



Strategic Environmental Review of Renewable Energy for Ukraine

To help Ukraine realise its renewable energy potential, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has launched the Ukraine Sustainable Energy Lending Facility (USELF). USELF aims to provide development support and debt finance for renewable energy projects which meet EBRD's commercial, technical and environmental standards.

Why carry out a Strategic Environmental Review?



In co-operation with the national authorities in Ukraine, the Ukraine USELF commissioned a Strategic Environmental Review (SER) of renewable energy technologies. The SER focuses on the potential impacts of onshore wind, small hydropower, solar, biomass and biogas in areas of Ukraine that can support the technologies. The SER has been undertaken in collaboration with key stakeholders in the area of renewable energy development in Ukraine, including representatives from ministries, national and local authorities developers, local power utilities, non-governmental organisations and other interested parties.

The purpose of the SER is to identify key environmental issues associated with renewable energy projects and provide a source of environmental and social data relevant to guide and inform later environmental reviews of specific projects. The SER complies with EBRD Environmental and Social Policy and the Public Information Policy, and has been guided by the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The USELF SER represents a key initial step towards effectively and efficiently developing renewable energy projects in Ukraine. The SER uses existing environmental information to define the environmental and social setting in Ukraine that could be impacted by renewable energy development.

What does the Strategic Environmental Review accomplish?

The SER identifies scenarios for the development of solar, onshore wind, biomass, biogas and small hydropower projects in areas where it is technically possible to utilise these resources in Ukraine. These scenarios have also been developed to understand how geography, the existing transmission network, and resource availability might make development in some areas of Ukraine unlikely.

The SER evaluates the potential impacts of renewable energy developments upon environmental resources, communities, and the economy for each scenario in the short and long term. The SER also identifies ways to avoid or reduce those impacts to acceptable levels and to help achieve sustainable development objectives.

The SER will not affect the need to prepare an EIA (ONNS) for each project, but will provide information to developers, authorities and EBRD and allow them to focus their efforts on key issues.



How does the SER help the future development of renewable power?



The SER does not make an assessment of the impacts that are relevant to any single project, as the environmental issues and impacts associated with that project will be mostly dependent on the specific location and nature of the development site. However, the SER will help to streamline the impacts assessment process by making it easier to identify and avoid or reduce environmental impacts. This will help developers to meet Ukraine permitting requirements and demonstrate compliance with the EBRD Environment and Social Policy, and help streamline the EIA review process allowing the EBRD to finance specific projects through USELF.

The SER team has contributed to a Developer's Manual and a series of document templates which will help funding applicants (developers) to demonstrate how they have considered and addressed the potential impacts associated with individual projects.

This will allow EBRD and stakeholders to be confident that applicants have considered the environment and are taking the right steps to develop sustainable renewable energy schemes.

How does the SER take into account the views of Stakeholders?



USELF developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to guide consultations and communication with stakeholders throughout the SER process. To inform the production of the SER, the SER team consulted with a wide range of stakeholder groups and conducted meetings with 51 stakeholder groups during the scoping stage (details of which are provided in the SEP).

The SER also provides a streamlined process of stakeholder engagement for individual projects to ensure that communication with stakeholders meet the requirements of Ukraine law and EBRD.

The Draft SER Environmental Report has been Jack's insert here but are we sending this out before or to coincide with the start of consultation process? made available to the public for a 120-day consultation period, during which time stakeholders have the opportunity to review and comment on the findings of the SER. The Draft SER Environmental Report will be made available to stakeholders at <http://www.uself-ser.com> and at local councils and libraries. There will also be a series of workshops and public meetings at locations across the country, where stakeholders can share their views and comments on the SER.

The feedback received during the consultation period will be reviewed and incorporated, where appropriate, in the final SER.

Project Development Support

- A related but separate effort of Ukraine Sustainable Energy Lending Facility
- Renewable energy project development support is available through a Project Support Team based in Kiev.
- The Project Support Team screens projects applying for funding by USELF, and assists developers with applications for USELF financing.
- The Bank will provide developers with the support they need to finance and permit projects in Ukraine, while at the same time, ensuring the information required for the Bank's due diligences prepared in a thorough and consistent way for each project.

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Programme for public consultation on the draft SER

