

UKRAINIAN CLIMATE LAW

in infographics

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1. GENERAL PROVISIONS



STRENGTH AND ADVANCEMENTS:

- Comprehensive terminology, aiming at ensuring a consistent understanding across all applications and enforcement;
- Integration of environmental justice principles (i.e. inclusion of the gender equality, intergenerational fairness through differentiated responsibility frameworks)

DRAWBACKS:

- Lack of enforcement mechanisms in the General section may undermine effective implementation.
- Public participation is referenced but lacks specific frameworks for citizen engagement, formal consultation processes, or accountability measures.

2. DEFINITION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF STATE CLIMATE POLICY, STATE REGULATION AND GOVERNANCE, AND SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT IN THE FIELD OF STATE CLIMATE POLICY



STRENGTH AND ADVANCEMENTS:

- Distribution of implementation responsibilities between national and local government levels, creating a multi-tiered approach to climate governance.

DRAWBACKS:

- Currently Ukraine faces significant barriers in inter-agency cooperation and systematic data exchange, potentially hindering coordinated climate action and accurate progress measurement across government bodies and sectors.

3. PLANNING OF STATE CLIMATE POLICY



STRENGTH AND ADVANCEMENTS:

- Establishes a comprehensive multi-level planning framework from national to local scales
- Uniquely integrates post-conflict reconstruction with climate objectives
- Aligns domestic planning instruments with international commitments (Paris Agreement)
- Creates dedicated sectoral approaches to address industry-specific challenges

DRAWBACKS:

- Lack of specific implementation timelines, interim milestones, and short-term phase targets
- Monitoring frameworks insufficient to track progress and assess feasibility of long-term goals
- Potential coordination challenges between multiple planning instruments without clear hierarchical relationships

4. MECHANISMS AND INSTRUMENTS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF STATE CLIMATE POLICY



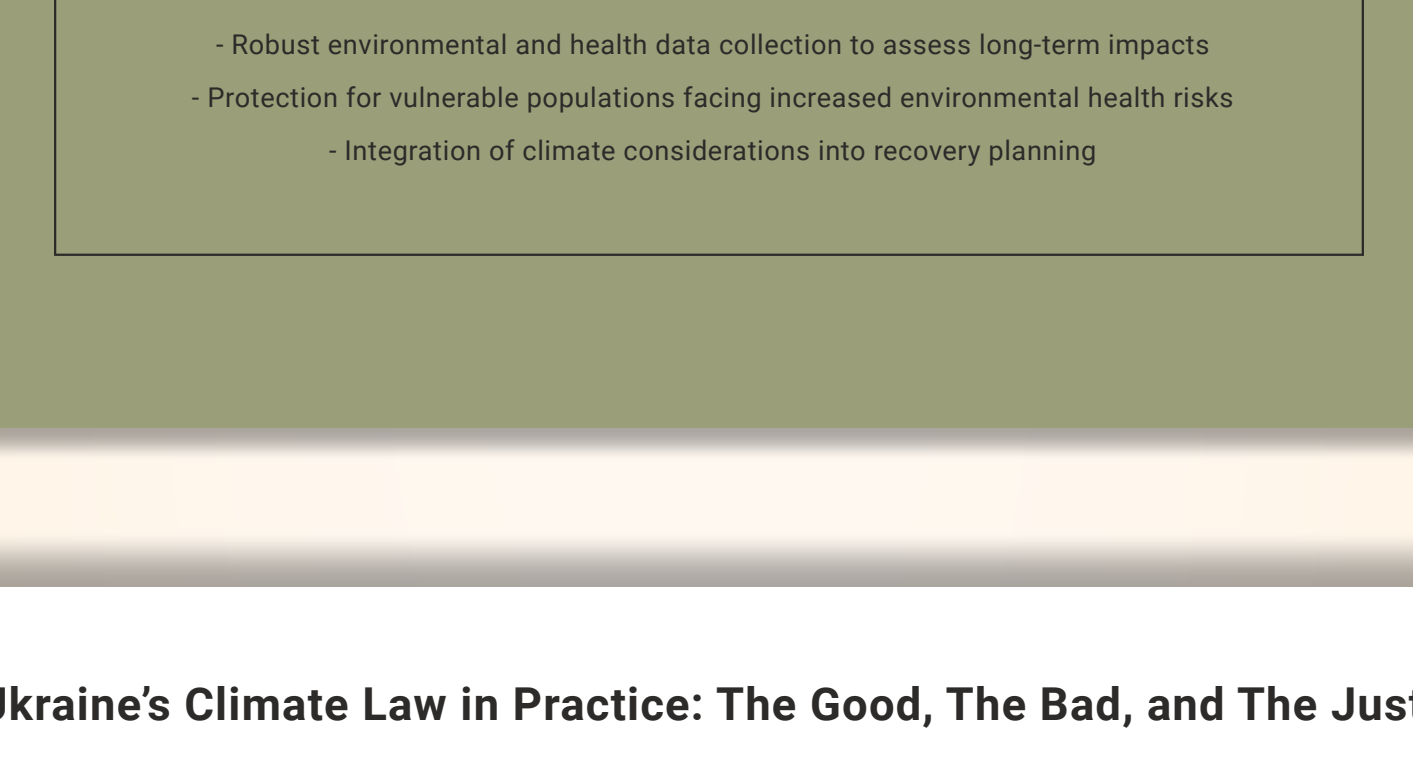
STRENGTH AND ADVANCEMENTS:

- Diversified toolbox of implementation mechanisms that span economic, regulatory, and social dimensions, creating multiple pathways to advance climate goals

DRAWBACKS:

- Excessive dependence on foreign funding sources (governments and international organizations) that may prove unreliable
- Stakeholder engagement provisions lack specific requirements for meaningful participation
- The law does not provide for the creation of a special National Climate Fund to finance measures to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change

5. NATIONAL MONITORING AND ASSESMENT SYSTEM FORECASTING



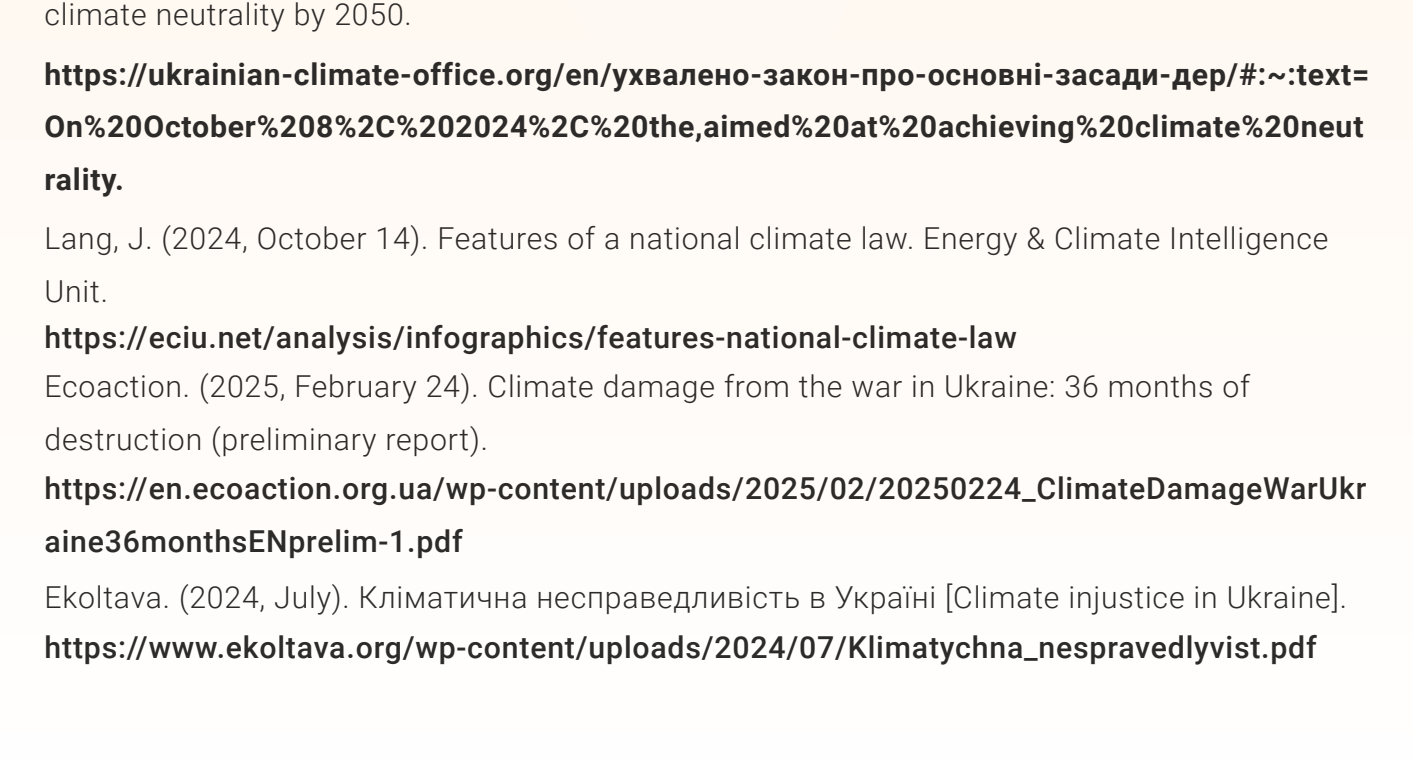
STRENGTH AND ADVANCEMENTS:

- Establishes framework for regular reporting and continuous assessment
- Enables evidence-based policy adjustments through timely data collection
- Creates systematic approach to measuring climate policy effectiveness
- Supports compliance with international reporting obligations

DRAWBACKS:

- Implementation requires substantial financial resources and technical expertise
- Coordination challenges across multiple data-providing authorities may compromise assessment reliability
- Potential gaps in monitoring capacity during reconstruction period
- Lack of specified quality control mechanisms for data verification

6. NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE INVENTORY OF ANTHROPOGENIC GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM SOURCES AND GREENHOUSE GAS REMOVALS



STRENGTH AND ADVANCEMENTS:

- Establishes a structured, comprehensive approach for tracking greenhouse gas emissions and removal
- Promotes transparency and accountability through standardized reporting
- Aligns with international measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) standards
- Creates foundation for evidence-based policy development and evaluation

DRAWBACKS:

- Complex methodological requirements may create implementation challenges
- Risk of data inconsistencies or misrepresentation due to technical complexity
- Coordination among multiple authorities could result in reporting delays
- Possible gaps in monitoring capacity for certain sectors or regions during reconstruction

7. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRENGTH AND ADVANCEMENTS:

- Clear responsibilities and alignment with international standards

DRAWBACKS:

- Dependence on external funding

WAR CONTEXT

The ongoing war has significantly exacerbated Ukraine's climate challenges, with military activities having already generated approximately 230 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions—comparable to the combined annual emissions of Argentina and Chile or the annual emissions from approximately 50 million passenger vehicles—and causing an **estimated \$42 billion in global climate damage**. War exacerbates the environmental (in)justice, affecting socially vulnerable groups even more than it was **before** the full-scale invasion.

GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

- Weakened environmental ministries and agencies due to capacity reduced funding and
- Increased risk of environmentally harmful policies from lack of oversight
- Difficulties enforcing environmental regulations during war and reconstruction due to reduced institutional capacity, limited access to conflict zones for inspection purposes and deficiencies in training and practical skills among controlling bodies

RECOVERY TENSIONS

- Balancing EU net-zero partnership obligations with immediate reconstruction needs
- Carbon costs of post-war reconstruction will be a major source of future emissions
- Climate adaptation measures often overlooked in favor of critical infrastructure restoration

CRITICAL NEEDS

- Robust environmental and health data collection to assess long-term impacts
- Protection for vulnerable populations facing increased environmental health risks
- Integration of climate considerations into recovery planning

Ukraine's Climate Law in Practice: The Good, The Bad, and The Just

THE GOOD: CRISIS-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AMID WAR

Ukraine's climate law represents a remarkable case of crisis-responsive environmental governance. Adopted amid active military aggression, it demonstrates Ukraine's commitment to long-term sustainability despite immediate existential threats. This dual focus on both current defense and future environmental security positions Ukraine as a pioneer in crisis-resilient climate policy, offering potential frameworks for other conflict-affected regions worldwide. By pursuing climate action during wartime, Ukraine signals that environmental protection remains fundamental even in the most challenging circumstances, establishing a precedent for integrating climate considerations into post-conflict recovery planning from the earliest stages.

THE BAD

The law directly addresses war-related issues only once (in paragraph 8 of Article 21), calling for the establishment of mechanisms for war risk insurance, including the involvement of funds from international organizations. However, the Final Provisions of the Law stipulate that Article 21 (financial measures) will come into effect only one year from cancellation or termination of the martial law introduced by the Decree of the President of Ukraine "On the Introduction of Martial Law in Ukraine" dated February 24, 2022, No 64/2022. It creates significant uncertainty now, during the ongoing war. After all, the provisions of this article do not apply to state or local budgets and can be financed even under martial law.

THE JUST

Climate justice demands recognition of Ukraine's unique wartime context. The law's environmental justice principles should call for international frameworks to establish legal pathways for accountability and reparations for war-related environmental damage. Ukraine's climate law could reference such mechanisms, positioning the nation as an advocate for strengthened global standards that recognize environmental destruction during conflict as demanding specific remediation measures and financial compensation from aggressor states. Similarly, justice requires immediate mobilization of frozen Russian assets for ecological restoration and climate-resilient reconstruction of war-affected regions as well as for the sustainable post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

While Ukraine has ecocide in its national legislation, this concept should be expanded as a crime against climate – and embedded in law to acknowledge that deliberate environmental destruction constitutes an assault on our planetary systems. This approach would position Ukraine at the forefront of an emerging legal framework that treats severe ecological damage not just as a direct threat to climate stability, creating a model that other nations could follow.

Ultimately, true justice necessitates that Ukraine's green transition not be delayed by aggression, but rather accelerated through international solidarity and targeted support for communities most affected by both climate impacts and conflict.

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