

American Journal of Biology and Natural Sciences

https://biojournals.us/index.php/AJBNS

ISSN:2997-7185

TRANSITION TO GREEN ECONOMY IN UZBEKISTAN – A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Received: 2025 25, Marcch Accepted: 2025 21, Apr Published: 2025 31, May

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Annotation: The transition to a green economy directs Uzbekistan's economic development model toward an environmentally sustainable and innovative path. This shift plays a crucial role not only in protecting the environment but also in creating new jobs and increasing energy efficiency. This article analyzes the relevance of the green economy transition in Uzbekistan and the development processes in this area. Particular attention is given to key objectives of the green economy such as the efficient use of natural resources, ensuring environmental safety, improving energy efficiency, and widely implementing innovative technologies. The article also provides analytical data on the priority directions, implementation mechanisms, and expected outcomes of the Green Economy Development Strategy for 2019–2030. It highlights the importance of adhering to sustainability principles and maintaining ecological balance in Uzbekistan's economic development.

Keywords: natural resources, innovative technologies, green economy, sustainable development, environmental safety, energy efficiency.

Volume: 2 | Number: 5 (2025) May

INTRODUCTION

One of the most urgent and complex tasks in successfully implementing Uzbekistan's socio-economic development strategy until 2030 is ensuring the coordinated development of economic, social, and environmental components. In particular, integrating economic stability with environmental balance is recognized as a key condition for sustainable development. Economic and social factors aim to improve living standards, reduce poverty, and ensure fair distribution. At the same time, assessing the environmental impacts of economic activity and developing strategies for sustainable development based on this is of priority importance. In this regard, environmental and social components are closely linked, bringing up pressing issues such as the rational use of natural resources, ensuring environmental safety, and intergenerational justice. The country is paying special attention to ensuring sustainable development based on the principles of the "green economy." On October 4, 2019, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the "Strategy for the Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a Green Economy for 2019–2030," which serves as a key programmatic basis in this direction. The strategy aims to increase energy efficiency, use natural resources wisely, introduce environmentally friendly technologies, and ensure the population's access to quality energy. Among the priority tasks of the strategy are the acceleration of technological modernization, broad implementation of innovative solutions, and improvement of financial mechanisms. By 2030, it is planned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 10% compared to 2010 levels. In addition, the strategy envisions ensuring all citizens and sectors of the economy have access to affordable, reliable, and modern electricity. Furthermore, the strategy includes expanding the production of environmentally friendly fuels and vehicles, developing electric transport, and increasing the use of renewable energy sources. Strict adherence to environmental safety standards in the industrial and agricultural sectors is also a focal point. The consistent and effective implementation of this strategy is a crucial step towards environmentally and economically sustainable development in Uzbekistan, which will positively impact not only economic growth but also the well-being of the population and the improvement of the ecological environment. Thus, a development model based on the green economy confidently leads Uzbekistan toward a sustainable future.

Literature Review.

In the modern world, where environmental problems are intensifying, the transition to a green economy has become an urgent issue. A green economy is not only about protecting the environment but also plays a key role in sustainable economic growth, efficient resource consumption, and ensuring social equity. Uzbekistan, with its abundant natural resources, is striving to achieve sustainable development through the implementation of green economy principles. The concept of a green economy was first introduced in 1989 by environmental economists in the United Kingdom. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a green economy is an economic model aimed at improving human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks. It is based on the following principles: Rational use of natural resources – increasing energy and water efficiency. Development of renewable energy sources – using solar, wind, and other clean energy types. Environmental protection – recycling waste and introducing eco-friendly technologies. Social justice – creating green jobs and reducing poverty.

Analysis and Results.

A number of legislative and program documents have been adopted in Uzbekistan to support the transition to a green economy. The Presidential Decree PQ-4477 of October 4, 2019, "On Approval

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of the Strategy for the Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a Green Economy for 2019–2030," outlines the following priority areas: Increasing energy efficiency – modernizing outdated energy infrastructure. Developing renewable energy sources – expanding solar, wind, and hydropower projects. Environmental protection – recycling waste and conserving water resources. Supporting green finance and innovation – financing eco-projects through banks and investment institutions. There are also several barriers to developing a green economy in Uzbekistan: Outdated energy systems – inefficiencies in power plants. Lack of financial resources – limited investments in green technologies. Inadequate legal framework – insufficient environmental standards and incentive-based tax policies. Low public awareness – underdeveloped ecological responsibility among people and businesses. Transitioning to a green economy is essential not only for solving environmental problems but also for strengthening Uzbekistan's economic independence, creating new jobs, and achieving sustainable development. This requires joint efforts from the government, the private sector, and civil society.

Solutions:

Energy reforms – modernizing electricity networks, introducing energy-saving technologies to increase efficiency and reduce losses. Attracting private and international investment – expanding cooperation with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, and financing green projects through private investors. Education and awareness – expanding green economy disciplines in higher education, raising environmental awareness among the population, and fostering scientific research. Government incentive policy – supporting the transition to a green economy through tax incentives, subsidies, grants, and promoting the use of clean technologies.

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