

CZECHIA

How the Czech Nature Conservation Agency is driving the advancement of a bird-friendly electricity grid by 2035

In Czechia, the Nature Conservation Agency (NCA) plays a major role in convening stakeholders and providing guidance towards a truly bird-friendly electricity system.

Two separate laws on Nature Conservation (1992) and Energy (2000/2009) make it legally binding for all new and existing power lines respectively to be made safe, in the latter case by 2035.

With a multi-stakeholder national working group, a guiding catalogue of >100 bird-friendly measures, and enduring collaboration between NCA, grid operators and the national NGO, Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO), Czechia is well on the way!



Only officially approved bird-safe measures are granted permission to be used in Czechia by grid operators and conservation authorities. These are listed on the NCA website.



The NCA moderates a working group of authorities, grid operators and NGOs to discuss bird-related issues. While discussions are intense, the collaboration ultimately delivers solutions that are acceptable for all.



Individuals driving change: The passion and motivation of a few colleagues within the NCA, CSO and grid operators has managed to keep the crucial issue of bird protection high on the agenda.

ENGAGEMENT

- Practical and theoretical collaboration between DSO, EG.D (of the E.ON Group) and NGO, CSO has been ongoing for >20 years.
- CSO has been contracted to undertake important works for grid operators over the years. This includes a risk mapping to identify priority areas for retrofitting.

MONITORING

- The retrofitting requirements have driven innovation. Both distributors, ČEZ Distribuce and EG.D, are intensively developing new solutions safe for birds which have since been approved by the NCA.
- A new project in 2025 will focus on monitoring the effectiveness of bird protection measures to ensure that the most efficient technologies are used.

LAW & POLICY

- Two separate laws on Nature Conservation (1992) and Energy (2000/2009) make it legally binding for all new and existing power lines respectively to be made safe, in the latter case by 2035.
- In 2016, the Ministry of Environment published binding guidelines for bird protection against electrocution, which were developed together with grid operators, CSO and the NCA.

FINANCIAL

- By providing their expert ornithological knowledge, the CSO helps grid operators to optimise their bird protection efforts, and thus save valuable resources.
- Prevention of electrocution of birds reduces the risk of outages and increases overall grid stability, bringing financial benefits for grid operators and consumers.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

ENGAGEMENT

- The working group has provided fertile ground for further collaborations, such as the collaboration between EG.D and CSO, and regular ad hoc meetings between stakeholders to discuss the development of new measures.

LAW & POLICY

- To support grid operators in compliance, the NCA introduced a catalogue of >100 measures which are accepted as truly bird-friendly. This includes pylon types, anti-electrocution insulation, and wire markers to reduce collision risk.
- The NCA has the final word, but measures are jointly discussed by experts from industry and civil society.

DATA & MONITORING

- If a case of mortality is proven around a power line, the NCA approaches grid operators directly to demand action is taken.
- In 2015-6, the NCA undertook a major monitoring effort to review 10% of all Czech power poles and track mortality within a database.
- There is no obligation or database for industry to monitor mortality around power lines.

FINANCIAL

- The Energy Law (2000/2009) brought the 2035 deadline, but no extra budget for grid operators to implement measures. Therefore bird-safety measures are often planned alongside planned technical retrofitting.

A bit of history

Public pressure has played a large part in achieving bird protection around infrastructure, including power lines in Czechia. An NGO-led exhibition in 2001 entitled 'Light for Prague' drew public attention to the issue and generated a media storm. Subsequently, the Minister of Environment visited the exhibition and promised to undertake appropriate steps. More recently, NGOs collaborated with dancers to produce [a video campaign](#).

Did you know?

Czech DSO, EG.D, has established a programme for the protection of Little owls (*Athene noctua*) through birdhouses on their infrastructure.

Little owls are the most endangered owl species in the country, with only 80-100 pairs remaining.

Since 2002, 47 nest boxes have been installed on selected high-voltage poles, with 2 boxes in 2025 hosting 7 and 3 chicks respectively. The initiative has proven popular on social media!



Learn more about
bird protection

Renewables
Grid Initiative



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