
The Government Support for the Introduction of a Green Economy in Uzbekistan

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Uzbekistan has been taking significant steps towards supporting the introduction of a green economy in the country. The government has recognized the importance of sustainable development and has implemented a range of policies and initiatives to promote environmental protection, renewable energy, and sustainable economic growth.

Some of the key government support measures for the introduction of a green economy in Uzbekistan include:

1. **Green Energy Development Strategy:** In 2019, the Uzbek government adopted the Green Energy Development Strategy, which aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix to 25% by 2030. The strategy includes measures to promote the development of solar, wind, and hydropower projects, as well as to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption.
2. **National Strategy for Sustainable Development:** In 2017, Uzbekistan adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, which sets out a vision for the country's long-term sustainable development. The strategy includes a range of environmental targets, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 10% by 2030, increasing the share of renewable energy, and improving the management of natural resources.
3. **Tax incentives for green projects:** The Uzbek government offers tax incentives and exemptions to businesses investing in renewable energy and other green projects. These incentives include reduced corporate income tax rates, exemptions from customs duties, and accelerated depreciation of assets.
4. **Environmental regulations:** The Uzbek government has implemented a range of environmental regulations aimed at protecting the country's natural resources and promoting sustainable practices. These regulations include standards for air and water quality, waste management, and the use of pesticides and other chemicals.
1. **International cooperation:** Uzbekistan has also been actively cooperating with international organizations to promote sustainable development and the green economy. The country has signed agreements with organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to support sustainable development initiatives.

Analytical data shows that Uzbekistan's efforts towards the green economy are starting to pay off. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), Uzbekistan's renewable energy capacity increased by 87% in 2020, with the country adding 1.4 GW of new renewable energy capacity. The IEA also notes that Uzbekistan's energy-related carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 1.4% in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the World Bank notes that Uzbekistan's green economy initiatives are creating new jobs and economic opportunities. The bank estimates that the country's renewable energy sector could create up to 100,000 new jobs by 2030.

On the initiative of our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in 2019, Uzbekistan became the first among the CIS countries to become a member of the Global Green Growth Institute.

In order to further the ongoing reforms in all spheres of economy, the Decree No.PF-60 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the development strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026" was adopted on January 28, 2022. According to this legislation, it was indicated to take measures to increase the energy efficiency of the economy by 20 percent by 2026 and reduce emissions of harmful gases into the atmosphere by 20 percent by actively introducing green economy technologies in all areas.

Specifically, Target No.24 of this decree stated the provision of uninterrupted supply of electricity to the economy, active introduction of "green economy" technologies in all areas, increase in the energy efficiency of the economy by 20 percent. This target includes:

- Increasing electricity generation by an additional 30 billion kWh by 2026, bringing the total generating capacity to 100 billion kWh.
- Saving up to 3 billion cubic meters of natural gas by increasing the share of renewable energy sources to 25 percent by 2026.
- Ensuring the stable operation of the energy system of Uzbekistan and ensuring its reliability when interacting with the energy systems of neighboring states.
- Reducing losses in industries and improving the efficiency of resource use.
- Widespread introduction of renewable energy sources and improvement of energy efficiency in housing and communal services, at social facilities and in other areas.
- Taking action on the production and use of electric vehicles.
- Reducing the volume of emissions of harmful gases into the atmosphere per unit of GDP by sectors of the economy by 10 percent.

Target No.80 of this document is dedicated to protection of ecology and the environment, improvement of the ecological state of cities and regions, implementation of the nationwide project "Green Land".

This target includes:

- Bringing the level of collection of household waste to 100 percent, their recycling from the current 21 percent to 50 percent in 2026.
- Completion of work on the definition of sanitary protection zones and coastal areas of 51 terrestrial natural water bodies (rivers, small rivers and natural lakes) in the republic.
- Transformation of the city of Tashkent into a comfortable for the population, ecologically clean area with all conditions for living, bringing the level of its landscaping to 30 percent.
- Creation of an additional 500,000 hectares of green space on the dry bottom of the Aral Sea, bringing their total area to 2.5 million hectares, or 78 percent of the territory, by the end of 2026.
- Implementation of projects in the Aral Sea region based on the programs of the International Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility aimed at protecting biodiversity, preventing climate change and soil erosion, worth 300 million US dollars.
- Organization in cities and regional centers of "public parks" for every 50 - 100 thousand people.
- Further strengthening of social support for the population living in the Aral Sea region.

In the last 5 years, the Uzbekistan government has made strong and consistent efforts to improve its national policies and plans on climate change, but it does not have an integrated climate change policy framework. The conceptual documents adopted by the government in the last few years include the ‘Concept of Environmental Protection until 2030’ and the ‘Strategy for the Transition of the Republic to a Green Economy for the period 2019–2030’, and their primary purpose is to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects by reducing emissions and pollutions, promote rational use of water resources, introduce environmental-friendly technologies, boost renewable energy sources, increase collection and removal of waste services to the population, improve energy efficiency, and reduce the use of hydrocarbons.

Complete the development of a National Climate Change Law and Strategy to ensure that the country’s regulatory framework

- Institutes a lawfully binding long-term emission neutrality target, complemented by a strategy and policies based on medium-term quantitative targets;
- Clearly defines the institutional mandates, functional capabilities, and coordination mechanisms of all climate change actors and stakeholders;
- Promotes scientific and interdisciplinary processes for data-driven and evidence-based policy and action;
- Regularly monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of adopted legislation, strategies, plans, and policies; and
- Supports legislative oversight and judicial review of climate-related issues.

The responsible governmental bodies for these tasks are UZHYDROMET, State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection (SCEEP).

The state governing body authorized to coordinate the country’s response to climate change is UZHYDROMET, which was appointed as the national coordinator for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement under the management of the Cabinet of Ministers. Under a presidential resolution, an Inter-Agency Council, made up of heads of government ministries and agencies (totaling 19 people) and led by the Minister of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, will provide strategic guidance and serve as a decision-making authority for the advancement of green transformation in Uzbekistan, including the GGSF.

Responsible bodies such as Cabinet of Ministers, Inter-Agency Council should revise the charters of the key ministries based on international standards to improve effectiveness of key functional mandates of climate leadership and develop sectoral regulation as well as to avoid duplication and perform a functional and institutional assessment to evaluate the country’s capacity to tackle climate change issues.

The Ministry of Finance develops financial mechanisms to support green transformation and assesses utilization of funds received as part of the climate projects and programs. The Intersectoral Energy Saving Fund under the Ministry of Energy was established to support state policy on energy efficiency.

As it was mentioned before, UZHYDROMET is the designated agency to lead coordination on climate change issues, and an Inter-Agency Council made up of leadership from all relevant government ministries and agencies provides technical advice for setting sectoral targets, adaptation planning on climate change, and NDC preparation. More time, data, and information are needed to assess the effectiveness of the coordination body in practice, especially its ability to promote stakeholder engagement and mobilize technical expertise.

Reform options for government coordination would be as follows:

- Establish and strengthen specialized departments on climate actions in each state body involved in the coordination of Climate Change Strategy, policy, and implementation
- Regularly monitor and assess horizontal and vertical coordination of state agencies working on climate change
- Undertake cost-benefit analyses on climate actions to establish foundational evidence to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

In terms of technical capacity, in general, organizational structure and systems within key government agencies are properly and effectively aligned with national climate change commitments. Focal points for Nationally Determined Contributions, National Communications, and other climate commitments are in place, and at the same time there are special climate change departments. Roles and responsibilities of sectoral specialists are mainly focused on administrative management and climate blind. There is limited evidence of inclusion of climate change in the performance targets and other accountability processes of various government ministries and agencies listed above, but most of them focus on reducing GHG emissions in the energy and agriculture sectors.

The proposed measures in this specific area include:

- Mainstream climate change into recruitment process, roles, and responsibilities of employees of ministries and departments through revision of current charter and manuals;
- Improve awareness and strengthen the capacity of key decision-makers and institutions on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and early warning of risks and climate hazards;
- Create an enabling environment and build institutional capacity for effective adherence to the Paris Agreement
- Systematically introduce climate change in academic curriculums, with a specific program at each level— primary, secondary, university—and incorporated appropriately in different subjects.

Overall, Uzbekistan's government support for the introduction of a green economy is a positive step towards sustainable development and environmental protection. The country's efforts are showing promising results in terms of renewable energy development and carbon emissions reduction, and the green economy is creating new economic opportunities and jobs.

Used Literature:

1. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Approval of the Strategy for Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a 'Green' Economy for the Years 2019-2030" PQ-4477.
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3. Qosimova H.J., Saidova M. "Effective Development of the Economy Based on 'Green Economy'". Republic Scientific-Practical Conference on "Rapid Development of the National Economy and Ensuring High Growth Rates: Problems and Solutions", May 5, 2023.
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5. Formation of a Cooperative Fund for Agriculture and Mechanisms of Its Distribution, Qosimova Hilola Jamshedovna, Page 65.