

Legal Framework for the Introduction of a Green Economy in Uzbekistan

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Abstract:

This article analyses the importance of the green economy, its role in the world community, and strategies for the transition to a green economy. Green economic theories encompass many ideas related to the interrelationships between people and the environment. Green economists argue that the basis for all economic decisions should depend on the ecosystem, and that natural capital and environmental services are of economic importance.

Keywords: a green economy, sustainable development, environmental protection, energy efficient, national strategy, economic growth, greenhouse gas emission, circular economy.

Introduction. In recent years, the concept of sustainable development has gained significant attention as societies worldwide grapple with the challenges posed by environmental degradation and resource depletion. As a result, researchers and policymakers have turned their focus toward understanding and implementing strategies that promote sustainable development. One prominent approach that has emerged is the introduction of the green economy, which seeks to integrate environmental considerations into economic systems. This research aims to explore the theoretical and methodological bases of sustainable development through the introduction of the green economy, evaluating its relevance and validity in addressing the pressing environmental and socio-economic issues of our time.

While many countries in the world are trying to state the significance of environmental factors in the overall well-being of the global economy, Uzbekistan has also been committed to taking some measures to ensure its position in this sphere.

Uzbekistan has taken several steps towards the introduction of a green economy in recent years. In order to promote the shift to a green economy, a legal framework has been established in Uzbekistan, consisting of national and international laws and policies. Here are a few key examples:

1. **National Legislation:** The government of Uzbekistan has enacted several laws aimed at promoting a green economy, including the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Natural Resources, and the Law on Renewable Energy. These laws establish the framework for environmental protection and sustainable resource management, and provide a basis for promoting the use of clean technologies and renewable energy.
2. **Climate Change Policies:** Uzbekistan has adopted a number of policies aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change, including the National Climate Change Strategy and the National Action Plan on Climate Change. These policies outline the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
3. **International Agreements:** Uzbekistan is a party to several international agreements that promote a green economy, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. These agreements commit the country to taking actions to reduce emissions and enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change.
4. **Green Economy Projects:** Uzbekistan has implemented several green economy projects aimed at promoting sustainable development and improving environmental quality. These projects include the development of renewable energy sources, the expansion of energy-efficient technologies, and the promotion of environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

Paris Agreement on Climate Change - Roadmap for UN Member States to Reduce Emissions and Strengthen Climate Resilience¹.

The preconditions for the energy transition were the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. (Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). It was supported by all 197 members of the UNFCCC (193 UN member states, as well as Palestine, Niue, the Cook Islands and the EU). The entry into force of the Agreement took place on November 4, 2016.

The stated goal of the Paris Agreement is to prevent the global average annual temperature on the planet from exceeding 2°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100 and to do everything possible to keep warming within 1.5°C (currently the average temperature is 0.75°C). C higher than the annual averages in 1850-1900).

The agreement consolidates and formalizes the turn to a new, low-carbon model of economic development based on the gradual abandonment of traditional technologies for the extraction, processing and use of fossil resources (primarily hydrocarbons) in favor of "green" technologies.

Uzbekistan signed the Paris Agreement on April 19, 2017 and ratified it on October 2, 2018. The country initially set itself a goal to reduce the specific greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 10% of the 2010 level.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is committed to the effective and transparent implementation of the Paris Agreement. This process has been guided by decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, specifically 4/CMA.1, 1/CP.21, 9/ CMA.1 and 18/CMA.1. In accordance with current national circumstances and capabilities, the Republic of Uzbekistan updated its Nationally Determined Contribution in 2021. Contribution (NDC or NDC2)

¹ <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/3924451>

to reduce specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per unit of GDP by 35 percent by 2030, compared to 2010 levels, instead of the previously accepted 10 percent committed to in 2018 (NDC1)². Fulfillment of increased obligations under NDC will require significant efforts from the country, capacity building at all levels, technical and financial means, the introduction of effective incentive mechanisms, as well as the development and effective implementation of adopted state and sectoral strategies and outlined plans.

In order to meet the growing demand for energy in line with the projected growth of GDP and population, as well as to achieve the targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the country under the Paris Agreement, the government of the country is taking all necessary measures to reform the electricity industry in order to increase energy efficiency of the country's economy.

Uzbekistan can achieve zero carbon energy as early as 2050, both technically and economically³.

Uzbekistan has an appropriate regulatory and legislative framework:

- Law No. 412-I of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On rational use of energy’, dated April 25, 1997;
- Paris Agreement, dated December 12, 2015;
- Decree No. UP-4947 of the President ‘On the strategy of action for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan’, dated February 7, 2017;
- Decree No. PP-3012 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On the program of measures for the further development of renewable energy, and energy efficiency in the economic sector and the social sphere for 2017-2021’, dated May 26, 2017
- Law No. ZRU-491 of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On Ratification of the Paris Agreement (Paris, December 12, 2015)’, dated October 2, 2018;
- Law No. ZRU-539 of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On the use of renewable energy sources’, dated May 21, 2019;
- Decree PP-4422 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On accelerated measures to improve the energy efficiency of economic and social sectors, the introduction of energy-saving technologies, and the development of renewable energy sources’, August 22, 2019;
- Decree No. PP-4477 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On approval of the strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a green economy for the period 2019-2030’, dated October 4, 2019;
- Decree No. PP-4291 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On approval of the strategy for the management of solid household waste in the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period 2019-2028’, dated April 17, 2019;
- Decree No. UP-5863 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On approval of the concept of environmental protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030’, dated October 30, 2019;
- Decree No. 83 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On additional measures to accelerate the implementation of national goals and objectives in the field of sustainable development for the period up to 2030’, dated February 21, 2022.
- Decree No. PP-436 of the President “On measures to increase the effectiveness of reforms aimed at the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a “green” economy until 2030” dated December 2, 2022.

² <https://hydromet.uz/sites/default/files/inline-files>

³ <https://minenergy.uz/ru/lists/view/131>

It should be noted that the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 4, 2019 No. PD-4477 approved the strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a green economy for the period 2019-2030. The authorized body for the promotion and implementation of the green economy in the Republic of Uzbekistan is the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.

This strategy outlines the implementation of work in the following priority areas aimed at improving the low performance of our country in the above-mentioned green growth index:

- ✓ improving the energy efficiency of the basic sectors of the economy;
- ✓ diversification of energy consumption and development of the use of renewable energy sources;
- ✓ adaptation and mitigation of the consequences of climate change, increasing the efficiency of the use of natural resources and the conservation of natural ecosystems;
- ✓ development of financial and non-financial mechanisms to support the green economy.

Presidential Decree No. PP-4249 dated March 27, 2019 "On the Strategy for Further Development and Reform of the Electricity Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan" approved the proposal of the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Economy and Industry, the Ministry of Finance, the State Assets Management Agency on the reorganization of JSC "Uzbekenergo" by:

- Establishment of a joint-stock company "Thermal Power Plants" that manages thermal power plants and power plants that generate electricity and heat;
- Creation on the basis of the abolished UE "Uzelectroset" and the branch "Energosotish" of JSC "Uzbekenergo" of the joint-stock company "National Electric Grids of Uzbekistan", which transports electric energy through the main electric networks of the republic and interstate transit, exports and imports of electricity, functions as a single purchaser of electric energy from enterprises-producers of electric energy, as well as the sale of electric energy to enterprises of regional electric networks;
- Establishment of a joint-stock company "Regional Electric Networks", which manages enterprises of territorial electric networks that distribute and sell electric energy to end consumers.

One of the untapped areas of development of the country's energy industry is the development of energy-saving technologies and renewable energy sources. In view of this, the Decree of the President No.4422 of August 22, 2019 "On accelerated measures to improve the energy efficiency of economic and social sectors, the introduction of energy-saving technologies and the development of renewable energy sources" was approved.

This resolution defines an increase in the share of electricity generation using renewable energy sources to a level of at least 25% by 2030.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Strategy for the further development and reform of the electric power industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan", a "Concept for providing the Republic of Uzbekistan with electric energy for 2020-2030" was developed. Based on the concept, it is planned to modernize and reconstruct existing thermal power plants with more energy-efficient combined cycle plants, build new generating capacities based on highly efficient energy production technologies, the construction program also plans a future nuclear power plant, which will account for 14.9% of the country's total energy balance, diversification of fuel and energy resources with the development of the use of renewable energy.

By 2030, it is planned to generate 25% of the electricity in the country from renewable sources, double the energy efficiency of GDP, modernize the infrastructure of industrial enterprises to

increase their energy efficiency by at least 20% and widely use clean technologies, achieve a neutral balance of land degradation and other measures.

The key takeaway from the roadmap is that Uzbekistan's transition to a zero-carbon energy sector by 2050 is technically and economically feasible. It points to the trajectory set by the Ministry of Energy Vision for 2020-2030 and the ability of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to lead the climate change response in Central Asia and beyond while supporting sustainable economic growth.

Another crucial normative-legal document which has been adopted recently is the Decree No. PP-436 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 until 2030".

The document approved the Program for the transition to a "green" economy and ensuring "green" growth in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030. It provides for the achievement of the following strategic goals:

- ✓ reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 35% from the level of 2010;
- ✓ increasing the production capacity of renewable energy sources up to 15 GW and bringing their share in the total volume of electricity production to 30% or more;
- ✓ increasing energy efficiency in industry by at least 20%;
- ✓ reduction of energy intensity per unit of gross domestic product by 30%, including through the expansion of the use of renewable energy sources;
- ✓ increasing the efficiency of water use in all sectors of the economy, introducing water-saving irrigation technologies on an area of up to 1 million hectares;
- ✓ expanding green areas in cities to 30% or more by planting 200 million seedlings per year and bringing their total number to 1 billion;
- ✓ bringing the index of the reserves of the forest fund of the republic to more than 90 million cubic meters;
- ✓ increase in recycling of household waste up to 65%, etc.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan has established a comprehensive legal framework for the introduction of a green economy, including national and international laws and policies, as well as a number of projects aimed at promoting sustainable development. The implementation of these measures is expected to contribute to the country's transition to a green economy and support its efforts to achieve sustainable development.

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