



## "GREEN ECONOMY" IN UZBEKISTAN

Muminova R. N.

Teacher Kokand State Pedagogical Institute  
ranokhon29@gmail.com

### Abstract

The article highlights the relevance of the topic of our time. "green construction", ecology, green zones and sustainable urban development, on the adoption of Uzbekistan's "green economy transition strategy".

**Keywords:** global environmental problems, "green economy", "green energy", financial instruments, development of science and innovation.

### Introduction

Scientists around the world have been very concerned about the "green" economy since the beginning of the XXI century, there is a lot of debate, we are talking about the factors of economic growth that improve the environment, that these are interrelated.

Today, humanity is facing new threats. The world's population continues to increase, and the reserves of natural resources are steadily declining.

First of all, we are witnessing an aggravation of global environmental problems. Experts note the need to introduce the principles of "green progress" into the global economy to correct the situation. This approach has also found expression in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. [1]

As you know, "green construction", ecology, Green zones and sustainable urban development are becoming an urgent topic of our time. The global construction industry, in particular, is being tested in the face of the growing threat of global climate change, the depletion of natural resources and the destruction of the global ecosystem. The foundations for the formation of the concept of a green economy were laid within the framework of the concept of sustainable development back in the late 80s of the last century. There are many definitions of sustainable development, but the most common and generally accepted is the definition proposed in 1987 by the UN Commission under the leadership of G. H. Brundland: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the modern generation without endangering the vital needs of future generations." [2]

The Government of Uzbekistan aims to restore macroeconomic indicators before the pandemic and achieve higher growth rates in the coming years. In turn, the country's





population and income are growing. In these conditions, the demand for energy resources is also growing. An important component of the "green economy" is the creation and use of renewable energy sources. Uzbekistan's potential in this regard is quite high.

In 2019, Uzbekistan adopted a "green economy transition strategy". In the next decade, the country plans to sharply reduce carbon consumption, introduce environmentally friendly and resource-saving technologies in all sectors of the economy, and make extensive use of renewable, efficient energy sources.

According to estimates by international financial institutions, the annual supply of alternative energy (especially solar) in the republic amounts to 270 million tons of conventional fuel equivalent. This is three times more than the actual need. In addition, the implementation of projects in the field of "green energy" will increase the share of renewable energy sources in Uzbekistan by more than 3 times in the next ten years. This is an unprecedented benefit for the economy.

Inevitably, internal and external problems of varying intensity will arise. A strategy has also been adopted to allow them to stay prepared and troubleshoot problems in a timely manner.

Before moving on to the "green economy", it is necessary to audit national legislation, bring it into line with international requirements and bring it into a unified system. Some countries faced additional challenges as they started with practice and then took up the legislative framework. This error slows down the transition process.

For example, who produces solar or other form of renewable energy and in what quantity, in what order, and at what tariff is it delivered to the population? It is necessary to clarify such issues, reflect them in legislation and, in this context, coordinate relations between new market actors.

The second important issue is to determine which financial instruments the government wants to use in the transition to a "green economy". Because at the initial stage it is necessary to invest wax in economic sectors. Such a burden cannot be borne by the State budget, most likely, it will be imposed on international donor organizations. Then under what conditions is external support provided?

It is important in what form it can be obtained by the local population, enterprises and business entities? When businesses do not have incentives and motivation to work on the principles of the "green economy", all the efforts of the state are not beneficial.

Usually, enterprises and organizations, various segments of the population are provided with preferential or interest-free loans, subsidies and grants, tax incentives for the use of alternative energy sources, reducing carbon consumption in the





production process, the use of “green technologies” and the purchase of appropriate equipment.

In turn, it is very important that the banking and financial system contribute to this, so that banks pay special attention to business projects related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The above-mentioned financial support tools are appropriate if they are applied primarily to small businesses. The reason is that they are extremely sensitive to any changes in market conditions and may not be able to adapt to the new competitive environment. However, large enterprises have a “protective cushion”. That is why some companies have no problems with the transition to a “green economy”. In extreme cases, this can minimize possible risks by diversifying the type of product or service. Initial data and research methods. When writing the article, the following methods and techniques were used: system and factor analysis, functional and comparative analysis, information processing methods.

Another relevant issue is the identification of sectors of the economy that will play a key role in the transition to a “green economy”. At the initial stage, we invested in tourism and the service sector. In addition, a great effect can also be expected from mechanical engineering and the automotive industry. The state decides which industry, when and how to transfer to the “green economy”.

In the near future, it is possible to face the problem of a shortage of qualified personnel, who are considered the intellectual force of “green progress”. Uzbekistan faces the task of training such specialists. If you do not start this work now, you will continue to incur high costs in the future, being dependent on foreign countries. For a faster and relatively painless transition to a “green economy”, accelerated development of science and innovation is necessary. Because this type of economy is primarily based on scientific achievements, as well as effective innovative solutions. One example is the reduction in the cost of using solar energy worldwide by 80 percent over the past decade. This trend continues. Because scientists, engineers and technologists are constantly searching for improving existing equipment, creating new ones, and reducing cost. [3]

Obviously, Uzbekistan can also conduct such research. In order not to export innovative products from abroad, it is necessary to produce them at home. It is good that regional solidarity has been achieved in this regard. Then the process will accelerate. Issues such as ensuring ecological balance and rational use of natural resources are relevant for all Central Asian countries. There are no political boundaries in nature. Not only Uzbekistan, but also neighboring countries benefit from the creation of a Green Energy system or production facilities that do not harm the environment. In this context, it is better to work together based on publicly





available strategic plans. However, the transition to a "green economy" is an independent matter for any Republic. Uzbekistan has made its decision. It is necessary to prepare a legal and institutional framework for the development of the industry and start implementing local projects. It will take ten, maybe twenty or thirty years. It is worth studying the experience of the Scandinavian countries, which have successfully implemented the "green economy".

Green Growth and Collaboration to Achieve Global Goals (P4G) is a major international initiative being promoted in the coming years. We can even say that this is a kind of club of countries and cities that have chosen the path of "green development". There are now more than a dozen participants in the project. Within the framework of this platform, participants will cooperate in creating innovative solutions that contribute to the transition to a "green economy".

P4G is an institutionalized structure supported by a number of influential international associations and financial institutions. With its help, Uzbekistan can attract the necessary investments to implement the "green economy strategy". I noted above that the "green economy" primarily serves the interests and prospects of ordinary people. Our joining the p4g partnership will eventually lead to an improvement in the lifestyle of Uzbeks, an improvement in the quality of life, improvement of urban amenities, restoration of the ecological balance in our region and many other positive changes.

Everyone knows that today this movement has become a trend all over the world. Large companies and multinational corporations are implementing the principles of "green development" in their activities. They deliberately demonstrate their commitment to Sustainable Development Goals in order to preserve their corporate image. In turn, countries that have chosen the path of "green growth" also attract the attention of international organizations and business circles. External creditors and investors prefer to invest in these countries.

Uzbekistan's transition to a "green economy" is an important signal for the world community. It is not surprising that major donor organizations, in particular Western companies, have expressed a desire to finance important investment projects aimed at realizing our goals in the field of "green development".

Perhaps the market situation will change dramatically, but it will obviously be the emergence of new types of products and services, new markets. This is due to the emergence of "green" industries in the economy.

Such changes, of course, are not painless for entrepreneurs adapted to traditional market conditions. In some areas, production capacity may be reduced. The reason is that not all enterprises are ready to accept the principles of "green growth". During





the transition period, it is important that state business entities, especially small businesses, lend a helping hand, use additional financial instruments that will help them adapt to the new rules of the game.

It is known from research that Uzbekistan annually loses at least 4.5% of GDP due to the use of hydrocarbon energy – oil, gas, coal. In addition, almost half of the country's generating capacity is outdated. Their restoration or modernization requires significant funds. Instead, the transition to “green energy”, which is considered economically and environmentally efficient. In the end, the whole world chooses this path.

It is noteworthy that Uzbekistan was the first of the Central Asian states to join this movement. In fact, the adopted strategy of transition to a “green economy” means that “our country has turned its face to “green progress”.

Of course, the “green economy” is not just a reform of the energy sector. It includes multifaceted and interdisciplinary measures such as clean drinking water, food security, agricultural innovation, sustainable cities, sound waste management, forest expansion, and desertification reduction.

One more important point. It is not the state or business that benefits from the “green economy”, but, above all, ordinary people. This is its social significance.

It is known from world experience that the introduction of “green technologies” in various sectors of the economy has a positive effect on the quality of life of the population. This makes life in cities more comfortable, reduces child mortality, increases life expectancy, etc. However, in some regions of Latin America and Africa, there has even been a reduction in external migration flows and the development of human capital. Uzbekistan has also joined the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Paris Climate Agreement. Both documents place the responsibility on national governments to meet the requirements of “green development

According to the World Bank, the construction sector in Uzbekistan provides 50% of the final energy consumption. About 70% of the total energy consumed in district hospitals, 84% in preschool institutions, 88% in rural medical offices and 97% in schools is spent on heating buildings. Results. Rapid industrialization and steady population growth significantly increase the economy's demand for energy resources, as well as have a negative anthropogenic impact on the environment. In addition, the interim results of the UN Development Program project aimed at the transition of the dynamically developing rural housing sector of Uzbekistan to a more sustainable path of development, reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions, were presented.





In particular, in 2019, 21 typical rural houses were built in five districts of the republic according to the proposals of the design institute "rural construction project" Comfort in the house is provided by "green" materials, equipment and technical solutions, maintaining an optimal temperature in winter and summer. The environmental sustainability of the house lies in the fact that it reduces the carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The house consumes a small amount of energy, produces energy itself, is supplied with hot water and does not lose heat. It is so modernized and carefully designed that it is able to meet the population's need for alternative electricity and, accordingly, all the advantages associated with its use. [4]

### **Conclusions**

In Uzbekistan, it is necessary to pay great attention to energy conservation and other resource conservation. This is due to the environmental situation in the country and the world. Of course, energy-efficient solutions are not always cheaper than traditional technologies, but they pay off in the long run, making enterprises more resilient to crisis situations, and sometimes they are the only rational solution. The introduction of investments in wind power, hydropower and solar energy in Uzbekistan will lead to the production of 6 times more electricity than needed.

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