

# Together we bring light: bulb exchange programme concludes as EU steps up support for Ukraine's energy sector

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A nationwide programme supported by the EU offering to exchange old incandescent bulbs for energy-saving ones has successfully concluded in Ukraine. Under the 'Together We Bring Light!' programme, more than 8 million Ukrainians exchanged 40 million old incandescent bulbs for modern LED bulbs.

The programme, initiated at the end of 2022 by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and supported by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, was implemented by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, and Ukrposhta with the support of the European Union.

Using the extensive network of Ukrposhta offices, the programme began in oblast centres and large cities, before moving to the most remote villages. Later, legal entities such as schools, kindergartens, medical institutions, and homeowners' associations also joined the programme.

Geographically, Kyiv Oblast led with 4.2 million exchanges, followed by Lviv (3.2 million), Dnipro (3.1 million), and Kharkiv (2.3 million).

"Thanks to our citizens exchanging 40 million bulbs, we've saved approximately 2 GW of energy capacity, equivalent to the capacity of two nuclear power units," said Ihor Smilyanskyy, General Director of JSC Ukrposhta.

EU Ambassador Katarína Mathernová said the programme "demonstrated the European Union's rapid and effective response to Ukraine's urgent needs during the wartime, highlighting energy as a vital strategic necessity. The EU is taking every possible measure to support Ukraine's energy infrastructure in the most difficult conditions ahead of winter".

Ukrainians had the opportunity to exchange up to 5 incandescent bulbs for the same number of LED bulbs either at Ukrposhta offices or by placing a pre-order in the Diia application.

At the same time, the EU continues its systemic support for Ukraine and its energy sector. Given the challenging situation in the energy sector, the European Union plans to expedite the delivery of over 1,000 generators from the rescEU strategic reserves to Ukraine, along with 15,000 solar panels through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

The Support Group for Ukraine (SGUA), established in March 2022, is actively facilitating the delivery of specialized energy equipment, fuel, and materials needed to restore Ukraine's infrastructure damaged by Russia's war of aggression. To date, the group has facilitated 144 in-kind donations and delivered over 5,600 tons of energy equipment from more than 100 donors across 24 countries to Ukraine.



