Protecting the environment, climate and health

Using the Best Available Techniques (BAT) improves the environmental performance of industrial installations

The challenge: Environmental pollution by industry

Emissions from industrial processes are responsible for much of the environmental pollution in Ukraine. These emissions include air pollutants, wastewater, waste, noise, odours, etc. Not only are these emissions a threat to the environment: they also harm people’s well-being and, in the form of greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to climate change. Environmental standards have been laid down in an array of separate laws and responsibilities have been divided between several departments within the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

In 2017, Ukraine pledged under the Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) to implement the requirements of the EU’s Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). The IED and the concept of Best Available Techniques (BAT) set the framework for issuing integrated operating permits for impacted installations. For each affected sector, comprehensive standards have been drawn up and set out in Best Available Technique Reference Documents.

In Ukraine, the government is discussing the proposals with industry and environmental organisations and making it mandatory for the operators of installations to deploy these techniques after a transition period. The aim is to reduce industrial emissions or even prevent them altogether.

Our approach: Laying the foundations for a modern and climate-friendly industry

On behalf of the German Government, GIZ is supporting Ukraine in introducing a system for preventing, reducing and monitoring industrial emissions. Creating the statutory framework is a complex process that covers issues ranging from transposition of the Industrial Emissions Directive into Ukrainian law to the adoption of technical solutions.

At all stages of the legislative process GIZ therefore works closely with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. For example, it advises the Ministry on establishing a system of integrated permits and related environmental inspections. Training sessions and study trips enable staff of the Ministry, relevant government agencies and affected industrial installations to learn more about their new tasks and responsibilities. A new data management system records emissions from industrial installations and makes this information available to the general public.
The initial focus lies on the metal production and processing sector and the mineral processing industry. A funding programme is designed to create incentives for operators of installations to invest in modernising their production facilities. The Best Available Techniques approach thus contributes both to better environmental and climate performance and to the modernisation of Ukrainian industry.

Our results: A cleaner environment and a modern industry

Support from GIZ enables the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine to bring the necessary legislation on the Regulation of Industrial Emissions promptly before parliament. Industry benefits from an integrated permitting system. Operators of industrial sites no longer have to apply for a number of separate permits for air pollutants, waste, effluent and other emissions; instead, the new system involves a single permit covering most environmental aspects. Subsidies and training courses enable the operators of installations to modernise their production processes. This reduces environmental impacts, protects the climate and ensures efficient use of resources.

The introduction of a transparent data management system allows the public to access relevant information on industrial emissions and thus obtain better data on environmental and climate protection issues.

Mykola Kuzio: “I appreciate the support”

Mykola Kuzio, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, works closely with GIZ. He states: “Industrial pollution of the air, water and soil poses a threat to the health and life of citizens and to the environment. This is why Ukraine is committed to implementing the Industrial Emissions Directive, including its essential element – the Best Available Techniques. I appreciate that the German Federal Ministry for the Environment supports us in our reform efforts to prevent and reduce industrial emissions, thereby protecting the health of our citizens, reducing the effects of climate change as well as modernising our economy.”