



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

ACTION PLAN



Lubelskie

Part I - General information

Project: **AgroRES – Investing in Renewable Energies for Agriculture**

Partner organization concerned: **Lubelskie Voivodeship (LV)**

Country: **Poland**

NUTS2 region: **Lubelskie Voivodeship (PL81)**

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AgroRES – Investing in Renewable Energies for Agriculture

The main objective of the project is to develop methods and incentives for the production and use of renewable energy in the agricultural sector and in rural areas. The project is implemented from 01/08/2019 to 31/07/2023 from the funds of the Interreg Europe 2014-2020 Program (85%) and the budget of the Lubelskie Voivodeship (15%). As part of the project, examples of Good Practices for the use of Renewable Energy Sources in the Lubelskie Voivodeship and in other partner regions were identified and described. Based on this, a guide was developed - Good Practice Guide. Also, each of the Partners prepared a report on the analysis of the development of production and use of renewable energy sources in agriculture and in rural areas - Regional Self-assessment. In the partner regions of the project, workshops devoted to the analysis of examples of renewable energy installations for the local group of stakeholders were organized.

The end result of the project is the development of a regional Action Plan by each of the Project Partners. The document aims to present the planned activities, based on the selected Policy Document.



Part II - Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

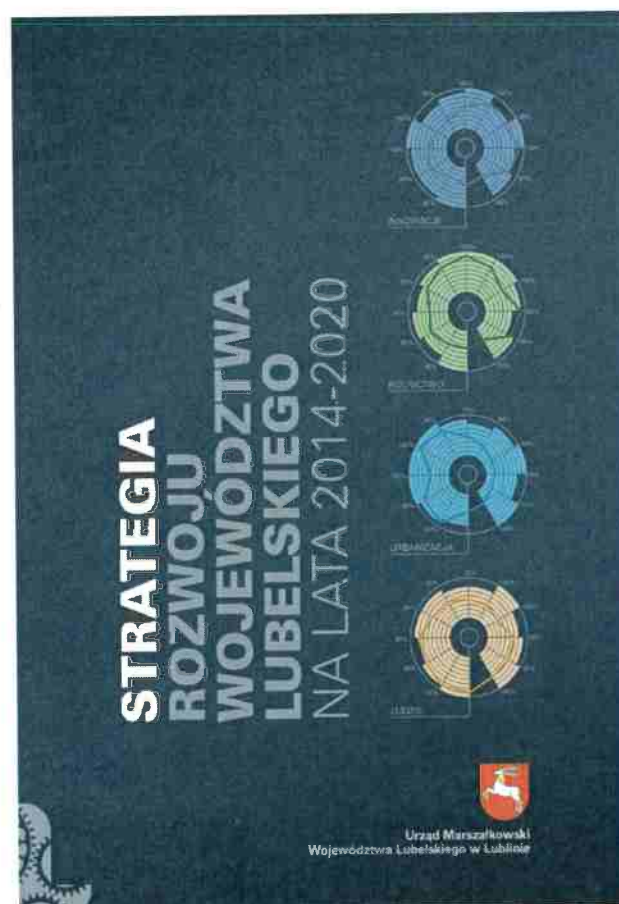
- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- X Other regional development policy instrument

Policy instrument addressed:

- **Development Strategy for the Lubelskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 (with a 2030 perspective)**

Type 2: Change in the management of the policy instrument

The implementation of the AgroRES project is based largely on the regional document entitled *Development Strategy for the Lubelskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 (with a 2030 perspective)*

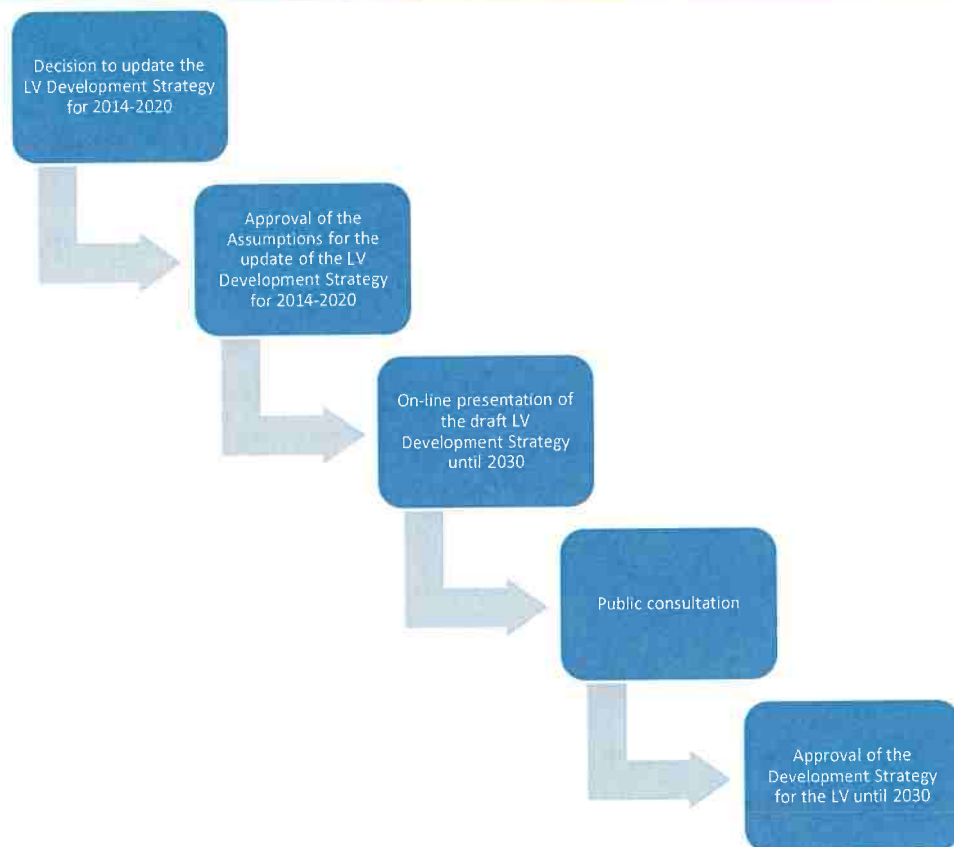


<https://strategia.lubelskie.pl/srw/strategia.rozwoju.wojewodztwa.lubelskiego.na.lata.2014-2020.z.perspektywa.do.2030.pdf>

The one of the main documents shaping the region's development policy, a comprehensive guide that defines the mission and vision of development of the voivodeship. It is a support tool for Regional Authorities in planning and managing the region. Detailed goals and directions for development have been formulated and defined for individual industries and fields. Possible to be involved entities are brought forth and their roles are foreseen, along indicating possible support mechanisms. The document is the main indicator for sectoral and operational documents in the region, it is also the basis for the construction of the Regional Operational Program for the Lubelskie Voivodeship. It also plays a very important educational, social role for residents, local government and economic partners.

In terms of Renewable Energy Sources, there is still a poor use of existing natural resources in the energy sector in Lubelskie and resultingly, an incomplete use of the renewable energy. In order to change the situation in the region it was necessary to look for new solutions, which in a long-term perspective will lead to a wider use of RES in the energy system.

AgroRES was included in the regional development policy instrument – Development Strategy for the Lubelskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 (with a 2030 perspective) that was in the revision process.



Scheme of The Strategy approval process

Work on the development of the current version started in 2019 and took two years, the final version of the document was adopted on March 21, 2021. The document was consulted extensively and in detail with experts, employees in appointed teams within the office, it was also presented for public consultation. This coincided with the implementation of the AgroRES project, thanks to which it was possible to use the knowledge already acquired during the analysis of renewable energy sources in the region, analysis of Good Practices in our region and in partner regions, study visits and knowledge exchange between partners. This resulted in the greater emphasis on the importance of developing the production and use of renewable energy sources in the region, in particular in agriculture and rural areas, and the possibility of accelerating these processes by raising public awareness, thanks to supporting the development and functioning of various bottom-up civic initiatives.

The developed conclusions were entered into the content of the document and included in the goals and directions within the development scope concerning i.a. improving the competitiveness of farms, supporting bottom-up initiatives and improving management efficiency. In the long term, this is expected to help

shape awareness of the society and influence actions taken by all the entities operating in the region.

Incorporating the effects of the AgroRES Project into the Strategy is not only signaling the needs and problems related to the RES development. The effects of this implementation will be two-way: towards lower-level local government units (poviats, communes) and higher-level ones: interregional and national agreements. Creating a development strategy for lower-level self-governments should be consistent with the development direction of the entire region. Lower-level administration, creating its own strategic documents, is based on (refers to) the Voivodship Strategy and strives for compliance of these studies. Thus, the guidelines resulting, for example, from good practices formulated in AgroRES will be moved to a lower level. Moreover, the Development Strategy is a document that financial institutions refer to when making decisions financed from public funds. Thus, the inclusion of the concepts developed in the project will have measurable economic effects. In turn, the action "up" results from the fact that the long-term development paths of the country take into account the specificity of the regions, based on, inter alia, regional strategic documents. Also, other voivodships (of which there are 16 in Poland) can draw inspiration from the concepts indicated in the Lubelskie Voivodeship. This applies especially to regions of a similar nature, i.e. agricultural, with a high RES potential. Concluding the overall effects of incorporating the AgroRES concept into the Strategy, it can be assessed that there should occur a change in the management of the policy instrument and its improvement towards the development of RES in rural areas based on local resources.

Part III- Details of the actions envisaged

Action 1:

Amendment to the Development Strategy for the Lubelskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 (with a 2030 perspective) introducing renewable energy investing initiatives like bottom-up community energy groups

1. Relevance to the project

The document update was developed during the AgroRES project. From the very beginning, an analysis of the environment within the scope of the project was carried out. A very important and valuable source of information was the exchange of examples of Good Practices from all partner regions, with provided possibility of getting acquainted with the practical implementation of investments and activities in the field of renewable energy sources. In most of the analyzed cases, there was an information that the measures were implemented under national or regional support programs. The assumptions of these activities resulted from the provisions in strategic documents, ROPs, and action plans. In our opinion, it was an important factor with a very large impact on the development of investments and activities in the energy and renewable energy sectors. Defining the directions of development and support in a long-term perspective is an important factor in the formation of investments and the involvement of entrepreneurs.

An important factor for carrying out this action were the conclusions from the work on the document *Regional self-assessment for the Lubelskie Voivodeship*, which showed that socio-economic changes in rural areas in the use of energy resources are necessary. Rural areas and their inhabitants should be activated towards the implementation of renewable energy sources, especially by providing support funds, but also advising, broadly informing about the availability of various subsidy mechanisms and the RES technologies themselves. The eco-energy awareness seems to be still low, and the methods of providing information so far are less and less effective. Therefore, using the experience in

other European regions, it was decided that it was necessary to activate and support the development of bottom-up initiatives, local energy groups, clusters and civic energy communities.

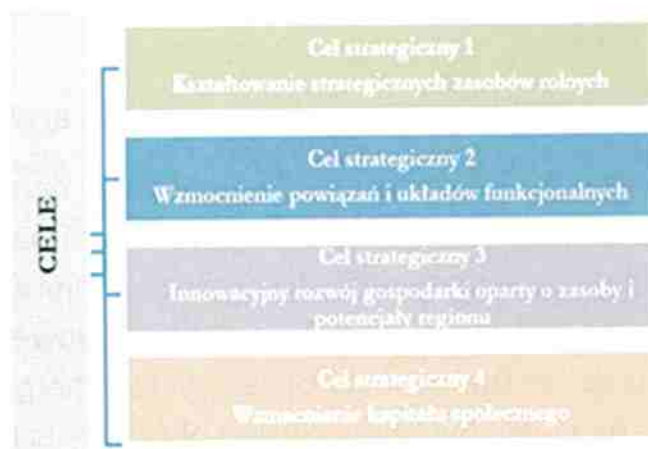
The following Good Practice was the main inspiration for this activity:

The Devon County example of GP Community-owned Energy demonstrated the benefits of community involvement. The regional authorities financed activities initiating and encouraging local communities to organize themselves in various bottom-up activities. Organized meetings with residents allowed to raise the level of social awareness about the benefits of renewable energy sources, and were also the beginning of a dialogue and inclusion of residents in the creation of local energy policy. The implemented projects significantly contributed to the increased interest in investments in renewable energy. Also, the figures on the installed capacity as well as the value of funds invested in RES show positive effects.

2. Nature of the action

The Lubelskie Voivodeship is a Local Government Unit and at the same time the Managing Authority of the Regional Operational Program. The scope of activities also includes the development and implementation of Strategies, Development Plans and Programs for the entire region. This gives the possibility of a real influence on the shape of the provisions, on the definition of long-term development directions and the indication of specific objectives of activities. Updating one of the main documents made it possible to change the content and introduce provisions specifying activities in the scope covered in the AgroRES project, concerning renewable energy sources in agriculture and in rural areas and supporting bottom-up initiatives.

Ryc. 39 Schemat celów strategicznych



It was formulated in the form of goals and directions of activities:

Strategic Objective 1 - Shaping strategic agricultural resources

Operational objective 1.1. Improving the competitiveness of farms

DIRECTIONS OF ACTIVITIES / DIRECTIONS OF INTERVENTION:

- Increasing the energy efficiency of farms;
- Increasing the production and use of energy from renewable sources;
- Development of agricultural retail trade and better systemic links with wholesalers (exchanges);

Strategic objective 4 - Strengthening social capital

Operational objective 4.6. - Supporting bottom-up initiatives and improving management efficiency

DIRECTIONS OF ACTIVITIES / DIRECTIONS OF INTERVENTION:

- Supporting supra-local network initiatives that stimulate economic development and strengthen the identity of local communities;
- Promoting greater involvement of private funds in major development projects, including in the public-private partnership formula.

3. Stakeholders involved

The entity responsible for the development and implementation of the document of the Development Strategy for the Lubelskie Voivodeship is the Lubelskie Voivodeship, represented by the Marshal and the Management Board. The process took two years and different actors were involved at different stages. Employees of various Departments, experts and all those who wanted to take part in public consultations were involved in the works on the update.

4. Timeframe

Action 1 has already been implemented during the preparation of the draft document in 2019-2021. The process was divided into stages and the involvement of employees was different at each stage. The greatest amount of work was carried out in the initial phase and consisted of the analysis of the current state of the region. The next stage was work within industry teams on development of content of the new document, containing proposals for development directions, goals of activities, involved entities and conclusions from the analyzes carried out.

5. Costs and funding

The costs of the Strategy revision process are internalized. The approximate cost of one employee dedicated to the Strategy revision is 1,000.00 euro/per month (0,75).

The costs of organising conferences/meetings were not high and the main source of financing were the funds of the Voivodeship.

6. Monitoring of the action

Modifications of the Development Strategy for the Lubelskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 (with a 2030 perspective) affect the entire region because it is the main strategic document. For example, the Regional Operational Program 2022-2027 draws from its provisions and recommendations. Currently, work on the document is underway, but in the draft version there already are provisions that emphasize the desire to support bottom-up, RES-oriented initiatives.

It needs to be highlighted that direct beneficiaries of these changes are citizens from rural areas and local societies together with local authorities, public sector

institutions, SMEs and other organisations interested in cooperation as a local energy group, an energy cooperative or cluster, in order to implement projects leading to a greater use of energy from the renewable sources. So, the main indicator will be the number of the new project.

Furthermore monitoring is an integral part of the strategy and provides information on the progress and effects of its implementation. The entire "Chapter 8 Strategy monitoring system" is devoted to this. The Strategy's monitoring model is based on comparable and reliable statistical data obtained with the participation of the regional science and research sector and external experts.

The most important activities included in the Development Strategy of the Lubelskie Voivodeship include supporting the creation of new and development of the existing enterprises, developing research and innovation activities and support of advanced technologies, implementing technologies and building infrastructure ensuring affordable clean energy from renewable sources. The availability of infrastructure, such as post-industrial areas and facilities, etc., gives the possibility of their re-use to implement new technologies, including those activating renewable energy sources.

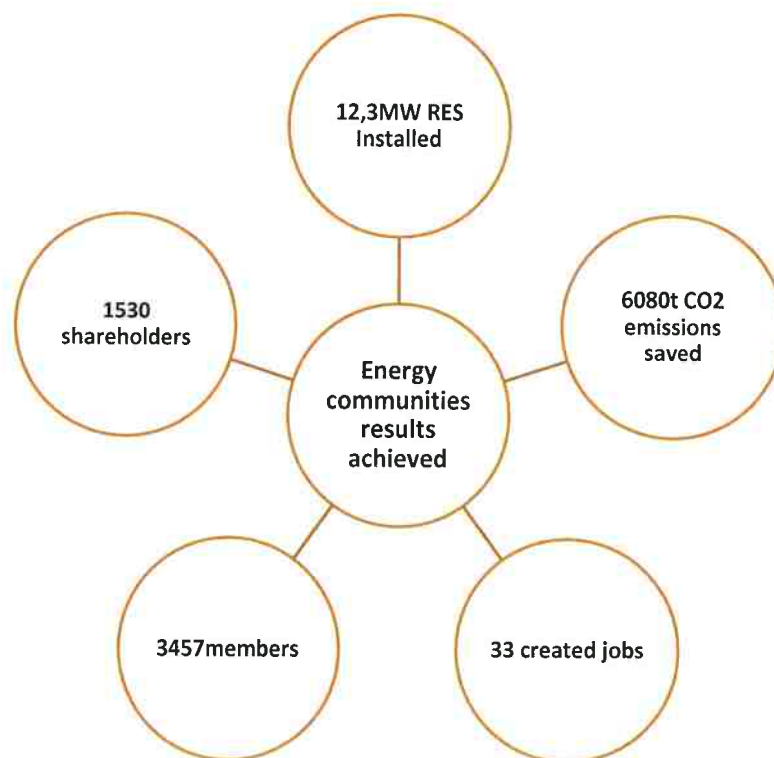
Monitoring the implementation of the Strategy in relation to changes introduced thanks to the implementation of AgroRES will include contextual (macroeconomic) and partial indicators (referring to individual strategic and operational goals). In detail, context indicator related to the AgroRES project is: Share of renewable energy in total energy production (%). Among the partial indicators, it will be possible to distinguish those that reflect the development of renewable energy sources: the number of entities generating energy from renewable sources (solar and wind farms, biogas plants, heat and power plants powered by biomass), the number of registered energy clusters, entities working for RES (supply and processing of biomass, maintenance and repair services for renewable energy installations, etc.). The source of information will be mass statistics data and institutions responsible for keeping such registers (the Energy Regulatory Office, the National Center for Agricultural Support, the Central Statistical Office).

Action 2:

Establishment of a Consultation Point as a result of the AgroRES Project – *Investing in Renewable Energies for Agriculture*

1. Relevance to the project

Establishing a Consultation Point will be an important factor in consolidating and disseminating knowledge developed under the project. This Action Plan summarizes and explains the activities undertaken, and also indicates the direct impact of the experience gained in the project on the subsequent shape of the activities carried out. The example of Good Practice presented by the partner representing Devon County - Community-owned Energy was a particular inspiration for us.



The presented effects show the direct impact of public involvement in the energy transformation process. After analyzing this case, we noticed many similarities to our region. Despite increasing popularity of obtaining energy from renewable sources in recent years, the problem is low social awareness of benefits,

ignorance of individual technologies and too slow a pace of development. Many local governments are struggling with the problem of low participation of residents in the energy transformation, social protests in connection with the implementation of wind farms or biogas plants. Often the reason for reluctance is lack of knowledge and the perceived lack of direct benefits for citizens. However, the results in the presented GP turned out to be very promising, both in terms of the number of local energy communities created, as well as financial indicators of the total amount of investments made in relation to the subsidy costs incurred. The so-called financial leverage allows local authorities, with limited funds, to achieve considerable results. A very important aspect for residents who are members of energy groups is the participation in profits and the possibility of reducing the costs of purchasing energy.

During the project implementation, a lot of information was collected on the degree of development and use of renewable energy sources in the regions of individual partners, which was written in form of Regional self-assessment reports. Many activities, support programs and investments in the field of renewable energy sources were analyzed and some of the most interesting examples of Good Practices in each of the regions were selected. Then, workshops and bilateral visits were conducted. Due to the pandemic, part of the cooperation and information exchange took place online.

The following project activities were the inspiration for this activity:

- As part of the interregional learning process, workshops and meetings of project partners, we had the opportunity to learn about different models of energy policy management in the partner regions. A special inspiration for us was the Extremadura Region and the Energy Agency operating there. We got acquainted with the profile of the institution, analyzed information on the activities and functions it performs in the region. In our opinion, such an entity is a very powerful tool supporting Regional Authorities in creating and implementing the policy of developing the use of renewable energy sources. There is no energy agency in our region, and its creation requires time and a qualified staff. Temporarily, similar function can be performed by a Consultation Point operating within the structure of the office, which may use the acquired knowledge and experience to advise regional authorities,

- entrepreneurs, local government units, energy groups and residents in the field of energy.
- The lessons learned from meetings with the Local Stakeholder Group were also inspiring for starting this activity. They pointed to difficult access to the information on development opportunities of local energy communities, which in many cases could discourage potential interested citizens. One of the few examples of a bottom-up processes in the region are energy clusters. A representative of one of them encouraged and persuaded local communities to organize themselves into meetings.

As noted in the Policy Context chapter, the actions described apply to one of the types of policy changes - Type 2: change in the management of the policy instrument (improved governance). Establishing a Consultation Point will have the best impact on better management of the policy instrument. The improvement of management will be directly implemented by supporting the beneficiaries in writing and submitting applications related to co-financing investments in the field of renewable energy sources. Such action will in practice help to increase the scale of activities described in the Development Strategy of the Lubelskie Voivodeship.

2. Nature of the action

Thanks to all these activities, the employees participating in the project significantly improved their professional competences in the field of renewable energy sources in agriculture and rural areas, as well as the principles of operation of energy cooperatives and energy clusters. The best model for disseminating this knowledge in the region should now be worked out. There is no energy agency operating in the Lubelskie Voivodeship, so the establishment of a Consultation Point as part of the Marshal's Office will allow for information activities on the voivodeship level. The term "Consultation Point" will not refer to a physical place of functioning, but rather define the performance of its function.

Scheme for establishing the "Consultation Point"

1. Designation of the departments involved.

The project was implemented jointly by two departments: the Department of Strategy and Development and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. They have qualified and experienced employees in the field of cooperation and dissemination of knowledge in the field of renewable energy.

2. Delegating employees to service the Consultation Point.

The decision to choose the secondment of employees will depend on the people managing the departments involved and will be made jointly, adequately to the needs.

3. Employee training.

The needs and the relevant scope of necessary knowledge will be identified. The posted workers will be trained as part of an internal training.

4. Provision of technical facilities.

The Marshal's Office will provide all technical and housing needs, electronic access channels, equipment and support from the entire institution.

Initial sub-activities that can be carried out by the Consultation Point, on its own or in cooperation with other entities should also be developed:

- publishing information on the website,
- training lectures,
- meetings with citizens,
- cooperation with universities and schools in fields related to renewable energy,
- other activities.

3. Stakeholders involved

The Consultation Point will function within the structure of the Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie Voivodeship in Lublin. In order to increase the range of impact, all persons and heterogeneous entities scattered throughout the voivodeship who formed the Local Stakeholder Group during the first phase of the AgroRES project should be involved.

4. Timeframe

Initially, it is planned to organize and operate a Consultation Point for at least one year, during the second phase of the project. After this time, an evaluation of the work and its effects can be carried out on which basis, a plan for the next period should be created.

5. Costs and funding source

The costs of one employee dedicated full time to Consultation Point – app. 1,300.00 euro/per month. The main source of financing is the funds of the Voivodeship.

6. Monitoring of the action

To assess the proper functioning of the Consultation Point, it is necessary to introduce a monitoring mechanism. The following indicators will allow for the assessment of the operation of the Consultation Point and the implementation of Action 2, at the same showing whether the assumptions provided for in the Development Strategy for the Lubelskie Voivodeship are being implemented. These indicators are compliant in particular with the challenges defined in the Strategy as "development challenges resulting from the present state and development needs of the voivodeship". One of the directions of activities set out in the Strategy is "Increasing the environmental awareness of residents, including resource saving and energy and the idea of circular economy." The organization of meetings and conferences will prove the implementation of the Strategy's assumptions, written as "Educational, information and promotional activities aimed at increasing the ecological awareness of the society" and "Advising on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for enterprises, the municipal sector, local government units, housing construction and natural persons". The implementation of this goal is in line with the activities indicated

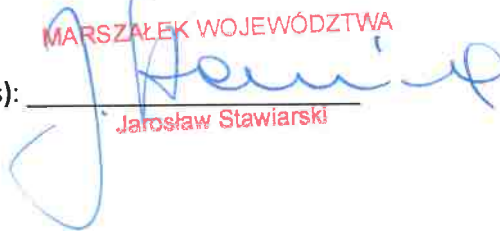
in the Action Plan, and its assessment will be made possible by the following indicators that can be measured and analyzed:

- number of supported beneficiaries,
- number of supported RES projects,

Date: 25.07.2022r.

Name of the organisation(s): Lubelskie Voivodeship

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):

MARSZAŁEK WOJEWÓDZTWA

Jarosław Stawiarski