



PRIORITY ASPECTS OF DEVELOPING THE GREEN ECONOMY IN UZBEKISTAN

Zafar Kh. Rustamov

Senior Lecturer, at the University of Journalism
and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan

Abstract

This article analyzes the significance of the green economy in Uzbekistan, its development directions, and the ongoing reforms in this area. The author emphasizes sustainable development, environmental safety, and energy efficiency, highlighting the role of the green economy in the national development process.

Keywords: Green economy, sustainable development, technological modernization, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, environmental policy.

Introduction

Today, countries around the world are transitioning to a new economic model – the green economy – in an effort to balance economic growth with environmental protection. The green economy aims to ensure economic development and social well-being while maintaining environmental stability. This article provides a scientific analysis of the role and relevance of the green economy in Uzbekistan’s national economy, its methodological foundations, and the measures being implemented in the country.

The green economy is considered one of the main directions of sustainable development on a global scale. Uzbekistan is also undertaking significant efforts to ensure environmental sustainability, use energy resources efficiently, and develop renewable energy sources.

According to studies by the UN and the World Bank, a global transition to the green economy could lead to a 4–5% increase in global GDP by 2030. In Uzbekistan, the introduction of this economic model is expected to improve



energy efficiency and contribute to the sustainable development of the national economy. In recent years, scientific research on the concept of a green economy has intensified in Uzbekistan. Presidential decrees and resolutions, government programs, and international cooperation have laid the foundation for broad-based research in this direction. Notably, key documents have been adopted, such as the “Strategy for transition to a green economy” (October 4, 2019), and the “Green development strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030” (June 13, 2023)¹. Within the framework of the 2019–2030 strategy, the main goal is to integrate green economy principles into ongoing structural reforms in order to foster social development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve strong economic growth that supports climate and environmental stability.

To achieve the objectives of the strategy, the following key tasks have been outlined:

Increasing energy efficiency and the rational use of natural resources through technological modernization and the development of financial mechanisms;

Introducing “green” criteria into government investment and spending priorities based on advanced international standards;

Supporting pilot and demonstration projects for green economy development by enhancing government incentives, developing public-private partnerships, and strengthening cooperation with international financial institutions;

Developing and modernizing the system for training and retraining specialists for the green economy labor market by encouraging investment in education and fostering partnerships with leading foreign educational institutions and research centers;

Taking effective measures to mitigate the negative impact of the ecological crisis in the Aral Sea region.

Strengthening international cooperation in the field of the green economy.

One of the key priorities in the development of the green economy is the enhancement of international cooperation², including the establishment of bilateral and multilateral agreements in this field³.

¹ O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining qarori, 04.10.2019 yildagi PQ-4477-son

² O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining qarori 04.10.2019 yildagi PQ-4477-son



Methodological foundations of green economy principles:

1. The principles of the green economy are based on the following methodological foundations:
2. Sustainable development – ensuring a balance between economic, environmental, and social sustainability.
3. Energy efficiency – the use of energy-saving technologies in production processes.
4. Development of renewable energy sources – widespread utilization of solar, wind, and biofuel-based energy systems.

Environmental protection – transition to environmentally friendly technologies and zero-waste production systems.

Green economy development in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is actively pursuing a transition to the green economy. The “Strategy for transition to a green economy,” adopted in 2019, outlines the following main directions⁴:

- Increasing energy efficiency
- Developing renewable energy sources
- Greening the transport sector
- Promoting “green” construction
- Improving the waste management system

The ministry of economic development and poverty reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MEDPR), in collaboration with the United Nations development programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, has identified six priority areas and three interrelated thematic clusters for the transition to a green economy⁵ (see Figure 1).

⁴ O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2019-yil 4-oktabrdagi PQ-4477-son qarori.

⁵ Jahon bankining iqlim o‘zgarishi portali, O‘zbekiston sahifasi.

<https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/15838-Uzbekistan%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf>

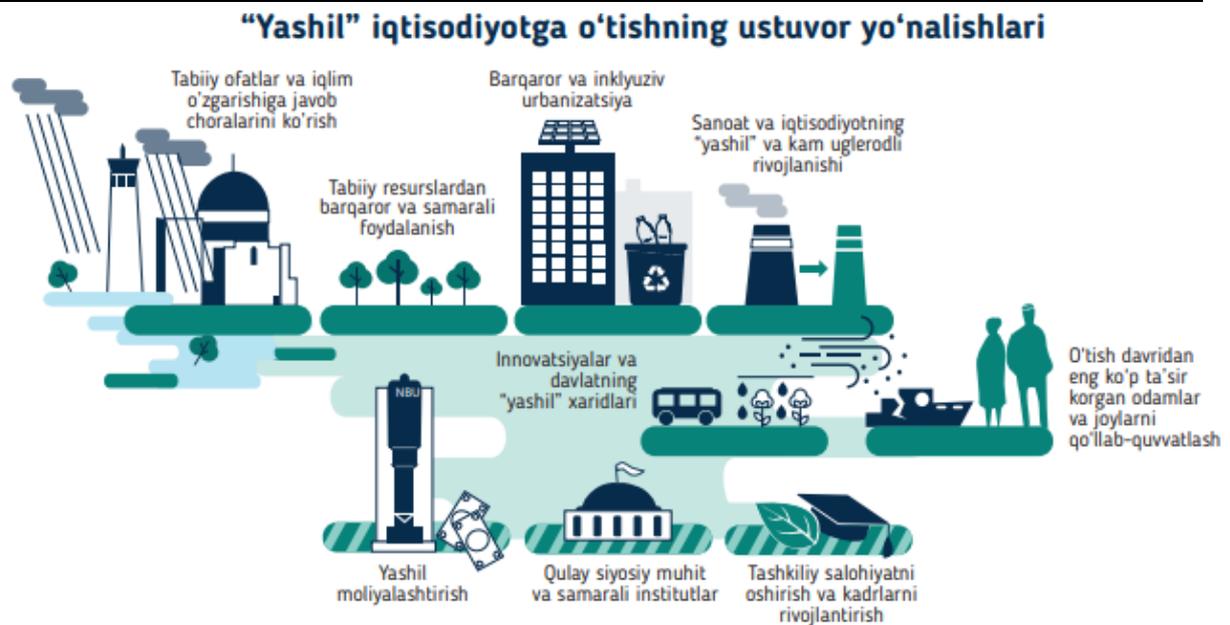


Figure 1. Priority areas for transition to a green economy.

Uzbekistan aims to engage the entire population in a long-term transition process focused on reducing the carbon footprint of the economy and promoting sustainable use of natural resources. This strategy enhances the country’s preparedness for climate change, addresses increasing water scarcity, and mitigates the environmental consequences of the Aral Sea disaster, which continues to exacerbate climate-related challenges.

The government remains committed to preserving ecosystems and biodiversity, ensuring efficient use of water and land resources, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Implementation of green technologies.

In line with the Presidential Decree adopted in 2022⁶, Uzbekistan has set the following national targets to be achieved by 2030:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35%
- Increase the share of renewable energy to 30%
- Improve energy efficiency by 20%
- National targets and strategic vision for a green transition

By 2030, Uzbekistan has set the following concrete national targets as part of its green development agenda:

⁶ O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2022-yil 2-dekabrda PQ-436-son qarori.



Reduce total energy consumption by 30%

Expand green urban areas by 30%

Increase the share of recycled solid household waste to 65%

Advantages of the green economy and global trends.

Transitioning to a green economy is a global trend, with many countries actively engaging in this direction. This process presents numerous advantages and opportunities:

Environmental sustainability – Transitioning to a green economy helps ensure environmental balance. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the green economy plays a crucial role in protecting the environment and combating climate change – especially significant in the context of global climate challenges⁷. **Efficient resource use** – green technologies enable more rational and efficient use of resources, improving economic productivity. Anyway (2011) was emphasized, this is especially important under conditions of resource scarcity⁸. For instance, renewable energy sources reduce dependency on traditional fossil fuels. **Job creation** – The development of green economy sectors contributes to the emergence of new “green” jobs. According to UNEP reports, millions of new jobs are expected to be created globally as part of the green transition, positively impacting employment and economic growth⁹.

Innovation stimulation – green economy promotes the development of innovative technologies and solutions. For example, innovations in renewable energy are transforming the global energy sector.

Global competitiveness – countries leading in green technologies gain competitive advantages in global markets and are positioned as global leaders in innovation. However, the transition to a green economy also presents a range of challenges. In the context of Uzbekistan, several promising directions can be identified for further development.

Key priorities for Uzbekistan.

⁷ UNEP. (2011). Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

⁸ Barbier, E. B. (2011). The policy challenges for green economy and sustainable economic development. Natural resources forum, 35(3), 233-245.

⁹ UNEP. (2011). Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication



One of the most pressing challenges for Uzbekistan is efficient water resource management. The introduction of water-saving technologies and optimization of water use is of critical importance, particularly given the country's vulnerability to climate change and the ongoing ecological crisis in the Aral Sea region. Overall, Uzbekistan possesses significant potential for developing a green economy. However, consistent and targeted efforts are essential – especially focusing on the strategic areas mentioned above. Such efforts will support the country's sustainable development goals and contribute to meaningful long-term results.

Measures taken by the Republic of Uzbekistan.

To accelerate the green transition, Uzbekistan is implementing several key initiatives:

Green energy projects – by 2030, at least 30% of the national energy mix is to come from renewable energy sources.

Support for environmental innovation – national programs have been developed to promote green technologies.

Carbon neutrality strategy – Uzbekistan aims to achieve a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

Green financing mechanisms – green bonds are being introduced through public-private partnerships.

Practical measures in the real sector and business.

Principles of the green economy are increasingly being adopted in Uzbekistan's business environment:

Use of renewable energy – for example, solar power stations have been established in Tashkent region to produce electricity from solar panels.

Eco-friendly agriculture – various projects are underway to cultivate organic products.

Waste recycling industry – solid waste recycling facilities are operating in Tashkent city.

Research methodology.

This research utilized a range of methods commonly applied in scientific investigation. Both deductive and inductive approaches – from general to particular and vice versa – proved effective in analyzing the features and factors of green economic development. The abstract-logical thinking method was used



for systemic analysis, while observation, generalization, classification, comparison, synthesis, and analytical methods were employed to support the study's scientific rigor.

Key characteristics of the green economy.

Research has identified the following key characteristics of the green economy:

Efficient use of resources – the green economy is based on the rational and efficient utilization of natural resources. This includes recycling, waste reduction, and the use of secondary raw materials.

Use of renewable energy sources – the green economy emphasizes the development and widespread use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass.

Implementation of environmentally friendly technologies – it promotes the adoption of innovative technologies that minimize environmental impact¹⁰.

Waste reduction and management – significant attention is paid to waste reduction, recycling, and proper disposal systems.

Creation of green jobs – the green economy fosters the creation of new employment opportunities in environmentally sustainable sectors¹¹.

Valuation of ecosystem services – it recognizes and accounts for the economic value of natural capital and ecosystem services¹².

Key factors for the development of a green economy.

According to research findings, the following are the major factors driving the development of a green economy:

Government policy and legal adaptation – effective regulatory frameworks that support green practices.

Economic incentives – mechanisms to stimulate investments in green sectors.

Innovation and technological development – advancements that enable greener and more efficient production and consumption.

Raising environmental awareness – promoting eco-consciousness among the population.

¹⁰ UNEP. (2011). Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

¹¹ Lund, H. (2007). Renewable energy strategies for sustainable development. *Energy*, 32(6), 912-919

¹² Barbier, E. B. (2011). The policy challenges for green economy and sustainable economic development. *Natural resources forum*, 35(3), 233-245.



Active involvement of the private sector – partnerships and contributions from businesses are essential for scaling green initiatives.

The green economy has emerged as a critical pathway toward sustainable development and the resolution of environmental challenges in the modern world. This article provides a detailed analysis of its key characteristics and driving factors. The green economy encompasses sustainable production and consumption, enhanced energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energy sources, and the rational management of natural resources.

The successful implementation of these factors will contribute to achieving sustainable economic growth and ensuring ecological security. The study's findings suggest that the green economy not only supports environmental sustainability but also enhances economic efficiency and societal well-being. Therefore, it is essential for national economies to develop and implement strategic approaches targeted toward the green economy.

Conclusion and recommendations.

The role of the green economy in Uzbekistan's national development is significant – it contributes to economic stability, environmental protection, and improved public welfare. Based on the analysis, the following recommendations can be made:

1. Expand the number of scientific research centers focused on green technologies.
2. Foster public-private partnerships in the field of green development.
3. Promote the use of renewable energy sources.
4. Expand the production and consumption of environmentally friendly products.

Foydalanilgan adabiyotlar

1. O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2019-yil 4-oktabrdagi "Yashil iqtisodiyotga o'tish strategiyasi" to'g'risidagi qarori.
2. O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2022-yil 2-dekabrdagi PQ-436-son qarori.
3. O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2023-yil 13-iyundagi "2030-yilgacha O'zbekiston Respublikasining yashil rivojlanish strategiyasi".



4. BMTning Barqaror Rivojlanish Maqsadlari (SDG) doirasidagi hisobotlar.
5. UNEP. (2011). Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
6. Jahon bankining O‘zbekiston iqtisodiyotidagi yashil transformatsiya bo‘yicha tadqiqotlari.
7. www.lex.uz – O‘zbekiston Respublikasi qonun hujjatlari milliy bazasi.
8. Barbier, E. B. (2011). The policy challenges for green economy and sustainable economic development. Natural resources forum, 35(3), 233-245.
9. Lund, H. (2007). Renewable energy strategies for sustainable development. Energy, 32(6), 912-919.

References

1. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 4, 2019, on the “Strategy for transition to a green economy.”
2. Presidential Resolution of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-436, dated December 2, 2022.
3. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 13, 2023, on the “Strategy for green development of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030.”
4. Reports within the framework of the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs).
5. UNEP. (2011). Towards a green economy: pathways to sustainable development and poverty eradication.
6. World Bank studies on green transformation in Uzbekistan.
7. www.lex.uz – National database of legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
8. Barbier, E. B. (2011). The policy challenges for green economy and sustainable economic development. Natural resources forum, 35(3), 233–245.
9. Lund, H. (2007). Renewable energy strategies for sustainable development. Energy, 32(6), 912–919.