



ANNUAL REPORT | 2023

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** INTRODUCTION
- 5** WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO
- 6** OUR 26-YEAR HISTORY
- 9** MONITORING AND ANALYSING THE SITUATION OF ECOACTIVISTS AND ECONGOS IN BELARUS
- 11** SOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN BELARUS
- 14** UWEC: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE
- 16** SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND THE ANTI NUCLEAR CAMPAIGN
- 18** "GREEN BELARUS": DEVELOPING A VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN BELARUS
- 19** PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- 22** FUTURE PLANS



# \*INTRODUCTION

## *Greetings, our dear friends!*

I wish I could start this introduction with environmental achievements and successes, but 2023 has decided to make us even tougher, bringing more challenges, difficulties and global chaos.

In such circumstances, it is very easy to lose yourself, to become confused, to abandon faith in the rightness of what you are doing, but we persevered. Ecohome's main achievement remains unchanged: we maintained our dedicated team, continued our activities for the benefit of Belarus, stayed true to our principles, and grew stronger.

I thank the Ecohome team sincerely. These people inspire me every single day and give me faith in a better – and greener – future for Belarus. Regrettably, not all of my colleagues can be named here as public figures for safety reasons, but they are all bound by their professionalism, dedication to the cause, creativity, and a genuine desire to expedite our return to Belarus.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who supported us financially, provided us with information, and offered their expertise throughout the year. Without you, none of the work and achievements described in this report would have been possible on this scale.

I would like to thank all Belarusians who, like birds, are now scattered all over the world, but continue to take interest in environmental issues and care about the state of their homeland, for helping us spread important information – we appreciate every like, comment, and share on our social media pages.

Unfortunately, Ecohome has remained almost the only voice of the independent Belarusian environmental community willing to speak publicly about what is happening in the country, about ecological violations and repression against eco-activists.



If, like us, you are concerned about environmental problems in Belarus, if you share our values and are currently living outside Belarus, if you have the opportunity and the desire to help, [support us](#) financially or join us as a volunteer ([contact us here](#)).

Together we can do more!

Below is a summary of the most important events of the past year. Thanks again for your continued engagement. *Long live Ecohome, long live Green Belarus!*

*Best regards,  
**Karyna Salavei**,  
manager at Ecohome*

# \* WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

## About Ecohome



Until August 2021, Ecohome was a legal entity registered in Belarus. The organisation was founded in 1996 to promote an environmentally friendly lifestyle and the ideas of sustainable development. Ecohome was one of the oldest non-profit environmental organisations in Belarus. The establishment of Ecohome was initiated by a group of enthusiasts, activists, and dreamers who shared a commitment to environmental principles and wanted to promote their ideas.

## Our mission

Ecohome is dedicated to the principles of democracy and sustainable development. It aims to create harmonious relationships with like-minded individuals locally, nationally, and globally.

## What we do and why we do it

Ecohome aims to strike a balance between nature and civilisation. We want to get closer to understanding the world and our place in it. We work closely with public environmental and other organisations, international structures, initiatives, and activists.

## Our focus areas



MONITORING AND ANALYSING THE SITUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS AND ECONGOS IN BELARUS



UWEC: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND THE ANTI-NUCLEAR CAMPAIGN



"GREEN BELARUS": DEVELOPING A VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN BELARUS



SOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN BELARUS



PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION





# \* OUR 26-YEAR HISTORY

- 1991 \* Ecohome environmental initiative was created based on the Next Stop – New Life youth national organisation. In 1996, Ecohome was registered as a public association.
- 1996 ♣ Our team conducted the first international course on permaculture in Belarus<sup>1</sup>.
- 2000 ♣ Ecohome initiated the first forum of environmental NGOs.
- 2001 ♣ Ecohome started working on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention ratified by Belarus. The Aarhus Convention – the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The long-term Ecohome's engagement with the convention made it possible to improve the legislation on public participation in environmental decision-making and access to environmental information, as well as the applicable case law in Belarus.
- 2006 ♣ Ecohome launches anti-nuclear activities responding to the plan of the nuclear power plant construction in Ostrovets (Grodno region). In 2008, we initiated the Belarusian Anti-Nuclear Campaign (BANC). Campaigners held debates and round-table discussions with scientists and carried out the first public environmental impact audit in Belarus;

---

<sup>1</sup> Permaculture is a type of green design that helps to grow food, build homes and create communities with minimal environmental impact.

- 
- 2008 Ecohome initiated the establishment of the Green Network – an association of environmental organisations.
- 2008 The NGO became an active member of the "Chornobyl Way" organising committee – the annual march dedicated to the Chornobyl accident anniversary.
- 2010 Ecohome filed a lawsuit to the Ostrovets City Court demanding to provide information for public evaluation of the Belarusian NPP. This case became the first in the development of [judicial remedies to protect environmental rights in Belarus](#);
- the first public environmental expert review (of the nuclear power plant construction project) was carried out in Belarus.
- 2011 A campaign was launched to protect the 40th October Revolution Anniversary Park in the centre of Minsk, in which locals, Ecohome and the Green Network took an active part. The administration of the city and the developer had planned to cut down a part of the park and construct a hotel for the World Hockey Championship in 2014. The trees could not be defended and the newly-built hotel was named Peking. However, the case was resonant and increased people's interest in the problem of development and destroying landscaped areas.
- 2014 Ecohome sent a Communication on Harassment of Anti-Nuclear Activists to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. It was this case that initiated the Aarhus Convention Rapid Response Mechanism in cases of harassment of environmental activists. One of the counts was the detention of Irina Sukhiy, Tatiana Novikova and Andrey Ozharovsky. They were going to hand over an open appeal to the Russian Embassy in Minsk to protest the signing of the framework contract for the NPP construction in Belarus;
- Ecohome helped residents to win the case for the relocation of a pig farm planned for construction near the village of Moysichi (three kilometres from Molodechno), which exemplified the importance of public participation.
- 2016 Ecohome starts offering consultation to Minsk residents who live in the vicinity of the Kotovka pocket park. The park was to be partially cut down to make room for new a Catholic church. The locals and activists opposed that plan and even had to stay on 24-hour duty in the park. In the end, the construction was moved to another site. This high-profile and complicated case highlighted why development projects should be discussed at an early stage;

- 
- saw the launch of the Green Line – a hotline to address environmental issues. The idea of the service was to give people advice and tools to solve environmental problems on their own, rather than provide ready-made solutions.
- 2017** Ostrovets of Culture exhibition was organised, in which artists, environmentalists and architects presented their vision of the future fate of the unfinished nuclear power plant in Ostrovets. They appropriated the body of the Ostrovets NPP and created the possibility of another future.
- 2018** Our team prepared a Scenario of Energy [R]Evolution in Belarus: Transition to 100% Renewable Energy in the Country.
- 2021** Ecohome, the oldest environmental organisation in Belarus, marked its 25th anniversary;
- Ecohome public association was closed down by the decision of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus. Before the closing down, searches were conducted in the homes of Iryna Sukhiy, the organisation's Board member, and Maryna Dubina, the NGO's director. The Ministry of Information restricted access to Ecohome's old website [ecohome-ngo.by](http://ecohome-ngo.by);
- at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, closing down of Ecohome was qualified as persecution and harassment of environmental NGOs. Belarus was recommended to reinstate Ecohome.
- 2022** Belarus has officially withdrawn from the Aarhus Convention;
- Ecohome was recognised as an "extremist formation";
- Ecohome became one of the movers of the UWEC international initiative in response to the war in Ukraine.
- 2023** Ecohome became a participant and co-founder of the Green Belarus Alliance;
- We participated in the "Environmental Defenders" conference organized by the University of Vienna. Additionally, we assisted in preparing the Mid-Term Report on the implementation of recommendations received by the Republic of Belarus during the third cycle of the HRC Universal Periodic Review.



# \* MONITORING AND ANALYSING THE SITUATION OF ECOACTIVISTS AND ECONGOS IN BELARUS

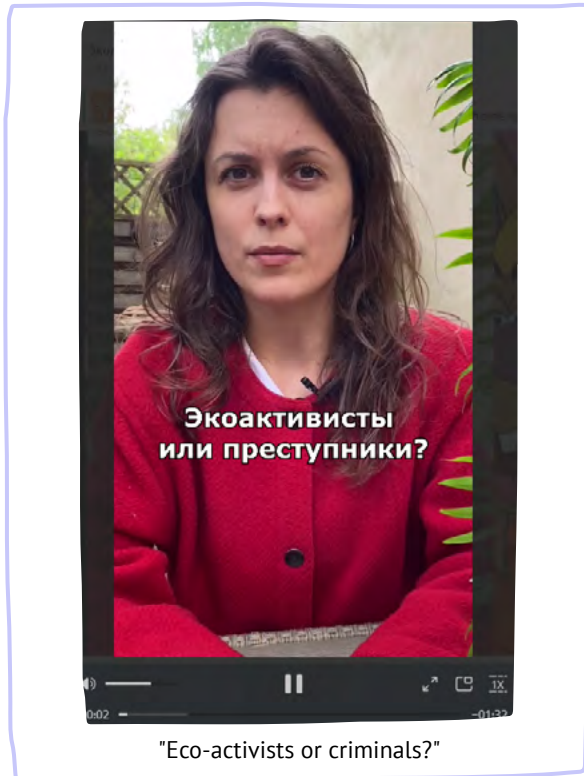
## DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE



People exercising their environmental rights should not be subjected to state pressure and repression because of their activities. The general political situation in Belarus is bound to affect the environmental sector. It is important to monitor the environmental sector in Belarus. Activists face various threats and challenges while solving environmental problems. We should observe the conditions under which they operate. Additionally, we showcase the accounts of imprisoned environmental activists and highlight ways to express support for them.

- Currently, we are [aware](#) of ten political prisoners who were also environmental activists.
- By the end of 2023, 116 environmental organizations or NGOs with an environmental focus had been shut down or chose to dissolve themselves.
- Environmental activists who attempted to draw attention to environmental issues were continually detained and searched. Activists who were collecting signatures against the construction of the Kommunarka cocoa processing shop were the [main target of the raids](#).
- We have also documented harassment of journalists for covering environmentally important topics. On 12 June, for example, it emerged that eight staff members of a publication in Svetlahorsk had been detained, presumably for working on a story about the explosion at the Svetlahorsk pulp and paper mill on 7 June, which killed three people.

On 21 May Ecohome [joined](#) the Day of Political Prisoners in Belarus, initiated by the Viasna Human Rights Centre, and spoke about environmental activists in prison. We also took part in a conference “Environmental Defenders” at the University of Vienna, where we discussed the situation with eco-activists in Belarus.



We participated in preparing the [Mid-Term Report](#) on the implementation of recommendations received by the Republic of Belarus during the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. The report was prepared by a coalition of human rights organisations, coordinated by the Belarusian Helsinki Committee. The document notes that Belarus has been withdrawing from international agreements, which is a negative trend.

“Belarus has demonstrated its unwillingness to follow international principles of environmental protection and protection of environmental rights by terminating its participation in two international treaties: following its withdrawal from the Aarhus Convention, Belarus withdrew from the Bern Convention. The Republic of Belarus has made no progress in developing

legislation on climate change and disaster risk reduction. The Action Plan for the implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC has not been fulfilled”.

Ecohome has also endorsed the Coordination Council’s [statement](#) regarding the Belarusian regime’s participation in the UN Summit on Climate Change and the COP28 conference in the Arab Emirates. The statement highlighted concerns about the treatment of environmental NGOs and the country’s withdrawal from the Aarhus Convention.

In addition, we believe it is crucial to inform not only our domestic audience but also those outside of Belarus about the state of the country’s ecological sector. As part of the collection of the RADA Belarusian national youth council [‘BELARUS.YOUTH. LONG LIVE’](#), we examined the changes in environmental activism for young people after 2020. We also discussed the state of Belarusian environmental activism in recent years and its potential implications for the country’s domestic<sup>1</sup> and foreign<sup>2</sup> media.



1 <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/42342.html>

2 <https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/stories/25-years-wiped-out-what-has-happened-to-belarusian-ecoactivism-and-what-does-this-mean-for-the-country/>

# \* SOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN BELARUS

## DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE



Ecohome assists individuals in exercising their right to participate in environmental decision-making and independently address local environmental issues. This is achieved through free consultations, which include response protocols and templates of petitions to state authorities, as well as other expert support.



**204 communications** in 2023, which is a 30% increase from 2022



**December** 2023 was the most active month, while **January** was the least busy

Green spaces were the most popular topic for consultation, as in the previous year. Specifically, there were 51 requests, or every fourth consultation, regarding illegal or improper pruning or cutting of trees. Waste was the second most popular topic, accounting for 50 requests for consultations, which is 24.5% of the total. There were a total of 33 requests for information, which

accounted for 16% of the total. These requests included, for example, questions on how to write a petition to a particular agency.

Traditionally, most requests came from Minsk and Minsk Region, accounting for 45% of all cases. 91 communications were received from this area. Hrodna and Hrodna Region, as well as Vitsebsk and Vitsebsk Region, had the lowest number of requests, with only 6 communications each, accounting for 3% of all appeals from each region. The Belarusian diaspora mostly applied from Poland, accounting for 19 consultations or 9% of all cases. The most distant appeal came from Canada.

## Consultations by location:



**91** Minsk and Minsk Region

**6** Hrodna and Hrodna Region

**9** Brest and Brest Region

**6** Vitsebsk and Vitsebsk Region

**8** Mahilou and Mahilou Region

**9** Homel and Homel Region



**37**  
Unknown

**19**  
Poland

**1**  
Canada

**2**  
Lithuania

**7**  
Latvia

**5**  
Georgia

**2**  
Russia

**2**  
Germany

## Consultations by topic:



**3**  
Air pollution



**17**  
Public hearings / EIA reports /  
public environmental impact  
assessments



**33**  
Information request



**1**  
Yard landscaping



**10**  
Water / water resources



**2**  
Soil contamination



**51**  
Green spaces (cutting,  
compensation planting, pruning)



**1**  
Noise



**50**  
Waste



**1**  
Fires



**25**  
Animals



**4**  
Unknown



**6**  
Construction

## Monitoring and evaluation of legislation on public participation

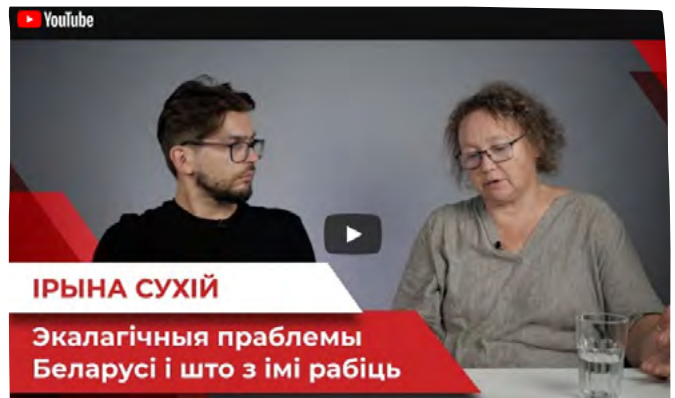
Our lawyers monitor changes in public participation laws. They communicate these changes to citizens, enabling them to protect their environmental rights more effectively.

In 2023, the law will undergo several changes. One of these changes is the introduction of a [new procedure](#) for filing e-petitions. We believe that, contrary to its stated intentions, the new procedure makes it more difficult for citizens to exercise the right to participate in environmental decision-making. [A concept of the Ecological Code of Belarus](#) was also presented for public discussion, and we tried to see what its authors proposed that was new and useful for our country. Alas, not much.

In addition to changes in legislation, we monitor law enforcement practices and new government initiatives. In 2023, plans were announced to penalize curtilage landscaping initiatives. We believe that this is about [shifting responsibility](#) and that nobody is going to benefit from this new practice.

## Educational events and information on environmental solutions

Over the past year, we have held trainings and events on the possibilities of public participation in solving environmental problems, talked about successful and unsuccessful cases, and well as about the current state of environmental activism in Belarus. Throughout the year, we participated in over five events as experts. These events covered topics such as improving the quality of life in cities, available tools to solve environmental problems, celebrating holidays in an environmentally friendly manner, and more. We also discussed ways to address environmental issues in Belarus while abroad.



Irina Sukhy talks about ecoactivism opportunities for volunteers

BEL SAT ЖУРНАЛІСТЫ ЗА КРАТАМІ НАВІНЫ АБ'ЕКТЫ ПРАКТЫ ВАЙНА ТЭЛЕБ

### Змяшалі разумныя словы, а руху наперад няма. Як у Беларусі рыхтуюць Экалагічны кодэкс

20.11.2023 | 16:08

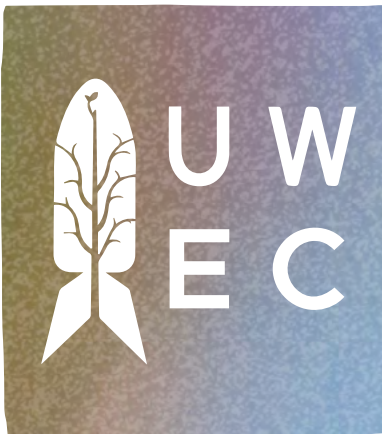
2 кастрычніка ў Беларусі скончыліся грамадскія абмеркаванні праекту [Канцэпцыі](#) Экалагічнага кодэксу. Ідэя стварэння такога дакументу добрая, але рэалізацыя выклікае шмат пытанняў, кажуць экалагі. Ёсць нават сумневы ў мэтазгоднасці ўсяго пачынання.

One of the top independent media Belsat cites Ecohome's opinion on Ecological code



# \* UWEC: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

## **DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE**



In 2022, Ecohome was one of the founders and participants in the [international initiative UWEC](#), which aimed to study the impact of warfare on the environment. UWEC stands for Ukraine War Environmental Consequences Work Group. This working group focuses on the environmental impact of the war in Ukraine. It includes independent experts from Belarus. As an association of environmentalists, journalists, experts and activists, the group aims to disseminate verified information and jointly seek solutions to environmental problems that arose during the war.

In [2023](#), the Kakhovka Dam was undermined, leading to the dam draining and causing a major environmental disaster. Immediately following the disaster, UWEC and Reporters Without Borders held a webinar on the destruction of the reservoir system that supplied the cooling system of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. The UWEC Work Group experts said that a full analysis of the consequences would not be possible until several months later, and they were right. It is now evident that the negative consequences of the dam destruction are not as catastrophic as they were initially perceived. However, the dam draining itself has raised new issues

and challenges for conservationists and environmentalists.

At the end of June, together with International Rivers, the Ukrainian Environmental Group and other organizations, UWEC Work Group stated that environmentalists do not support the restoration of the hydropower plant. Returning the river to its natural course can help revive ecosystems. Reconstructing HPPs will only worsen the negative effects of the disaster. The Ukrainian government intends to flood the reservoir area and restore the hydropower plant. This will only be possible after the war ends.

Environmentalists and nature protectors still have time to prevent the ill-conceived plan to restore the hydropower plant. Experts agree that the plan has neither economic nor energy advantages.

The Kakhovka Dam exploding also raised the issue of ecocide once again. Although the legislation of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia has criminalised ecocide, the legal system is still not adapted. Internationally, ecocide remains a concept rather than an effective mechanism for prosecuting crimes against nature. As a result, a large number of deliberate acts of destruction across the planet go unpunished.

The collection and verification of data on the environmental impact of military invasion was highlighted by UWEC as a key challenge for 2023. Even in areas where fighting took place in the early months of the war, it is difficult to analyse the environmental impact. Most of these areas are still closed to the public, and it is not possible to carry out meaningful surveys of the soil and biodiversity in these areas.

Therefore, collecting and analyzing data on the environmental effects of war can take years.

The working group analysed the impact of the war on environmental practices in Ukraine. They found that experts, researchers, and research assistants faced difficulties. The group also discussed the topic of green recovery in Ukraine. This topic is likely to be one of the priorities for UWEC next year.

During one of the six webinars for journalists on the environmental consequences of war, organized by the UWEC Work Group in collaboration with Reporters Without Borders Sweden and Svea Green Foundation, **Maryna Dubina** discussed [eco-activism after 2022](#).

UWEC was mentioned in more than 45 publications during the year, including Mongabay, Nature.com, NYPost, CNBC, Euronews, RFI and others. UWEC experts gave about a hundred interviews and published 49 analytical articles on the website.

YouTube

**Политические заключенные**

**1510** политзаключенных на настоящий момент

среди них экологических активистов, ок, представителей, льниц ЭкоНГО, инициатив:

- 9 в местах лишения свободы
- 1 умер в заключении Витольд Ашурок
- 2 под домашней химией
- 2 полностью отбыли срок

UWEC

UWEC Work Group Webinar #4: persecution of environmental activists in Belarus and Russia

# \* SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND THE ANTI-NUCLEAR CAMPAIGN

## **DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE**



**The main goal of the campaign is nuclear-free development and transition to sustainable energy in Belarus and its neighbouring territories. Since 2009, we have monitored the construction of BelNPP, conducted independent expert assessments, and informed the international community of any known violations. Every year, we conduct an information campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of nuclear power and weapons. We also reflect on Belarus' experience before the anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.**

We discussed the possibility of incorporating renewable energy sources into Belarus' energy system during Ecohome's annual Chernobyl Week event. Additionally, we arranged a public lecture by Andrei Ozharovsky, a nuclear physicist and expert in the Radioactive Waste Safety Program. Andrei's talk attracted a large audience. He discussed the profitability of nuclear power, the safe disposal of nuclear waste, the potential for the nuclear power plant in Belarus to become a military facility, and the connection between nuclear weapons and nuclear power. And after the talk, Andrei gave a master class on measuring radiation. You can watch the recording of the lecture.

The activities within Chernobyl Week 2023 were dedicated to raising awareness, informing people and discussing the atom for war, including the weaponization of nuclear power plants, the problems of the BelNPP, the threat of nuclear weapons deployment in Belarus and reflections on a possible nuclear-free future of Belarus using sustainable energy.

Together with the global Belarusian diaspora, we organised Chernobyl Marches and educational events. In at least 14 cities, rallies and marches were held under the general slogan 'No to nuclear weapons in Belarus.' This was in response to the new



threat posed by the deployment of Russian nuclear weapons. During the event in Vilnius, Ecohome co-founder **Irina Sukhy** read out the Chornobyl March 2023 Resolution. Additionally, **Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya**, the leader of the democratic movement, delivered a speech stating that the



*“truth about Chornobyl is still being hidden from the public. They are hiding the truth about the Astravets Nuclear Power Plant and the war in Ukraine. They are silent about the possible consequences of the deployment of nuclear weapons in Belarus. Chornobyl taught us a very important lesson. Chornobyl taught us not to rely on authorities, but to rely on ourselves. And the democratic world can help us only when it sees that we need it ourselves. A lot depends on us! We must demonstrate that we are against nuclear weapons. We oppose the occurrence of another Chornobyl. We are against Russian troops on our soil! We’re against war!”*

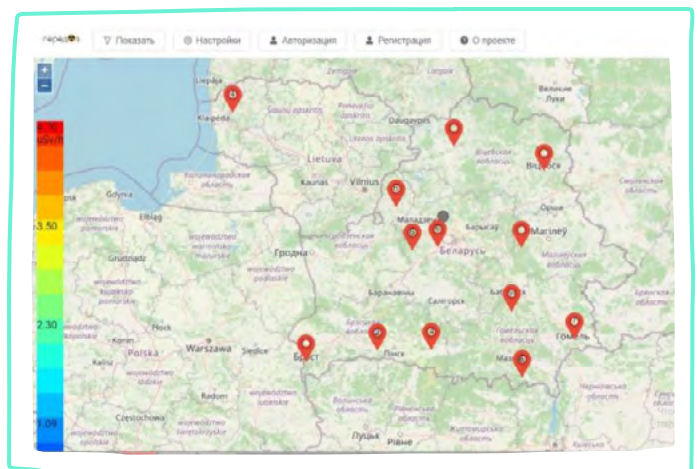


The Chornobyl March 2023 in Vilnius, 26 April 2023. Photo credit: Motolko.Help

Actions were also **held** in Warsaw, Gdansk, Krakow, Wroclaw, Szczecin, Berlin, Copenhagen, New York, Toronto, Tbilisi, Batumi and other cities.

Ecohome and the European Humanities University organised a collage masterclass, an exhibition of student works, and a performance followed by a discussion with Iryna Sukhii as part of Chornobyl Week. We are pleased that the performance was shown again.

In April, Ecohome conducted an information campaign on TikTok. More details about this campaign can be found in the section on Promoting Environmental Protection. We have created a **new website** called ‘Peredoz’ (Overdose) for monitoring the areas affected by the Chornobyl accident. You can follow existing tracks and radiation monitoring data on the site. Plus, you can add your data. This work continues. We have added reports for 17 territories throughout the year, and you can now join the monitoring! Read more about **how Peredoz helps Belarusians** and how you can get involved **here**.



In September, despite the unresolved problems at the plant that Ecohome has repeatedly pointed out, the authorities tried to legalise the procedure for starting up the second generating unit of the BelNPP using fake “public hearings”. In a **live broadcast** on Euroradio, Irina Sukhy and Andrei Ozharovsky answered journalists’ questions about the real dangers of the plant, the economic benefits of nuclear energy, and how the second unit of the BelNPP was granted a safety licence without asking for the opinion of Belarusians. Ecohome also initiated a **statement** from the Coordinating Council Caucus Meeting regarding the so-called hearings. Of course, we sent our comments from various persons and even received pro forma responses. Interestingly, everyone got replies, except Irina Sukhy, who heads the anti-nuclear section of Ecohome.

# \* "GREEN BELARUS": DEVELOPING A VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN BELARUS

## DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE



On 30 October 2023, a new civil society actor appeared. The [Green Belarus](#) Alliance was formed by environmental activists and a team of experts with experience in developing strategic documents and knowledge of global green trends. The alliance aims to promote environmental protection in Belarus. Ecohome is a member and co-founder of the alliance.

\* *"The country will base all decisions on environmental wisdom and follow the principles of the rule of law, social justice, democracy, transparency, and community engagement. It will prioritize environmental friendliness, climate neutrality and adaptation, international cooperation, sustainability, and circularity,"*

alliance members say.

We believe that it is possible to create an environmentally friendly Belarus as part of the global community, based on these principles. Experts today refer to green Belarus when discussing the transition to clean, renewable energy and a sustainable green economy, synchronizing with the European Green Deal, and applying the principles of a fair transition in relation to Belarus.

The alliance experts are working on documents and roadmaps that Belarus will need at the stage of political transformation. A total of 11 areas have been identified for work: territorial development, agriculture, energy, transport, industry, biodiversity, education and capacity building, waste and waste prevention, digitalization, finance and green investment, and social policy.

This year, the experts focused on energy, mobility, biodiversity, and education. They analyzed existing legislation and [worked](#) on roadmaps for Belarus to transition to a green economy. Additionally, they organized courses on sustainable development and the green economy.

In 2024, Green Belarus will discuss roadmaps in other sectors, analyzing energy legislation and opportunities for transitioning to a low-carbon economy.



# \* PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## ***DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE***

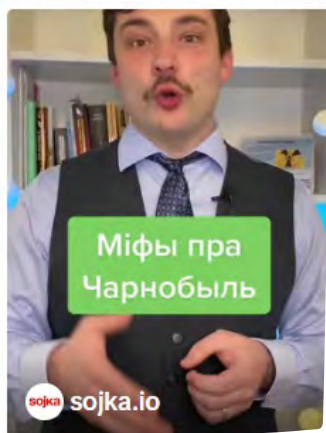
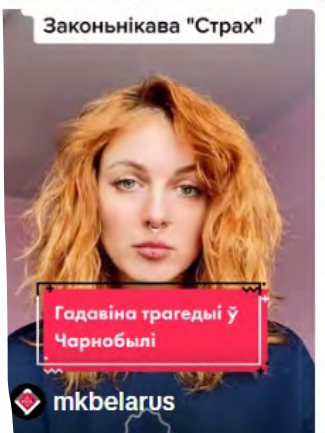


**We must communicate our work topics clearly and engagingly to encourage a general interest in environmental issues. We want Belarusians to understand their responsibility for the future and that a healthy environment is a human right. It is important to exercise this right. To achieve this, we manage our social media actively, prepare website and media publications, collaborate with various communities and influencers, hold events, and use innovative methods to promote environmental issues.**

### ***In 2023, we:***

- held Chernobyl Week, including partnering events with the EHU and running a great TikTok awareness campaign;
- completely redesigned the website to make it more user-friendly and attractive (hopefully);
- published 98 articles on the Ecohome website and created many posts for our followers;
- engaged in three times as many social media partnerships as in 2022;
- co-created the "Birds Beyond Politics?" exhibition.

Throughout April, Ecohome ran a campaign to promote TikTok to mark **Chornobyl Week**. In the youth media, the Chornobyl tragedy is practically inexistent or wrapped up in a rather formal message about the anniversary and the horrors of the accident. That is why we came up with the idea of reopening the public debate on this issue, both for those who are only superficially aware of it and for those who are already familiar with the legacy of Chornobyl and the dangers of nuclear power. Experts and bloggers answered topical questions about nuclear power and BelNPP, joked about the statements of officials, and talked about the connection between the Chornobyl accident and culture. They also discussed the Chornobyl March and the Viasna Human Rights Centre in 24 videos published with the hashtag #чарнобыльскітыдзень (Chornobyl week). These videos received hundreds of comments and 395,000 views.



In June, Ecohome took part in the **'Unite' event**. Our representatives shared information about the organisation's activities, invited visitors to write letters and postcards to support imprisoned eco-activists, and encouraged Belarusians to prioritize the three most important eco-problems in their opinion. Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the leader of the democratic movement, also voted. She highlighted concerns about the deployment of nuclear weapons in Belarus, the Astravets nuclear power plant, and deforestation.



In August, we had the pleasure of participating in **RADA Market**. At these two events, people signed over 35 postcards for eco-activists in prison. Additionally, several hundred Belarusians were introduced to the work of Ecohome.

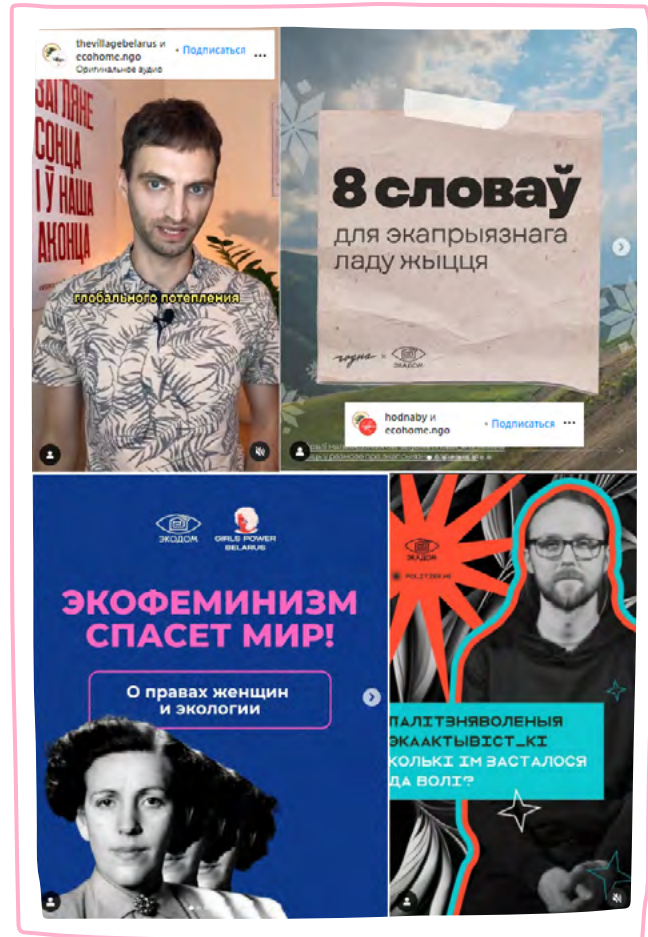
Warsaw hosted the **exhibition "Birds Beyond Politics?"** co-organised by Institut für Europäische Politik, KuB and Ecohome. The audience was asked to consider whether birds, who are unaware of political terms such as 'dictatorship' or 'democracy',

can remain apolitical in a country where even wearing the wrong coloured socks can result in imprisonment. At the pilot film screening, people signed 100 letters and postcards to political prisoners.



The **Ecohome website** received over 15,000 visitors throughout the year, and the media mentioned us 377 times. We are very grateful to our audience and the media for their trust and interest in environmental issues. In partnership with media outlets, initiatives, organizations, communities, and bloggers, we created over 35 social

media posts. This is three times the number created in 2022! Among them are politzek.me, Viasna Human Rights Centre, The Others, Sojka Media, greenbelarus.info, Ecospace, Hodna, KYKY, The Village, RADA, Marharyta Liauchuk, Ksenia Tyrsikava and many others. We are extremely happy about these collaborations!




Although Ecohome is labelled as an 'extremist formation', our posts have been viewed by nearly 450,000 people in the past year. Additionally, the videos on Ecohome's TikTok account have been viewed over 313,000 times! The goal for 2024 is one million views. Do you think we can do it?

You can help us with that! If you are not in Belarus, subscribe to our social media and share the most engaging post to inform your friends about Ecohome. This will help us reach new audiences at a time when it's not safe for people in Belarus to follow or like our publications. Together, we will strengthen the green agenda.



# FUTURE PLANS



In 2024, we will continue developing our focus areas, and we plan to expand and diversify our cooperation with the community of active Belarusians around the world. Work on Chornobyl Week 2024 is about to commence.

The Coordinating Council, which includes Ecohome, has upcoming elections. We encourage your participation if it is safe for you to do so.

Together with the [Green Belarus](#) Alliance, we will continue striving to make a green Belarus a reality as soon as possible.

The exhibition “Birds Beyond Politics?” will be presented in new cities. Look out for an announcement!

To make sure you don't miss our updates,  
follow Ecohome on social media and tell your  
friends about our activities.  
Together for a green Belarus!



[ecohome.ngo](https://ecohome.ngo)  
[ecohome.by@gmail.com](mailto:ecohome.by@gmail.com)

