PeerConnect Workshop

From Delivery to Operation

Lessons from German Energy Assistance to Ukrainian Municipalities



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5 November 2026

German energy support for Ukraine

Main funding channels

Ukraine Energy Support Fund

Energy equipment and repairs

€810 million

Total paid and pledged, September 2026



About €560m paid **€250m pledged**

KfW / BMZ to Ukrenergo	**€249m[1]**	Power grids and substations
GIZ equipment purchases	**More than €54m**	Energy equipment, 2024–2025
THW technical aid	**€170m[2]**	Emergency equipment and supplies
City partnerships / SKEW	**€1,000–50,000[3]**	Small projects with partner towns

[1] German grant funding, 2022–2026. [2] All THW aid over four years, including non-energy aid.

[3] Grant per project. Different periods and funding types: do not add these amounts together.

Sources: 2026 investigation, Energy Community, BMWE, BMZ/KfW, dena, THW and SKEW

Equipment for essential services

What German support provides

About 22,000

donated equipment items

More than 18,000

solar modules within these donations

GIZ deliveries from German company donations, 2024–2025

EQUIPMENT	WHAT IT HELPS KEEP RUNNING
Generators	Backup power for hospitals and pumps
Transformers and grid equipment	Electricity networks
Combined heat and power units, boilers	Local electricity and heating
Solar panels and batteries	Local power and backup supply

Delivery is one step. Equipment also needs installation and connection.

Source: dena response to our investigation, reported in Ukraine verstehen, 4 September 2026

Ukraine’s needs and German suppliers

Equipment for local power, heat and essential services

LOCAL NEED	EQUIPMENT	SUPPLIER EXAMPLES
Backup power	Diesel generators	ENDRESS; Rolls-Royce / mtu
Grid repairs	Transformers	Siemens Energy; SGB-SMIT
Local power and heat	Combined heat and power (CHP)	**RSE Germany GmbH** 2G Energy
Power during outages	Solar and battery systems	TESVOLT; SMA Solar Technology
Reliable heating	Boilers and heating systems	Viessmann; Bosch Industrial

RSE Germany GmbH: system integration with MWM gas engines

Supplier examples, not a ranking or a list of confirmed German aid deliveries.

Sources: our investigation and official supplier product pages. Full links in speaker notes.

Why equipment may not start working

Main problems and their causes

Delays: needs change	Procurement takes months. Attacks change needs faster.
Compatibility: equipment does not fit	Technical parameters differ or key components are missing.
Installation: no working system	Installation, connection, staff or service lack funding.
Security: operation remains unsafe	Attacks and drones damage equipment and disrupt fuel supply.



“It is not enough to deliver equipment and put it in place.”

Tamara Vukovic

Project Manager, SKEW
Service Agency Communities
in One World, Engagement Global

“Even when we have generators, we often cannot start them. The area is fully controlled by Russian drones.”

Yurii Zarko

Mayor of Bilopillia
Sumy region, Ukraine

“A single site must not become a technological ‘zoo’ of incompatible components from different manufacturers and countries.”

Hennadii Riabtsev

Director of Special Projects
Psychea Scientific and
Technical Centre

Measure success by equipment that starts working and stays in operation.

Sources: investigation interviews and manuscript. Quotes translated into English. Takeaway: synthesis of Riabtsev’s assessment.

Direct partnerships between cities

A shorter route between local needs and support

GERMAN–UKRAINIAN MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS

~70

Before the full-scale invasion

250+

February 2026

HOW THE CHANNEL WORKS

1	The Ukrainian municipality explains its needs.
2	The German partner finds funding or a supplier.
3	Direct contact helps partners respond to new damage.

AN EXAMPLE FROM OUR INVESTIGATION

Berlin-Pankow and Rivne

Rivne communicates its needs directly.
Partners stay in touch as attacks change those needs.



A reliable contact helps aid match changing local needs.

Sources: SKEW, 24 February 2026 (partnership network, all sectors). Our investigation (Pankow–Rivne).

Montabaur and Trostianets

Personal contact and follow-through

A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Gabriele Wieland

Then Mayor of Montabaur, Germany

After meeting Yurii Bova, Mayor of Trostianets, she went with him to a hardware store.

She paid for the equipment with her own money.

TROSTIANETS: WHAT FOLLOWED SUCCESSFUL DELIVERY

Yurii Bova, Mayor of Trostianets, Sumy region, Ukraine: After timely procurement, installation and reporting, partners offered the municipality larger projects.

WHY DIRECT PARTNERSHIPS HELP

“Such partnerships work very directly and effectively. They allow a quick response to specific needs.”

Olena Okulich

Regional Director for Eastern Europe
German Eastern Business Association
(Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft)



Sources: investigation manuscript and interviews. Quote translated from Ukrainian. Illustration is symbolic.

Why smaller municipalities struggle

High needs, limited staff and less time to apply

Limited staff	One person may handle applications, partners and reporting.
Urgent daily demands	Frontline towns must also manage repairs and evacuation.
Technical gaps	Projects need engineers for installation and maintenance.

Stefan Sicars

Senior Coordinator for Ukraine
UNIDO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Smaller towns struggle to turn urgent needs into a project a donor can fund.

Tamara Vukovic

Project Manager, SKEW
Service Agency Communities in One World
Engagement Global

Funding works best with team training and support throughout the project.



Municipalities need people and technical support alongside equipment.

Source: interviews for our investigation. Expert views paraphrased from Ukrainian.

What makes energy assistance work

Lessons from our investigation

Current local needs	Keep checking needs as attacks change the situation.
A complete working system	Include installation, connection and maintenance.
People who can deliver	Support municipal teams and local technical staff.
Results after delivery	Track what starts working and stays in operation.

READ THE INVESTIGATION

Published in Tagesspiegel Background Energie & Klima
German version freely available on Ukraine verstehen

ukraineverstehen.de



Read the investigation

This investigation received funding from the European Journalism Centre (EJC) through the ODA Germany Grants programme, supported by the Gates Foundation.