

## TRANSITION TO A "GREEN" ECONOMY AND ITS BENEFITS

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**Abstract:** The article examines the government's priorities in the process of Uzbekistan's transition to a "green economy", discusses interactions with international partners in this area, and also analyzes the prospects for determining further directions, developing strategic foundations for a green economy, including the implementation of the "green economy" strategy.

**Keywords:** "green economy", strategy, ecology, nature, society, harmony.

One of the main tasks of the transition to a "green" economy is to increase the energy efficiency of the economy and rational use of natural resources. This will be achieved through the modernization of technologies and the development of financial mechanisms. As a result of the implementation of the strategy, the relative emissions of greenhouse gases per unit of gross domestic product will be reduced by 10 percent compared to 2010. Also, up to 100 percent of the population and sectors of the economy will be provided with access to modern, affordable and reliable energy. In addition, the production and use of environmentally friendly motor fuels and cars will be expanded, and electric transport will be developed.

It is a requirement of the time to present the government's priorities in the process of Uzbekistan's transition to a "green economy" until 2030 and beyond, discuss interactions with international partners in this direction, as well as agree on further steps, develop strategic frameworks for a green economy, including an analysis of the prospects for implementing the "green economy" strategy.

As is known, work on the development of a "green economy" in Uzbekistan began in October 2019 after the approval of the "Strategy for the Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a Green Economy in 2019-2030". This strategy envisages reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the country by increasing energy efficiency, expanding the use of renewable energy sources, increasing resource efficiency and crop productivity, and reducing land degradation. The global community is calling for a green recovery

and has mobilized financial resources for the transition to a circular economy, preserving biodiversity, planning urban infrastructure, developing agriculture and using ecosystem services in business for a longer period, preventing greenhouse gas emissions, and adapting to a changing climate through sustainable use of natural resources.

Today, the global community recognizes climate change as one of the most serious challenges facing humanity. According to experts, one of the important steps towards preventing and adapting to climate change is the “greening” of the economy. Practical work has also been initiated in our country in this regard.

In particular, a number of regulatory and legal documents related to the sector have been adopted. These include the laws “On the use of renewable energy sources”, “On hydrometeorological activities”, the Environmental Protection Concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period until 2030, and the Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the transition to a “green” economy for the period 2019-2030.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to increase the effectiveness of reforms aimed at the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a “green” economy by 2030” of December 2, 2022 is an important historical document, as a logical continuation of these processes, aimed at ensuring the timely implementation of the tasks set out in the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan, increasing the effectiveness of measures to ensure “green” and inclusive economic growth within the framework of the transition strategy to a “green” economy, using renewable energy sources, and saving resources in all sectors of the economy. The Program for the Transition to a “Green” Economy and Ensuring “Green” Growth in the Republic of Uzbekistan by 2030, approved by the Resolution, provides for the achievement of a number of important strategic goals. In particular, in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement, the country is being charged with the responsibility of reducing greenhouse gas emissions per unit of gross domestic product by 35 percent from 2010 levels.

For these purposes, the tasks of increasing the production capacity of renewable energy sources to 15 GW and bringing their share to more than 30 percent of the total volume of electricity generation are being set. The goals of increasing energy efficiency

in the industrial sector by at least 20 percent, reducing energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product by 30 percent, including by expanding the use of renewable energy sources, are being set. Also, in order to significantly increase the efficiency of water use in all sectors of the economy, the introduction of water-saving irrigation technology on an area of up to 1 million hectares, the planting of 200 million seedlings per year and the total number of seedlings by 1 billion, the expansion of green spaces in cities by more than 30 percent, and the increase in forest reserves to more than 90 million cubic meters are of great importance in ensuring environmental sustainability in the country.

Increasing the level of recycling of solid household waste generated from 65 percent is a necessary measure to improve the sanitary and ecological condition of settlements. The resolution also approved the Concept for the transition to a "green" economy and ensuring energy efficiency in industrial sectors, the Action Plan for the transition to a "green" economy and ensuring "green" growth in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, and the target parameters for saving fuel and energy resources in economic sectors for 2022-2026. At the same time, the document identified the state bodies authorized to implement and develop the "green" economy, and clearly defined the tasks of the relevant ministries and departments in this regard. It should be noted that a number of positive works are being carried out towards the important goals noted above. Increasing the number of environmentally friendly vehicles and bringing fuel quality into line with international standards are important in preventing air pollution. A number of works are being done in this regard in our country.

For example, the increase in the number of electric cars or the launch of electric buses in Tashkent are a clear example of this. Significant results are also being achieved in increasing the production capacity of renewable energy sources. In particular, the solar photovoltaic power plant launched in Karmana district in 2021 (project cost 110 million US dollars, capacity 100 megawatts) was the first major step in the energy system.

This photovoltaic power plant, which produces 252 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year, will provide power to more than 30 thousand households, and will

also save 80 million cubic meters of natural gas. 160 thousand tons of greenhouse gases will be prevented from being released into the atmosphere. A similar plant has been launched in Nurabad district. The United Arab Emirates company Masdar is building a 500 MW solar power plant in the Tomdi district of Navoi region. A wind power plant is being built. The project, which costs a total of \$600 million, is scheduled to be commissioned by the end of 2024. It will produce 1.8 billion kWh of electricity per year.

As a result, 540 million cubic meters of natural gas will be saved per year and 720 thousand tons of harmful gases will be prevented from being released into the atmosphere. By 2026, it is planned to increase the total capacity of solar and wind power plants in Uzbekistan to 8,000 MW, and in 2030 to increase the production capacity of renewable energy sources to 15 GW. This, in turn, will allow for further improvement in meeting the needs of the population and sectors of the economy in electricity, as well as ensuring energy stability in the region and the implementation of Uzbekistan's obligations under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The development strategy sets out 6 specific tasks to ensure the uninterrupted supply of electricity to the economy and the active introduction of "green economy" technologies in all sectors, and increase the energy efficiency of the economy by 20 percent.

To date, 5 power plants with a capacity of 1,154 MW have been commissioned in Tashkent, Bukhara and Khorezm regions to increase energy efficiency in the industrial sector, attracting foreign direct investment worth more than \$700 million.

In this regard, it is worth noting a number of benefits established by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 9, 2022 "On additional measures for the introduction of energy-saving technologies and the development of small-scale renewable energy sources", aimed at introducing mechanisms for state support for the widespread use of renewable energy sources by the population and business entities, and encouraging the efficient use of energy resources.

Systematic measures are also being taken to prevent water resource shortages. This, in turn, will contribute to the rational use of existing water resources and a decrease in the cost of agricultural products. As part of the large-scale nationwide project "Green

Space", tree and shrub seedlings are being planted. Planting tree and shrub seedlings in the regions will undoubtedly help create new green areas that will benefit our cities and neighborhoods, maintain a moderate climate in our country, ultimately preserve our nature, improve the health of our population, and ensure the well-being of our people.

At the same time, it is necessary to touch upon the fact that in our region, great work is being done to mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy that causes climate change, afforest the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea, and improve the well-being of the population of the Aral Sea region. In recent years, seeds of saxaul, Circassian, and other plants resistant to salt and drought have been sown and planted on more than 1.7 million hectares of the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea. The creation of “green covers” of desert plants — protective forests — in these areas will, in turn, reduce the negative impact of sand, salt and dust particles rising from the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea, and further mitigate the negative impact of global climate change and the drying up of the Aral Sea on agricultural development, as well as the lives and activities of the population. In conclusion, we can cite the following quote from the speech of the Head of State at the Second International Summit “Green Growth and Partnership for Global Goals — 2030” held in South Korea in 2021: “Today, we must not ignore the warning bell that Mother Nature herself is sending us. Unfortunately, climate change is becoming more and more intense. Today, no one doubts that countries’ actions must be more active and effective in order to achieve the goals of “green development.” We have no other choice...”

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