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Green economy: Essence, principles and prospects

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Abstract

This article discusses the foreign experience of researching the "green" economy, defines the concept of a "green" economy, discusses the history of occurrence, problems and prospects of transition to a "green" economy.

Keywords: "Green" economy, "green" technologies, sustainable development, concept of sustainable development

Introduction

In modern conditions, the problem of the ecological and economic security of the country, sustainable social and economic development, and also the use of human capabilities in the field of rational environmental management are being solved in a qualitatively new way. There is a need to prevent and eliminate external and internal threats, taking into account the interests of present and future generations, which explains the increased interest in the problem of creating a "green" economy among specialists in different fields of knowledge. The study of the concept of "green" economy is associated with a multitude of approaches to the study of this phenomenon. Thus, the concept of "green" economy was introduced into scientific circulation in 1989 in a report prepared by a group of leading economists for the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ^[1]. The United Nations Environment Program has published the Green Economy Report, which marked the beginning of its development. Among scientists and practitioners there is no unambiguous interpretation of the green economy.

Thus, the United Nations Environmental Protection Organization (UNEP) interprets the green economy as an economic activity that enhances human well-being and ensures social justice, while significantly reducing environmental risks and impoverishment of nature ^[2]. A coalition of green economy, created by a group of non-governmental organizations, defines the green economy as a flexible economy, providing a higher quality of life in the conditions of the ecological restrictions of the planet ^[3]. Such concepts as the green economy, "low-carbon development", "green" growth are sometimes identified. So Egorova M.S., Piskulova N.A., Yashalova N.N. understand this expression as new technologies that are designed to help and benefit nature. Moreover, they emphasize that such a model of the economy allows preserving, increasing and restoring natural capital, which is the most important source of public goods ^[4]. Zomonova E.M. proves that the "green" economy is a kind of model of economic development based on sustainable development, improving the quality of life in terms of resource conservation and resource efficiency using new technologies and innovations ^[5]. Under the "green" economy in the article we will understand an economy that provides more rational use of natural resources, increasing natural capital and using alternative energy and renewable energy sources as a basis and contributing to improving the quality of life of people.

The development of a green economy is facilitated by investing in green technologies. According to the classification of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "green" technologies are understood ^[6]:

- general environmental management (waste management, combating water, air pollution and land restoration, etc.).
- Production of energy from renewable sources (solar energy, wind energy, biofuels, etc.).
- Mitigation of the effects of climate change.

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- Reduction of air emissions.
- Increase fuel efficiency.
- Increasing efficiency in buildings and lighting fixtures

The opponents argue that the transition to a green economy will result in increased investment in green technologies and low-carbon energy, resulting in higher production costs and lower competitiveness of the national economy. The formation of a green economy can only be successful on a planetary scale, but not within a single country ^[7]. It is possible to agree with them that there is an additional risk when under the guise of a transition to a green economy, measures of trade protectionism introduced by countries can be justified, for example, establishing quotas or standards for the use of products. and against the green economy, opponents argue that its development will cause price increases and job losses if environmental requirements for production are sharply increased. Reducing the consumption of natural resources, as a necessary condition for a "green" economy, in their opinion, will slow down economic development and lower living standards in the country.

The development of the global economy has led to a global environmental crisis. Under these conditions, the "green" economy, considered as part of nature and setting the task of managing the economy of nature, becomes the main vector of sustainable development. The development of a green economy will help our country avoid an environmental crisis that has already affected many countries. The green economy is aimed at maintaining the well-being of society through the efficient use of natural resources, as well as ensuring the return of end-use products in the production cycle. First of all, those resources that are currently prone to depletion (oil, gas, coal). The development of new technologies for energy production and the efficient use of natural resources is the engine of economic growth. Ecological innovations, the "green" economy in these areas are concentrated opportunities for subsequent sustainable development.

Clean technologies work to cause environmental problems, using new innovative approaches, dramatically changing products, technologies and consumer behavior. Clean technologies are driven by consumer preferences and therefore successful in the markets and have good financial results.

In Uzbekistan, comprehensive measures are being taken to deepen the structural transformation, modernization and diversification of the basic sectors of the economy and balanced socio-economic development of territories. A concept for the transition to a green economy has been developed in the country, Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-4477 dated 10/04/2019 "On approval of the Strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the green economy for the periods 2019-2030" ^[8] was adopted. 12 areas of development of the Uzbek "green" housekeeper, improving energy efficiency of the basic sectors of the economy and the preservation of natural ecosystems were identified:

- In the field of electric power.
- In the field of heat power.
- In the oil and gas industry.
- In the field of chemical industry.
- Introduction of renewable energy sources.
- Energy efficiency in housing and communal services.
- Development of "clean" transport.

- Introduction of innovative energy-efficient technologies in the field of production of building materials;
- Improving the water management system;
- Organic farming in agriculture;
- Restoration and conservation of forestry;
- Improvement of the waste management system;
- Green technologies are aimed at achieving greener, cleaner energy (wind, solar, geothermal), hydropower and bioenergy.
- The modernization of the energy base of the economy is due to at least two reasons:
- The enduring importance of the energy sector, which plays a strategic role in economic development and ensuring security at all levels.
- A factor in global climate change caused by an increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which is directly associated by the international climatological community with technogenic emissions, primarily of energy facilities.

A special role in the process of transition of the energy sector of Uzbekistan to the green economy is played by the development of renewable energy. Today, 97% of the country's fuel and energy resources are oil and gas, 2.3% coal, 0.7% hydropower. Despite the great potential of renewable energy, their share in the total energy balance in the republic does not reach 1% ^[9].

The Concept of providing the country with electric energy for 2020-2030 was adopted. According to the concept that by 2030 it is necessary to increase capacities from 12.9 GW to 29.3 GW, electricity production from 63.6 billion kWh to 120.8 kWh. Natural gas consumption is reduced from 165 billion cubic meters to 12 billion cubic meters. At the same time, according to expert estimates, the potential of renewable energy in the country is 51 billion tons of oil equivalent, existing technologies allow you to get energy equivalent to 179 million tons of oil equivalent, which is 3 times higher than the amount of fuel produced in the republic. For Uzbekistan, a situation of severe resource constraints, especially fuel - energy, is already real in comparison with the needs and their growth in the future. Cash reserves of coal and gas will last for 20-30 years, which is reflected in the strategy of transition to a green economy. At the same time, by 2030, an increase in electricity consumption is expected to reach 112 billion kWh. Alternative energy, in this case, should be 30 GW (to the existing 14.1 GWh), of which 19 GW will be in the latest thermal power plants, 5 GW in solar, 4 GW in hydroelectric power plants, 1.7 GW in wind and nuclear power plants 2, 4 GW, renewable energy sources until 2025 to reach 19.7% of the total generating capacity of Uzbekistan ^[9].

Thermal power still stands in the first place, since it is necessary to reconstruct the existing power plants and provide the industry with a reliable source of energy. In addition, wind and solar power plants have unstable generation, and the power system needs heat stations as peak capacities covering daily and seasonal energy consumption peaks. Without the latest thermal energy, one cannot switch to large-scale wind and solar energy. It is advisable not to abandon the already planned nuclear power plants (unlike Germany and Japan), as well as to replace coal with ecologically cleaner gas, and to replace obsolete capacities at the local level and increase with additional, less

expensive and more flexible installations for renewable energy sources. NPP is also becoming an important element of the new energy system. Although it is closest to thermal power plants, it can generate energy continuously and supply large consumers, the nuclear power plant has the features of a green power plant: it does not require fossil fuels, does not burn oxygen, does not emit carbon dioxide, nitric oxide, sulfur dioxide, smoke and dust, does not leave behind heaps of ash. The prospects for the “green” development of sectors and the economy of Uzbekistan as a whole are largely associated with progress in the energy sector, primarily with the development of alternative energy.

Given the trends of diversification and decarbonization of the energy sector in leading countries, on the one hand, the natural, ecological, social and economic features of Uzbekistan on the other, innovations that stimulate the progress of alternative energy seem to be effective:

- Energy saving programs in the real sector are promising, in particular, a program to reduce the energy intensity of production by the largest companies that concentrate the bulk of industrial production.
- In the field of development of renewable energy sources (RES) it is advisable, not abandoning nuclear power plants under construction and replacing coal with gas, at the local level, replace obsolete capacities and increase additional less expensive and more flexible installations for renewable energy sources.
- It seems necessary to adopt a system of differentiated tariffs for electricity, depending on the technology of its production, which would establish subsidies for alternative energy technology.
- Perhaps it would be worth paying closer attention to wind power plants of various kinds of deserts and steppes, which are enough in Uzbekistan.

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