Local Initiatives for a Sustainable Ukraine (LINK Ukraine)

The REC is implementing the LINK project in seven partner municipalities in Ukraine: Ivano-Frankivsk (western Ukraine), Nizhyn (northern Ukraine) and Cherkasy, Fastiv, Berdychiv, Poltava and Lubny (central Ukraine).

The project will produce results based on the needs of the beneficiaries, and is tailored for maximum receptivity concerning policy advice, strategic development and financial support. This, in turn, will generate enhanced local ownership and ensure the overall sustainability of project outcomes and outputs.
OBJECTIVES

The LINK project aims to strengthen local capacities to diversify sources and options for a resource-efficient economy by bringing together policy makers, businesses and civil society at local level to enable positive change in Ukraine. The project promotes good governance, energy efficiency and EU integration processes.

The project goal is to improve local and participatory governance on energy planning and sustainable development issues through three work packages:

WP1: Local Environmental Action Planning (LEAP LINK)
WP2: Civil Society Organisations (CSO LINK)
WP3: Green Steps Ukraine

ACTIVITIES

LEAP LINK

Local communities in Ukraine are being supported to improve environmental planning in the energy sector and to enhance environmental investments in selected local communities. This will contribute to improved environmental management and will help to avoid the vicious circle of a degraded environment, failing economy and poverty. The project team is working closely with local authorities and key stakeholders in selected municipalities to set up working groups, assist in assessing and prioritising sustainability issues, and set goals and targets for investment preparation and project financing.

CSO LINK

CSO LINK ensures the fair and timely involvement of stakeholders in local planning and enables CSOs to become equal and reputable partners at local level on issues relevant to resources, energy efficiency and sustainable development. Through investments in skills and knowledge, CSOs are encouraged to become important drivers of change and development in Ukrainian society and to act locally at community level. Grants are also offered to CSOs for actions on priority issues in local energy plans.

Green Steps

The LINK project includes the development of the Green Steps multimedia citizens’ pack, which conveys messages about the wise use of resources and energy; sustainable development; and positive changes in values and attitudes in society. Green Steps targets educators and members of local CSOs involved in educational and awareness-raising activities. The product is designed to have a positive impact on the level of environmental literacy in Ukrainian society as a whole, including municipal bodies, media, businesses, CSOs and families.