

Energy Efficiency in Municipalities in Ukraine

As of: May 2026

Energy-efficient modernization of schools and kindergartens in Ukrainian municipalities

Title	Energy Efficiency in Municipalities
Region	Ukraine
Donor	BMZ
Project / Political Partner	Zhytomyr City Council, Zaporizhzhia City Council, Cabinet of Ministers
Project Volume	EUR 26,5 million
Description	The goal of this investment measure is to reduce the annual energy demand of municipalities by at least 20% by renovating selected municipal infrastructure. As part of this project, up to 15 schools and kindergartens in the cities of Zhytomyr and Zaporizhzhia will be rehabilitated with energy-efficient upgrades. The target group of this module includes approximately 8.000 children.

Project Background

High energy use of public buildings and rising energy costs have been a significant burden for the cities of Zhytomyr (150 km west of Kyiv) and Zaporizhzhia (near the frontline) for several years. Since Russia’s full-scale invasion in 2022, attacks on energy infrastructure, price surges, and supply risks have worsened the situation. Both cities regularly face outages caused by missile and drone strikes.

Addressing those challenges has become more urgent as more than 170,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently seeking refuge in Zaporizhzhia and 38,000 in Zhytomyr, many of them children. This is putting a strain on schools, kindergartens, hospitals, and administrative buildings. These institutions require reliable energy to ensure that children - who are already particularly affected by the ongoing war - are provided with safe and warm spaces, particularly during the harsh winter months in Ukraine.

Project Approach/Objectives

To counter these vulnerabilities, the project delivers targeted energy-efficient modernization across up to 15 selected schools and kindergartens in Zhytomyr and Zaporizhzhia. Building envelope upgrades comprise thermal insulation of external walls, replacement of inefficient windows with multi-glazed units and entrance areas, plus overhauls of ventilation, heating, and lighting systems. Refurbishment extends to sanitary facilities, kitchens, and gyms.

This is complemented by strengthened energy monitoring and dedicated training for public facility managers. Additionally, the project supports municipal energy management by strengthening the local Municipal Energy Agency and introducing a digital energy management system designed to

improve coordination and ensure the sustainable use of energy in public buildings. Beyond technical improvements, the initiative aims to facilitate safe, accessible, and functional public facilities that can also serve as polling stations for elections.

Funding totals EUR 26.5 million from the German Government represented by BMZ via KfW Development Bank, complemented by local contributions from Ukraine.



Children playing in a rehabilitated kindergarten. Image Source: KfW Photo Archive / Jonas Wresch

Impacts

The project improves learning and childcare conditions for about 8,000 children in up to 15 schools and kindergartens by modernizing the buildings and reducing energy demands by about 20%. These measures enhance energy efficiency and increase the independence of public buildings from centralized energy systems, leading to reduced ongoing costs for

municipalities. The project contributes to lowering greenhouse gas emissions, thus improving environmental performance.

Furthermore, the modernization of facilities is expected to improve return prospects for returnees. Finally, with schools serving as potential polling stations, the upgrade to a modern standard is also supporting the integrity of democratic processes.



A group of kindergarten children. Image Source: KfW Photo Archive / Jonas Wresch

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