Building Forward Better

Review of sustainable recovery frameworks and lessons for Ukraine

SUMMARY

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Executive Summary

Following Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukraine faces extensive destruction, with direct damages estimated at USD 176 billion and long-term reconstruction needs exceeding USD 524 billion as of December 2024. In this context, post-war reconstruction efforts must balance urgent humanitarian needs with long-term community resilience, prioritizing sustainability, energy efficiency, and climate adaptation. Successful global recovery efforts highlight the importance of strong governance and coordinated, inclusive planning among national authorities, local communities, and international partners, integrating resilience and green technologies to strengthen economic and social systems against future shocks.

Ukraine has established a multi-level governance system for reconstruction, where decentralization reforms empower local communities, given that regional needs vary significantly. Financial support blends domestic resources and external finance, with the European Union's (EU's) Ukraine Facility playing a central role and the Digital Restoration Ecosystem for Accountable Management (DREAM) platform enhancing transparency and project monitoring.

Despite political commitment to "building back better" and sustainability, Ukraine currently lacks a unified national reconstruction strategy, leaving the concept of green recovery fragmented across various policies and sectors. Stakeholders often focus on isolated green projects without fully incorporating green recovery into their strategic vision, and a comprehensive, coordinated approach remains weak, even among international partners.

Yet, at the local level, bright examples of integrated recovery are emerging. Trostianets, a town in the Sumy region, illustrates how local leadership can drive a systemic, sustainable, and inclusive reconstruction process. Through its updated master plan, investments in energy efficiency and safety, and the piloting of fossil-free housing, Trostianets demonstrates that a coordinated, forward-looking approach to recovery is both feasible and effective, even in complex conditions during ongoing conflict.

These efforts underscore the importance of systemic planning—an area where Ukraine can draw valuable lessons from the EU's experience with integrating sustainability into post-crisis recovery. The EU's sustainable finance and recovery framework, combining the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities with the Recovery and Resilience Facility, intends to drive the green transition by guiding sustainable investments and tying funding to climate goals. Lessons from EU member states highlight implementation challenges, the need for strategic planning, and strong monitoring. The Ukraine Facility and the Ukraine Plan, while distinct, are designed to draw heavily from the principles and structure of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, leveraging its framework to ensure stable, predictable financial support for reconstruction. They aim to align national recovery efforts with EU environmental standards, incorporating sustainability objectives like climate neutrality.

International financial and development institutions further advance Ukraine's sustainable recovery by embedding environmental, social, and governance standards into their financing frameworks. Many of them prioritize alignment with the Paris Agreement, support climate action, and employ rigorous project screening to ensure positive environmental and social outcomes.

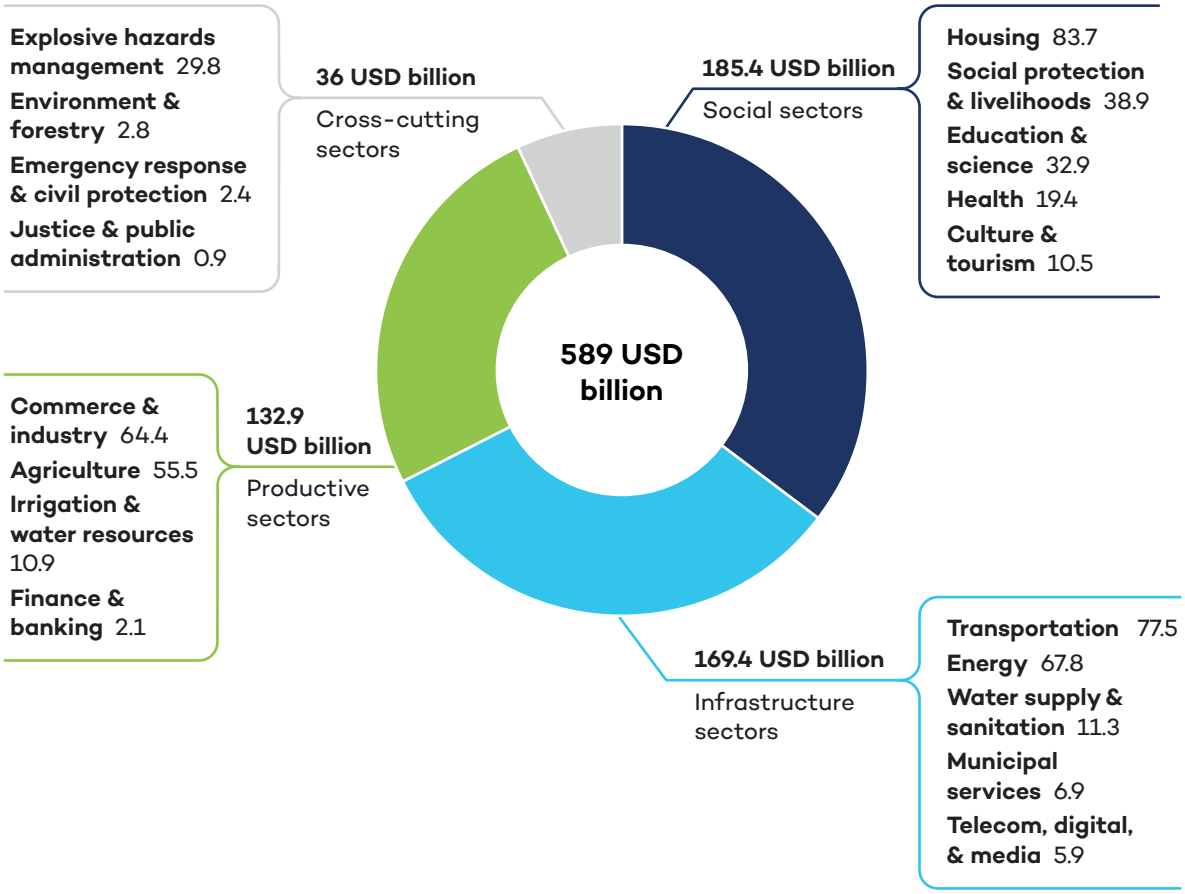
> National policy-makers should adopt a unified green recovery roadmap to support sustainable post-war reconstruction in Ukraine's buildings, transportation, and other infrastructure sectors. Local authorities are encouraged to embed sustainability into recovery plans and strengthen institutional capacity. Development partners should coordinate efforts, provide technical assistance, and promote knowledge exchange.

Table of Contents

1.0 Rebuilding in Crisis: Why sustainability matters

The damage from Russia's full-scale invasion is staggering. The war has displaced nearly a third of Ukraine's population, with an estimated 3.7 million people internally displaced and approximately 6.5 million forced to leave the country (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2024). The World Bank's Fourth Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment estimates that direct physical damage reached approximately USD 176 billion, with housing and transport sectors accounting for over half. Long-term reconstruction needs are estimated at over USD 524 billion as of the end of 2024 (World Bank, 2025).

Figure 1. Total economic, social, and other monetary losses caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine: US$589 billion



Source: World Bank, 2025, p. 38.

In this context, a narrow focus on rapid infrastructure restoration risks locking in unsustainable practices (Crawford et al., 2023). Instead, this crisis offers Ukraine a rare opportunity to rebuild its economy and infrastructure in a way that supports long-term environmental, social, and economic resilience.

Drawing lessons from past global experiences offers valuable insights for Ukraine's path forward. Countries that have successfully navigated large-scale reconstruction after conflict, disaster, or crisis demonstrate the critical importance of integrating sustainability and resilience.

For instance, after its 2011 earthquake, Christchurch, New Zealand, focused on building back safer and more sustainably, reimagining urban spaces with resilience at their core (Powell, 2022). Similarly, in the wake of the 2020 earthquake, Croatia's reconstruction efforts have focused on resilience and sustainability, making energy efficiency and seismic safety mandatory components of all renovation projects (DiXi Group, 2023).

Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, New Orleans integrated climate adaptation, community-led initiatives, and LEED-certified rebuilding into its recovery, resulting in a surge of green building projects and positioning the city as a model for resilient and sustainable urban development (City of New Orleans, 2015, 2017; Louisiana Recovery Authority, 2007).

After the devastating 2004 tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia, the recovery was shaped by the establishment of the Agency for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Aceh and Nias and the Multi Donor Fund, which coordinated international aid and implemented community-driven reconstruction to avoid duplication and strengthen local resilience (World Bank, 2012).

These cases underscore that effective recovery goes beyond merely replacing what was lost; it involves a strategic transformation toward a more resilient and sustainable future, integrating robust governance, transparent funding, and community involvement.

Multiple global crises, from climate change to conflict and pandemics, have demonstrated the interconnectedness of risks (UN Development Programme, 2023). Recovery strategies that do not integrate sustainability risk exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. A green recovery, in contrast, can deliver co-benefits such as energy independence, reduced emissions, better public health, and greater public trust in institutions. Integrating green principles into reconstruction can also help attract new investment, create green jobs, and accelerate Ukraine's integration into the EU.

> Reconstructing war-damaged areas provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leapfrog outdated infrastructure models and adopt smarter, cleaner, and more resilient systems. Investments in solar-powered schools, passive housing, and better public transportation and mobility could redefine urban life in Ukraine's cities and rural areas alike.

2.0 The Governance of Recovery in Ukraine

Ukraine has swiftly established a multi-layered governance framework to manage its extensive reconstruction efforts. This framework includes the **Ministry for Communities and Territories Development** (formerly the Ministry for Restoration), which oversees the reconstruction strategy and plays a central role in shaping state policy (Lukyanova & Martsynkevych, 2024). The **State Agency for Restoration and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine** is responsible for implementing major projects on the ground. The **Ministry of Economy** coordinates financing strategies, including the implementation of the Ukraine Plan under the EU's Ukraine Facility, and contributes significantly to broader strategic planning (Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2024). Annually, the **Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine** determines the country's recovery priorities, ensuring alignment with national goals (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2024a). While interagency platforms have facilitated coordination, governance challenges persist in areas like data sharing, institutional capacity, ensuring consistent regional alignment, and operational funding shortfalls (Repko & Betliy, 2024).

The decentralization reforms, launched in 2014, significantly strengthened local governments, empowering Ukraine's 1,470 *hromadas* (municipalities) to take a leading role in regional recovery (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2022). However, these communities vary widely in their needs and capacities, having been impacted by the war in vastly different ways, from massive infrastructure losses to surges in displaced populations. This necessitates tailored recovery plans that acknowledge their unique local contexts. Many municipalities struggle with staff shortages, unclear mandates, and insufficient technical expertise, as highlighted in Ukraine's State Strategy for Regional Development (Ministry for Restoration, 2024). Strengthening local capacities is critical to ensuring that sustainability principles are effectively integrated into on-the-ground recovery efforts.

To enhance transparency, efficiency, and donor coordination, Ukraine launched the Digital Restoration Ecosystem for Accountable Management (DREAM)[1] in 2023. DREAM collects and publishes open data on recovery projects across sectors and regions, helping to align investments with national priorities and track implementation outcomes. Starting in 2024, the platform has been used to create a single project pipeline of all reconstruction projects that have passed nationally approved evaluation and selection procedures. According to the Roadmap for Reforming Public Investment Management for 2024–2028, the Ukrainian government plans to make the use of DREAM mandatory for all reconstruction projects that require public investments (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2024b).

[1] See more on the DREAM platform here: www.dream.gov.ua.

Box 1. Sustainable recovery in practice: The case of Trostianets

Trostianets, a town of around 20,000 people in the Sumy region near the Russian border, provides a compelling example of sustainable local recovery. Occupied for one month and severely damaged in early 2022, the town launched a recovery process guided by principles of resilience, energy efficiency, and citizen engagement.

With support from state and international partners, the municipality updated its master plan to prioritize public safety, accessible services, and low-carbon housing. Renovation of the damaged hospital was accompanied by the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on the rooftop to enhance energy resilience. A flagship project is the upgrade of a damaged residential building to fossil-free housing using passive house standards, solar energy, and heat pump technologies—one of the first in Ukraine.

By September 2023, 95% of the town's pre-war population had returned, and the municipality had engaged over 130 partners, including international donors, local businesses, and non-governmental organizations in recovery efforts (iC Consulenten, 2023; Ukrainer, 2024).

Trostianets shows how proactive planning, cross-sector cooperation, and clear sustainability priorities can turn reconstruction into an opportunity for long-term transformation. The town's experience also highlights the value of community ownership, transparent communication, and leveraging external expertise. Its success is already inspiring other *hromadas* to develop recovery strategies rooted in sustainability.

By late 2024, the platform hosted over 8,000 projects, with a total estimated budget of UAH 512 billion (USD 12 billion). However, only 19% of these projects had secured funding. The most significant shares of funding went to the energy, transportation, and education sectors. Projects are unevenly distributed within Ukraine, with the Kyiv and Kharkiv regions leading in volume and value (DREAM, 2024).

The platform has successfully enhanced transparency and accountability, but there are areas for improvement. Sustainability metrics, such as environmental impact, energy efficiency, and climate resilience, are not yet consistently tracked (Kobets et al., 2025). Integrating carbon accounting tools, spatial planning overlays, and green certification status could help transform DREAM into a comprehensive sustainability platform.

DREAM also has the potential to become an important planning tool for local governments, enabling municipalities to model project alternatives, assess climate risks, and align proposals with donor requirements. Training and technical support for local users will be essential to unlocking this potential.

> Despite a strong political commitment to green and sustainable recovery, Ukraine currently lacks a single, unified national reconstruction strategy. This means the concept of a "green" or "sustainable" rebuild, while endorsed at high levels, remains somewhat fragmented and underdeveloped across various national policies and frameworks. Establishing a clear, overarching strategy will be vital for ensuring coherent and effective sustainable reconstruction nationwide. Additionally, the DREAM platform should integrate environmental sustainability into its planning tools, showcase model projects, and develop a simple greenhouse gas calculator to guide communities in implementing greener reconstruction practices.

3.0 Financing the Recovery and Funding Requirements for Sustainable Reconstruction

Ukraine's recovery relies on a blend of domestic resources and substantial international support. The national Fund for the Elimination of the Consequences of Armed Aggression channels seized Russian assets and central bank profits into rebuilding (Ukrinform, 2024). Local governments also contribute through budgetary revenues, though many are financially constrained due to inflation, war-related expenditures, and disrupted economic activity (Lukyanova & Martsynkevych, 2023).

The EU's Ukraine Facility, launched in 2024, is one of the most significant sources of external support, providing up to EUR 50 billion over 4 years (European Commission, 2024). This support includes budgetary, investment, and technical assistance. The U.S. government (Akhvlediani, 2024), the International Monetary Fund (2024), the World Bank (2024), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and others committed additional funds. According to the Ministry of Finance (2025), more than USD 115 billion in external financing had been committed by the end of 2024.

Private sector involvement remains limited due to ongoing conflict risks and policy uncertainty. Nonetheless, reforms are underway to enhance investor protections, reduce administrative burdens, and roll out war risk insurance mechanisms. Special attention is being paid to mobilizing capital for energy, construction, and logistics projects that partially align with sustainable recovery goals. Innovative financing tools such as green bonds, blended finance, and public–private partnerships are beginning to emerge. However, a more coordinated financing framework is needed to ensure alignment with sustainability standards and equitable regional distribution of funds.

3.1 International Financial Institutions and Development Finance Institutions

International financial institutions (IFIs) and development finance institutions (DFIs) are critical partners in financing Ukraine's recovery, and they come with their own stringent sustainability requirements. Important players like the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank Group, KfW, and Nefco all operate under sustainability standards. These standards include ensuring projects align with the Paris Agreement and Ukraine's national climate commitments; integrating comprehensive environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles; and prioritizing both climate change adaptation and mitigation (Kyiv School of Economics, 2023). These institutions also maintain exclusion lists for investments in activities deemed environmentally or socially harmful and conduct rigorous project screening, due diligence, and ongoing monitoring to guarantee positive environmental and social outcomes.

For instance, Nefco's Green Recovery Programme in Ukraine uses a sustainability assessment tool to screen investments across sectors such as energy, water, waste, and buildings. Projects are assessed for their climate benefits, risk exposure, and alignment with the Paris Agreement (Nefco, n.d.). In parallel, the European Investment Bank (2024) supports municipal projects focused on energy-efficient buildings, wastewater management, and smart transport systems.

The World Bank applies environmental and social safeguard frameworks that require climate risk assessments and the exclusion of harmful activities. These institutions often require extensive monitoring and reporting processes to ensure transparency and learning.

Yet challenges remain. IFIs vary in their ESG criteria, leading to duplicated efforts by local implementers. Developing shared green benchmarks and harmonized reporting requirements could improve efficiency and reduce administrative burdens for Ukrainian stakeholders.

3.2 Lessons From EU Sustainable Recovery Frameworks

The EU's experience with sustainable recovery, particularly through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities, provides essential guidance for Ukraine. These tools show how regulatory frameworks and financing mechanisms can support the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy while ensuring accountability and alignment with long-term policy objectives.

The EU Taxonomy is a classification system designed to help investors identify environmentally sustainable economic activities. It outlines six environmental objectives, including mitigating climate change, adapting to climate change, promoting the sustainable use of resources, preventing pollution, protecting biodiversity, and promoting a circular economy. For an activity to qualify, it must substantially contribute to at least one objective and do no significant harm to the others (the DNSH principle).

EU member states applying for the RRF financing are required to devote at least 37% of their spending to climate objectives. Some countries have been able to effectively leverage this opportunity—for instance, Croatia used the funds to retrofit public buildings with energy-efficient upgrades and seismic reinforcements, while Poland launched green transport corridors in urban centres (Oriol et al., 2024; PwC, 2024). In contrast, Slovakia struggled with internal coordination and project pipeline development, illustrating the risks of inadequate administrative capacity and a short-term focus (Climate Action Network & CEE Bankwatch, 2022).

The **Ukraine Facility and the Ukraine Plan**, designed to support Ukraine's economy and recovery, are closely linked to these EU standards (European Commission, 2024; Ministry of Economy, n.d.). They include specific conditions for Ukraine to implement reforms and investments that contribute to a green transition, ensuring that reconstruction efforts align with broader EU environmental and climate goals. While the Ukraine Facility allows for some flexibility during wartime, the underlying commitment to sustainable principles remains. Learning from the implementation of the EU's RRF in member states, such as Croatia's successful integration of green and structural reforms, provides valuable insights. However, it also highlights the challenges some states have faced in fully embedding sustainability, underscoring the need for careful planning and robust data collection in Ukraine.

In addition, Ukraine's implementation capacity remains bottlenecked. Many public authorities are unfamiliar with the technical details of green finance standards. Improved training, inter-ministerial coordination, and public awareness campaigns will be essential to ensuring successful alignment with EU regulations.

> IFIs have established rigorous sustainability requirements to ensure that financed projects align with ESG principles. These standards, including climate risk assessments, social safeguards, and transparency requirements, are crucial in promoting responsible and resilient development. As Ukraine embarks on its post-war reconstruction, IFIs and DFIs can play a pivotal role by providing financing mechanisms that integrate green recovery principles. Ensuring compliance with sustainability criteria will not only attract responsible investment but also contribute to building a more sustainable and inclusive future for Ukraine. Strengthening implementation capacity is essential, including efforts to enhance local expertise for designing and executing reconstruction projects, such as through the creation of a dedicated development agency.

4.0 Sustainable Infrastructure Frameworks in Buildings and Transport

Achieving sustainable recovery requires significant advancements in both green building and transport infrastructure.

Green building standards and certification schemes are essential tools for ensuring that reconstructed buildings are energy efficient, environmentally friendly, and resilient. Global frameworks like the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM),[2] Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED),[3] and the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB)[4] offer comprehensive approaches to sustainable construction. More straightforward yet effective systems like Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE)[5] focus on making buildings measurably more efficient in terms of energy, water, and embodied energy in materials. Furthermore, EU directives pushing for nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEB) and zero-energy buildings (ZEB) underscore the future direction of building performance.

Table 1. Comparison of standards, frameworks, and certification systems for green buildings

	DGNB	BREEAM	LEED	ZEB	NZEB	EDGE
Energy efficiency (energy saving, use, and CO_2 emissions)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indoor air quality (ventilation, volatile organic compounds, radon)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Water efficiency (water quality and testing)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daylight levels (health and well-being)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Acoustic comfort (well-being and comfort)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Embodied carbon (CO_2-reduced materials, reuse of buildings and materials)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Improving biodiversity (actions to promote/protect biodiversity at thesite)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

[2] https://breeam.com/

[3] https://www.usgbc.org/leed

[4] https://www.dgnb.de/en

[5] https://edgebuildings.com/

	DGNB	BREEAM	LEED	ZEB	NZEB	EDGE
Connected location (transport links, facilities, amenities)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Life-cycle analysis (aimed at reducing costs and climate impacts)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Circular economy (design for reuse)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Climate resilience (identified, addressed risks and vulnerabilities)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Universal design (accessible, barrier-free)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

Note: ✓ considered (fully or partially), ✗ not considered.
Source: Home Performance Index (n.d.) and authors' analysis.

In Ukraine, adoption of such standards has been limited, but momentum is growing. The government's updated building codes and NZEB roadmap call for all new public buildings to meet NZEB standards by 2030. Furthermore, Ukraine has adopted mandatory criteria for NZEB construction, although enforcement remains weak and the standard is voluntary. While Ukraine faces challenges such as higher upfront costs for green materials, a shortage of local expertise, and regulatory gaps, growing commitment and recent policy shifts support sustainable building practices.

In the transportation sector, global infrastructure is increasingly aligning with sustainability goals in response to growing concerns over climate change, resource depletion, and social equity. A range of international sustainability frameworks and certification schemes have emerged to guide infrastructure development and operations, including FAST-Infra, Blue Dot Network, Envision, Greenroads, Sustainable Transport Appraisal Rating framework (STAR), Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST), and Green Leadership In Transportation Environmental Sustainability (GreenLITES). These frameworks assess infrastructure through ESG lenses, promoting efficiency, resilience, and community well-being. Most use rating systems to evaluate projects across sustainability criteria, incentivizing higher standards and enhancing access to green financing (Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, 2024; FAST-Infra label, n.d.; UN Environment Programme, 2022). Despite their benefits, certain challenges, such as high costs, complex certification procedures, and variability across regions, hinder widespread adoption.

Each sustainability framework brings a unique focus. FAST-Infra[6] promotes sustainable investments through a self-assessment and third-party verification process based on Sustainable Development Goal-aligned criteria. The Blue Dot Network[7] emphasizes quality infrastructure by consolidating over 80 global standards, focusing on economic

[6] https://www.fastinfralabel.org

[7] https://www.bluedot-network.org/certification

efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity. Envision Certification[8] evaluates projects in five core areas—Quality of Life, Leadership, Resource Allocation, Natural World, and Climate and Resilience—encouraging holistic sustainability. Greenroads[9] provides credit-based certification for transportation design and construction, while STAR,[10] developed by the Asian Development Bank, assesses transport sustainability in Asia, particularly for road and transit infrastructure. INVEST[11] helps U.S. agencies incorporate sustainability in transportation life-cycle phases, and GreenLITES,[12] from New York, encourages eco-friendly transport practices through a point-based system.

In Ukraine, the need for sustainability in transport infrastructure is increasingly recognized at the policy level. The National Transport Strategy until 2030 and the Ukraine Plan, part of the EU's Ukraine Facility, emphasize decarbonization, inclusive mobility, and alignment with EU Green Deal principles (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2024c). The strategy includes developing sustainable urban mobility plans and minimizing environmental impacts through eco-sensitive planning and construction practices. However, civil society organizations have criticized the strategy's lack of a clear roadmap and insufficient support for electrified public transport (Zagreba & Danyliuk, 2025). Legal tools like mandatory environmental impact assessments and guidelines on environmentally responsible road construction exist, but practical implementation remains uneven.

Although international sustainability frameworks have yet to be fully implemented in Ukraine's transportation sector, steps are being taken to address this. IFIs have supported transportation projects that include sustainability elements, such as electric bus networks, and circular practices, like recycling war debris for road repair.

> Adopting a framework like EDGE certification or other relevant green certifications based on best international practices for public buildings could provide a practical and scalable starting point for green reconstruction in Ukraine. At the same time, scaling up the use of such frameworks will require both financial incentives and training programs for local contractors and planners.

> To ensure that reconstruction fosters long-term resilience and sustainability, it is important to align national policies with international sustainability standards, incorporating life-cycle thinking into project planning and embedding ESG criteria across all stages of infrastructure development. This transformation will require coordinated efforts, capacity building, transparent evaluation systems, and sustainable financing.

8 https://sustainableinfrastructure.org/envision/about/

9 https://www.transportation.gov/utc/greenroads-sustainability-counts

10 https://www.adb.org/publications/toward-sustainability-appraisal-framework-transport

11 https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/infrastructure-voluntary-evaluation-sustainability-tool-invest

12 https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/greenlites

5.0 Conclusion and Key Recommendations

Ukraine's post-war recovery must move beyond fragmented efforts and embed sustainability and resilience as core principles from the outset. International experiences—from the EU's RRF to the green rebuilding of New Orleans and post-earthquake Croatia—demonstrate the value of strong governance, transparent funding coordination, inclusive planning, and strategic long-term vision. In Ukraine, while sustainability is acknowledged in national strategies and donor agendas, implementation remains uneven. Local actors show that green, inclusive recovery is possible even during conflict, but broader systemic integration is still lacking.

A coherent national reconstruction strategy is needed—one that aligns with EU standards and leverages international best practices and financing tools. Ukraine can draw on the EU's regulatory frameworks and member states' experiences with green recovery to ensure transparency, institutional capacity, and long-term planning. IFIs and DFIs play a vital role in this process, directing investments toward climate-aligned sectors such as renewable energy, clean transport, and energy-efficient construction, while avoiding fossil fuel-based projects. Their alignment with the European Green Deal, EU Taxonomy, and ESG principles would provide a high benchmark for Ukraine's green reconstruction.

To realize a truly sustainable recovery, Ukraine must institutionalize higher building standards, mainstream green certification, and embed ESG criteria across sectors, including housing and transportation infrastructure. Current government programs still largely adhere to outdated norms, but targeted donor initiatives and frameworks like EDGE certification, Envision for infrastructure, or other internationally recognized green certification schemes offer scalable paths forward. Aligning national policy with international sustainability standards and removing barriers to green certification—such as costs and technical limitations—will be key. A holistic, forward-looking approach to reconstruction can help Ukraine not only recover but rebuild stronger, greener, and more equitably.

To ensure Ukraine's recovery is transformative and sustainable, specific, actionable steps are needed from all stakeholders.

For national policy-makers:

- Develop a unified national recovery roadmap that firmly grounds all reconstruction efforts in green principles, resilience, and climate neutrality.
- Provide clear and practical guidance on aligning recovery projects with the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities.
- Consider mandating EDGE certification criteria or other relevant international standards for public buildings and simplifying the processes for their adoption across construction projects.

For local authorities:

- Proactively integrate sustainability and climate resilience principles into local recovery and development plans.

- Significantly build institutional capacity within local administrations, potentially through new staff roles, specialized training programs, or the establishment of local development agencies dedicated to green recovery.
- Foster strong partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academic institutions to leverage diverse expertise and resources for sustainable solutions.

For development partners (donors and IFIs):

- Improve the coordination of sustainability requirements across different funding mechanisms to avoid fragmentation and simplify processes for Ukrainian partners.
- Actively support local-level alignment with national green recovery goals through targeted programs.
- Increase technical assistance and provide more concessional finance, specifically for green projects and capacity building in sustainable reconstruction.

For the DREAM platform:

- Ensure the full integration of environmental sustainability indicators into the platform's planning and monitoring tools.
- Showcase best practice examples of green reconstruction projects to inspire and guide future initiatives.
- Develop a user-friendly greenhouse gas emissions calculator within the platform to help communities assess and minimize the carbon footprint of their projects.

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