

THE NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY

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Abstract

The scientific article talks about the nature of "green economy", which is considered the most urgent problem of today, the need and importance of transition to it. The article presents obstacles and problems that may arise in the process of forming a "green economy" in Uzbekistan, ways to solve them, and world experience in the formation and development of a "green economy".

Keywords: "green economy", principles of "green development", human factor, environment and ecology, innovations, "green technologies", economic sectors, GDP, solar energy, wind energy.

Introduction

Today's lifestyle, living conditions and achievements of mankind are the result of life experiences formed over several thousand years. Over the centuries, man has made great discoveries with his intelligence and work, and is ensuring the well-being of his life through wide application. Modern vehicles, advanced technologies, means of communication, online shopping and modern computers are obvious examples of this.

Rapid economic growth has been achieved in the world as a result of scientific and technical progress. However, the development of industry, agriculture, and the sharp increase in population are causing many environmental problems for mankind. Because as a result of the work carried out without deep thought in order to meet the demand and need, natural forests are shrinking, there is a water problem, and environmental degradation is observed.

The transition to a "green" economy has become an important vital necessity in today's rapidly changing and modernizing era.

As the population of our planet continues to grow, the demand for energy resources, especially fuel, is increasing day by day. As the population of our planet continues to grow, the demand for energy resources, especially fuel, is increasing day by day. In the last 200 years, the population of our planet has increased almost 5 times. If in 1900 the population of our planet was 1.6 million. As of January 17, 2024, there were 8,085,721,930 people (<https://aniq.uz/uz/statistika/dunyo>). But economic resources are limited, they are running out. This creates serious problems.

Due to the human factor, in the last hundred years, the arable land on the globe has shrunk by a quarter, and forests by two thirds. As a result, many animal species are disappearing. According to statistics, 8-10% of the animal world will be destroyed in the next 30 years. On our planet, tropical forests make up 14%, and more than 50% of the animal world lived in such areas. Only 6% of tropical forests remain on Earth.



Also, in the last 50 years, drinking water per capita in the world has decreased by 60%. 150-160 km are used annually in the industry. cubic water is poured into rivers and lakes. Due to various disasters and technical errors, 25-30 million tons of oil fall into the oceans every year. In the industry, 300 cubic meters of water are used for the production of 1 ton of steel, and 900 cubic meters of water are used for the production of 1 ton of paper. 70% of total water is used in agriculture, 20% in industry and 10% in households. According to estimates, by 2030, 47% of the planet's population will face the problem of water shortage. This situation requires a faster transition to a green economy.

This disparity puts the countries of the world in a difficult position. Experts confirm the need to introduce the principles of "green development" into the world economy and transition to a "green economy" in order to correct the situation. This approach is reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

So what is the green economy? What do we mean by green economy?

Green economy is a new type of economic activity based on the further development of the economy related to the production and service sectors while preserving the resources necessary for human life and health, the environment and ecology in general.

Green economy is a model of economic development that includes responsible relations with resources. Its main goal is to develop all sectors of the economy while preserving the ecology of our planet.

The "green" economy serves to increase the standard of living through the effective use of natural resources and manufactured products based on the alternative attitude of man to nature. The concepts of "green" city, "green" transport, "green" growth, "green" region, "green" chemistry, and "green" technology, formed in the same process, are important trends in the formation of "green" economy.

In this sense, the transition to a "green" economy is one of the most urgent tasks in finding a suitable solution to environmental problems in our country, as well as in the whole world.

On December 2, 2022, the decision of the President of Uzbekistan "On measures to increase the effectiveness of reforms aimed at transitioning the Republic of Uzbekistan to a "green" economy by 2030" was adopted. Based on the decision, a program for transition to a "green" economy and ensuring "green" growth was developed in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030.

It is designed to achieve the following strategic goals:

- reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 35% from the level of 2010;
- increase the production capacity of renewable energy sources by 15 GW and increase their share to more than 30 percent in the total volume of electricity production;
- increase energy efficiency in industry by at least 20%;
- reducing energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product by 30%, including expanding the use of renewable energy sources;
- to significantly increase the efficiency of water use in all sectors of the economy, to introduce water-saving irrigation technology in areas up to 1 million hectares;
- planting 200 million saplings per year and increasing the total number of saplings to 1 billion, expanding green spaces in cities by more than 30 percent;
- increasing the level of solid household waste processing from 65 percent, etc.



An important component of the "green" economy is the creation and use of renewable energy sources.

According to the calculations of international financial institutions, the annual reserve of alternative energy (including solar energy) in Uzbekistan is 270 mln. tons of conventional fuel. This is 3 times more than our actual needs. The implementation of projects in the field of "green energy" will allow to increase the contribution of renewable energy sources in Uzbekistan by more than 3 times in the next 10 years. It is also very beneficial for the economy.

Studies show that Uzbekistan loses at least 4.5% of its GDP every year due to the use of hydrocarbon energy - oil, gas, coal. In addition, about half of the country's electricity generation capacity is obsolete. Their restoration or modernization requires a lot of money. Instead, it is better to switch to "green energy", which is considered to be both economically and environmentally efficient. After all, the whole world is choosing this path. It is noteworthy that Uzbekistan was the first among the Central Asian countries to join this movement. The "Strategy of transition to a green economy" adopted two years ago essentially means that our country is striving for "green development".

Of course, the "green economy" does not consist only of reforming the energy sector. It also includes solutions for clean drinking water, food security, agricultural innovation, sustainable cities, smart waste management, expanding forest areas and reducing desertification.

It is known from world experience that the introduction of "green technologies" into various sectors of the economy has a positive effect on the quality of life of the population. As a result, life in cities becomes easier, infant mortality decreases, life expectancy increases, etc.

It should not be forgotten that Uzbekistan joined the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate. Both documents obligate national governments to meet the requirements of "green development". So, sooner or later we have to switch to "green economy".

According to the research of experts, the total solar energy potential of Uzbekistan is 50,973 mln. tons of oil equivalent, the gross potential of wind energy is estimated to be 2.2 million tons of oil equivalent.

What problems and obstacles can Uzbekistan face in the process of "green growth"?

Before transitioning to the "green economy", it is necessary to conduct an audit of the national legislation, adapt it to global requirements and bring it into a unified system. Some countries faced additional challenges, starting with practice and then dealing with the legal framework. Such an error slows down the transition process. Let's say that the mechanisms of electricity delivery to the consumer, pricing, and payment are adapted to the existing traditional system. There are no legal norms that allow working with alternative energy sources. For example, who produces solar or other renewable energy and how much, how and at what rate is it delivered to the population? It is necessary to clarify such questions and reflect them in legal documents, as well as coordinate relations between new market entities.

The second important issue is to determine which financial instruments the state wants to use in the transition to the "green economy". Because at the initial stage, it is necessary to invest a large amount in economic sectors. Such a burden cannot be borne by the state budget, but it turns to international donor organizations. So, under what conditions is foreign aid provided?



Importantly, in what form can local beneficiaries - residents, business and economic entities - receive it? It is desirable to encourage entrepreneurship and work on the principles of "green economy".

The next important task is to determine the sectors of the economy that play an important role in the transition to the "green economy". In our opinion, it is better to invest in the service sector at an early stage. In addition, tourism, machinery and automobile industries can also be expected to benefit in the next phase. In short, the state should decide which sector, when and how to transition to the "green economy".

Rapid development of science and innovation is necessary for a faster and relatively painless transition to the "green economy". Because this type of economy primarily relies on scientific achievements and effective innovative solutions. As just one example, the cost of solar energy worldwide has dropped by 80 percent over the past decade. This trend continues. Why? Because scientists, engineers and technologists are constantly looking for ways to improve existing equipment, create new ones, and reduce their cost. Similar studies should be conducted in Uzbekistan.

So, how can foreign experience be used to create a "green economy"?

China is the most developed country in the world, and its emissions are also huge. It is noteworthy that this country, along with its own processing, also buys waste from abroad, recycles it, and earns income. According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the country imports 50 million tons of electronic and household waste every year.

China is a world leader in electricity production and has a huge potential, especially for "green" energy. "Green" energy, together with hydroelectric power stations, makes up 20-22% of the total electricity balance. In 2015-2017, China ranked first in the world in terms of wind energy.

The USA is an industrialized country rich in thermal energy resources, coal is mined in 15 states, machines are produced in 26 states, and the electronic industry is developed. 55-60 percent of the world's planes are produced in this country. The landlocked country generates 3 trillion kWh of electricity per year, and 80 percent of it comes from private power plants. Biofuels are widely used as an energy source in the United States. Corn is widely used for this. Up to 30 percent corn biofuel is used as transportation fuel. In turn, waste processing technologies are produced and exported in the United States.

One of the main problems of the transition to a "green" economy both globally and in our country is the problem of waste. The negative side of the increase in waste is, firstly, the pollution of the surrounding air, and secondly, it takes up land. Up to 15,000 tons of solid household waste is generated in Uzbekistan every day, and this amount reaches 5-5.5 million tons during the year. According to experts' calculations, by 2030 this indicator will reach 7 million tons annually.

In order to transition to a "green" economy and quickly eliminate environmental problems, it is necessary to use energy resources, water and land efficiently, invest in electricity generation and waste processing, and strengthen the principle of public-private partnership. At the same time, it is necessary to improve the ecological literacy, knowledge, and outlook of our people. In general, the transition to a "green" economy is a comprehensive, multifaceted, complex process that includes dozens of directions. All this requires extensive application of foreign



experience, innovative approach and rapid development of research and development in our country.

Literature

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