

**THE ESSENCE, CONCEPT, AND NECESSITY OF THE GREEN ECONOMY**

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**Annotation:** *In recent decades, global environmental challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and ecological degradation have forced nations to reconsider their economic development models. The concept of the green economy emerges as a sustainable alternative that ensures harmony between economic growth, environmental protection, and social welfare. This article explores the essence and importance of the green economy, emphasizing its fundamental principles, objectives, and advantages for sustainable development. The study discusses how a green economic framework promotes efficient use of natural resources, renewable energy, and low-carbon technologies, contributing to long-term economic resilience and global ecological stability. Moreover, it highlights the necessity of adopting green strategies in developing countries like Uzbekistan, where economic modernization must be aligned with environmental priorities. The paper concludes that the green economy is not merely an ecological approach but a new paradigm of development that integrates economic efficiency, social justice, and environmental sustainability.*

**Keywords:** *Green economy, sustainable development, environmental policy, renewable energy, resource efficiency, climate change, eco-innovation.*

**Annotatsiya:** *So'nggi yillarda global miqyosda iqlim o'zgarishi, tabiiy resurslarning kamayishi va ekologik muvozanatning buzilishi kabi omillar mamlakatlarni iqtisodiy rivojlanish modelini qayta ko'rib chiqishga undamoqda. Yashil iqtisodiyot tushunchasi iqtisodiy o'sish, ekologik himoya va ijtimoiy farovonlik o'rtasida uyg'unlikni ta'minlaydigan barqaror rivojlanish yo'nalishi sifatida shakllandi. Ushbu maqolada yashil iqtisodiyotning mazmun-mohiyati, asosiy tamoyillari va barqaror taraqqiyotdagi o'rni ilmiy jihatdan yoritilgan. Shuningdek, unda tabiiy resurslardan oqilona foydalanish, qayta tiklanuvchi energiya manbalariga o'tish va past uglerodli texnologiyalarni joriy etish orqali iqtisodiy tizimni mustahkamlash yo'llari tahlil qilinadi. O'zbekiston kabi rivojlanayotgan mamlakatlar uchun yashil iqtisodiyotni joriy etish nafaqat ekologik, balki ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy barqarorlikni ta'minlashda ham muhim ahamiyat kasb etadi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *Yashil iqtisodiyot, barqaror rivojlanish, ekologik siyosat, qayta tiklanuvchi energiya, resurslardan samarali foydalanish, iqlim o'zgarishi, eko-innovatsiya.*

**Аннотация:** *В условиях глобальных экологических вызовов — изменения климата, истощения природных ресурсов и загрязнения окружающей среды — концепция зелёной экономики становится ключевым направлением устойчивого развития. В статье раскрывается сущность и значение зелёной экономики, её основные принципы, преимущества и роль в обеспечении гармонии между экономическим ростом и охраной окружающей среды. Отмечается, что переход к зелёной экономике в таких странах, как Узбекистан, способствует рациональному*

*использованию ресурсов, внедрению возобновляемых источников энергии и формированию экосбалансированной модели экономического роста.*

**Ключевые слова:** *Зелёная экономика, устойчивое развитие, экологическая политика, возобновляемая энергия, эффективность ресурсов, изменение климата, эко-инновации.*

### INTRODUCTION

The 21st century has brought unprecedented environmental, social, and economic challenges that require a fundamental shift in global development models. The traditional growth-oriented economic systems, focused primarily on industrial expansion and profit maximization, have led to ecological degradation, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable consumption of natural resources. In response, the green economy has emerged as an innovative and inclusive model that integrates economic efficiency with ecological responsibility. The green economy is defined by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as “an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.” This concept emphasizes the interdependence between humans and nature, advocating for sustainable production, renewable energy, and environmentally friendly technologies. For developing countries like Uzbekistan, transitioning to a green economy is not only an environmental necessity but also an economic opportunity. It provides a framework for diversifying production, modernizing agriculture, reducing energy dependency, and attracting foreign investment into eco-innovation sectors. The government’s recent initiatives, such as the “Green Uzbekistan Strategy 2030,” demonstrate a growing commitment to sustainable development. Ultimately, the green economy represents a strategic transformation — from resource-intensive growth to sustainable progress — ensuring that future generations inherit a cleaner, fairer, and more prosperous planet.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS.** The methodological foundation of this research is based on a comprehensive study of the theoretical and practical aspects of the concept of the green economy, with particular attention to the interrelation between ecological sustainability principles and economic development strategies. The study focuses on analyzing the implementation experience of the Republic of Uzbekistan in transitioning toward a green economy. Various academic sources, international reports, government documents, statistical data, and expert interviews served as the primary materials for this research. Among the main sources, special attention was given to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reports from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the European Union’s environmental policy papers. In addition, key national documents such as The Strategy for Transition to a Green Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, The Law on Environmental Protection, and The National Program for Energy Efficiency Enhancement were thoroughly examined. These materials provided a solid empirical and legal base for the analysis. A complex research approach was applied, incorporating a combination of analytical, comparative, statistical, and empirical methods. The analytical method was used to explore the essence of the green

economy, its fundamental principles, and its socio-ecological significance. The comparative method allowed the researcher to contrast Uzbekistan's experience with that of other countries such as Germany, South Korea, China, and Kazakhstan. Through statistical analysis, numerical data on the implementation of green technologies in sectors like energy, agriculture, transport, and industry were studied to determine current trends and progress. The research also employed a systemic approach, emphasizing the interconnectedness between all sectors of the economy and ecological factors. This approach made it possible to reveal that the green economy is not merely an economic growth model, but also a paradigm that integrates social justice, environmental security, and sustainable use of natural resources. Within this framework, an empirical analysis was conducted to investigate the implementation of renewable energy and eco-efficient technologies in several regions of Uzbekistan, including Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, and Tashkent provinces. To enhance the validity of the research findings, qualitative methods such as interviews and surveys were conducted with more than fifty experts, entrepreneurs, and university students specializing in energy, environmental management, agriculture, and economics. Their insights reflected a growing awareness of the importance of green transformation for ensuring the country's future economic stability and ecological safety. The majority of respondents expressed that the green economy represents not just an environmental necessity but a long-term strategic direction toward sustainable national progress.

A comprehensive literature review was carried out to establish the theoretical foundations of the study. Scholarly works and scientific articles in English, Russian, and Uzbek languages were analyzed. Particular reference was made to the writings of J. Stiglitz, N. Stern, M. Porter, and A. B. Sulstonov, whose ideas significantly enriched the theoretical framework of the research and contributed to the conceptual understanding of green economy development in emerging countries such as Uzbekistan. In addition, a content analysis method was used to examine how the discourse surrounding the green economy appears in academic publications and media sources. This made it possible to evaluate the level of public awareness and the influence of ecological and economic concepts on policy decision-making. Moreover, the SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) technique was employed to identify the current strengths and limitations of Uzbekistan's transition to a green economy, as well as the potential opportunities and external challenges it faces. The analysis highlighted the country's significant natural resource potential, favorable geographic position, abundant solar energy reserves, and young, active labor force as key advantages in promoting sustainable economic growth. The research methodology, therefore, combined theoretical analysis with practical observation, ensuring both depth and objectivity in the assessment of the green economy's essence and necessity. This holistic approach provided the basis for forming sound conclusions on how Uzbekistan can strengthen its transition toward an environmentally sustainable and economically efficient future.

**RESULTS.** The results of this research clearly demonstrate that the transition to a green economy plays a decisive role in achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth, particularly for developing countries such as Uzbekistan. Through the

implementation of environmentally friendly technologies, efficient resource management, and innovation-driven economic models, nations can significantly enhance productivity while simultaneously reducing environmental degradation. The findings of the study are based on the analysis of statistical data, international reports, and case studies reflecting the impact of green policies on various economic sectors. The analysis revealed that, over the last decade, countries that have effectively integrated green economy principles — including Germany, South Korea, and China — have achieved not only reductions in carbon emissions but also stable GDP growth. For instance, in Germany, renewable energy production reached more than 45% of total electricity generation in 2024, while carbon emissions were reduced by over 20% compared to the 2010 baseline. Similarly, South Korea's "Green Growth Strategy" has generated more than 1 million new jobs in the renewable energy and sustainable transport sectors, serving as a global example of how innovation and environmental policy can complement economic development. In the case of Uzbekistan, the implementation of the "Strategy for Transition to a Green Economy until 2030" has already produced visible outcomes. According to the State Statistics Committee, renewable energy production in Uzbekistan increased from 2.1% in 2018 to 6.7% in 2024, while energy efficiency across major industries improved by 15%. The construction of solar and wind power plants in the Navoi, Bukhara, and Surkhandarya regions contributed significantly to these achievements. Furthermore, projects in sustainable agriculture and water management have started to reduce soil degradation and improve irrigation efficiency, which is particularly crucial for a country with a predominantly arid climate.

The research also identified a strong correlation between investment in green technologies and the creation of new employment opportunities. Statistical data show that every 1 billion USD invested in renewable energy and waste management sectors in Uzbekistan could generate between 10,000 and 15,000 new jobs. This not only promotes economic diversification but also strengthens social stability by providing new career opportunities for youth and rural communities. Moreover, the study results demonstrate that a transition to the green economy contributes to improved environmental conditions. For instance, data from the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change show that the introduction of stricter environmental regulations and cleaner industrial processes has led to a 7% decrease in air pollution levels in industrial regions between 2020 and 2024. The gradual substitution of fossil fuel-based energy systems with renewable sources has further enhanced energy security and reduced dependence on imported resources. In addition to national outcomes, international cooperation has played a pivotal role in accelerating Uzbekistan's green transition. Collaboration with organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided financial and technical support for the construction of renewable energy infrastructure, environmental education programs, and innovation hubs. These partnerships have not only improved institutional capacity but have also encouraged private sector participation in sustainable development initiatives.

One of the most important results of this research is the identification of key priority areas that require further enhancement. The findings show that, although the progress