energy conservation and efficiency among journalists, Ecoclub organized a press tour for the media representatives from Rivne to the cities of Sarny and Rokytne in March. Environmental activists visited several heating stations and government institutions which performed insulation or switched to solid fuels, and discovered that only 22 out of 40 facilities that received government funding were currently operating.

In November, Ecoclub together with 7 volunteers joined the Climate march, which took place in Kyiv. The event was dedicated to climate negotiations in Paris, and the activists called on the authorities to take decisive action to combat climate change and to use renewable energy.

During the year, Ecoclub has written and published, among other news, a series of popular articles (17 articles in total) on energy efficiency in everyday life. The rapid growth of web site visitors indicates the relevance of the topic and audience request for the quality information (web site attendance has tripled).

Ecoclub activists held five lectures for students from the Technical College of the National University of Environment and Water Management. These lectures increased awareness of students about energy saving, energy efficiency, climate change, Ecoclub anti-nuclear activities, and renewable energy.

Together with the Ukrainian youth climate association, we organized game-simulated climate negotiations for students from Rivne State Humanitarian University.

In 2015 Ecoclub continued its campaign on collecting used batteries. As of today, Rivne residents handed over 200 kg of used batteries. All batteries have been tested by volunteers and sorted. Working batteries are offered for free at Ecoclub office. The list of the nearest battery collection stations in Rivne is available online.

Development of Eco activism in Rivne



Ecoclub together with other local NGOs and ecological initiatives regularly participated in events aimed to promote friendly and respectful attitude towards the environment.

In March, our activists joined the global Earth Hour initiative and organized the party *Earth Hour in Rivne. Plug in Your Power*. For two hours and in a cozy atmosphere, the activists were speaking to the audience about climate change on the planet, trends in world energy industry, influence of our behavioral habits on the environment, and were offering for everyone to calculate their ecological footprint.

In early June, Ecoclub participated in urban picnic, which was intended to draw attention of both residents and authorities to the neglected green area of the city - Hydro Park. Our activists held several workshops (eco-bag painting, making seed "bombs", grass eco-toys) and demonstrated the solar water heater in work.

With the help of environmental activists, *Garden Stories* initiative was started, where every Rivne resident can plant a tree with their names. The idea has become very popular, and the activists have already planted the first Alley of Pink Willows.



In July Ecoclub joined *Slava Frolova's Art Picnic* Ukrainian initiative. During the event, our activists were speaking about the benefits of renewable energy, particularly solar energy.

In early September, the environmental activists participated in *Zelo Rivne* eco-festival. For two days, our activists communicated with more than 150 people on Ukrainian energy features, how to save energy at home every day, how to insulate homes and build a collector for water heating from the sun.

In October, Ecoclub together with volunteers organized *Pumpkin Party*. During the evening, about 30 participants learned the basics of healthy eating, had fun at moving and table games, and tried pumpkin sweets. Pumpkin carving and photo shoot ended this entertaining event.

In December, Ecoclub visited St. Andrew eco-evenings where we were speaking to the audience about energy saving techniques in everyday life, influence of our daily habits on the environment, and measured the ecological footprint of the guests.

Before the New Year holidays, we organized two workshops on recycling in Rivne. Ecoclub volunteers showed the participants how to make Christmas ornaments from eco-materials and old things: cereals, dried fruits and spices, incandescent lamps, buttons, beads, and paper.

This year, we bought a thermographic camera to conduct public energy observations. During favorable weather conditions, our activists did four thermal imaging surveys for residents of apartment buildings and provided the residents with recommendations on increasing energy efficiency based upon the survey results.

Anti-nuclear activities



Nuclear power is dangerous and far from being cheap. We believe in the future of renewable energy sources and strive to stop the construction of new reactors and to close those with expired service life.

In April, Ecoclub participated in public hearings in Yuzhnoukrainsk about life extension of Unit 2 of South-Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plant. The Head of Ecoclub, Andriy Martyniuk, noted that in case of a positive decision in the present form, Ukraine would again violate the requirements of the Espoo Convention.

In May together with the representatives of the National Ecological Center of Ukraine, Ecoclub started its mini-tour in the cities around Rivne and Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plants.

In November, Ecoclub representatives participated at a debate in Khmelnytskyi regarding the construction of 3 and 4 Units at Khmelnytskyi NPP. Activists clearly stated the inadmissibility of such construction and risks to the environment and people associated with it.

Our organization is a member of the Public Council and a participant of the Board of Nuclear State Regulation.

Internal organizational development



In an effort to self-improve and enhance Ecoclub performance, we put a large part of our resources to the internal development of the organization.

During 2015, we held a general meeting for our members and two meetings with the strategic plan for the work of organization for the next 3 years.

The structure of the organization was updated - updated Council of the organization, which includes new members. Also the Supervisory Committee was created, which includes three external experts who provide mentoring support and advise Ecoclub in addressing strategic issues and organization development.

Our employees and members participated in several training sessions to improve their skills during the year.

[Ecoclub Media Report](#)

Ecoclub Budget 2015

Received

By Funds

Income from % and currency exchange



Expenses

Sub-grants

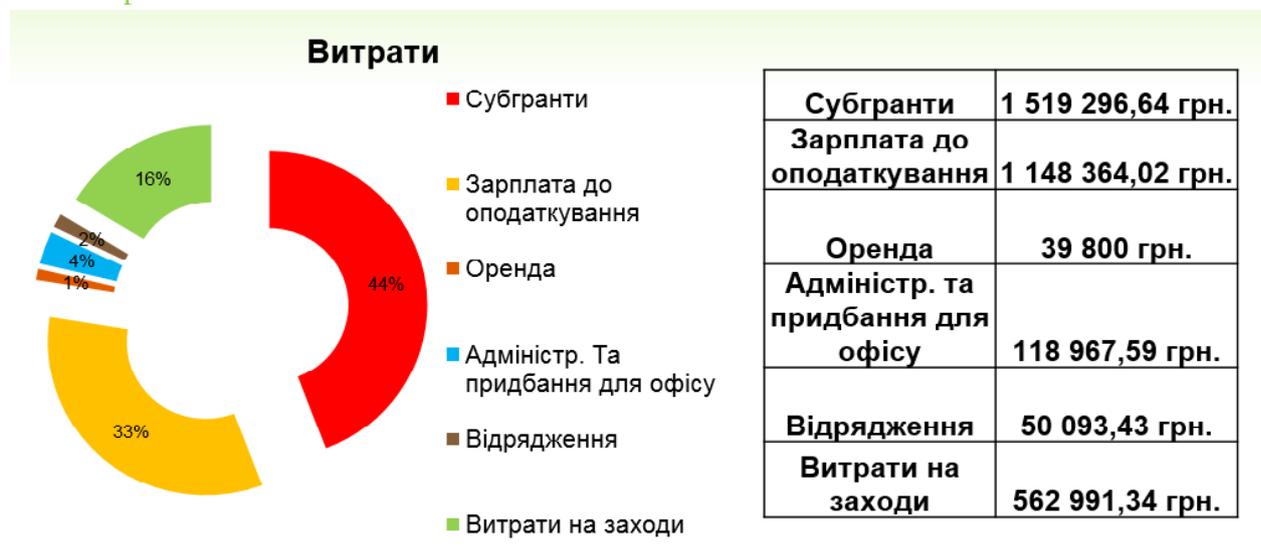
Salary before taxes

Rent

Administrative and office supplies expenses

Business travel

Event expenses



Ecoclub team wishes to thank all our partners, members, volunteers, and friends for their support in 2015. Together we professionally grow and increase our performance!

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