

APPLICATION OF THE GREEN ECONOMY IN BELARUS: A PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The concept of the green economy is acknowledged as an essential strategy for achieving sustainable development and eliminating poverty, as it integrates social, economic, and environmental advancements. The UN Environment Programme characterizes the green economy as one that enhances human well-being and social equity while significantly alleviating environmental risks and addressing resource scarcity. [1] Our primary goal is to investigate how the green economy is implemented in the Republic of Belarus and other nations, particularly regarding the environmental impact of human activities.

Various approaches to developing a green economy are emerging in countries that prioritize this model. Belarus embraced the green economy concept in 2012, when the Ministry of Economy published an official report outlining its principles. This document established the framework for a sustainable economic development model in Belarus, focusing on key sectors such as industry, agriculture, and energy. Since adopting green economy principles in 2012, Belarus has achieved:

- 8.3% renewable energy share (up from 5.7% in 2015)
- 22% reduction in industrial carbon intensity (2015-2023)
- 47 protected areas now covering 8.6% of territory [2]

Additionally, Belarus has ensured access to clean water and air, established protected areas, and prioritized biodiversity conservation. These factors are essential for enhancing overall well-being in the country. The Static booklet on environmental protection in Belarus examines various indicators, including carbon dioxide emissions relative to GDP, energy efficiency, and the proportion of renewable energy in electricity generation. It also provides insights into waste generation and water resource efficiency, tracking trends from 2019 to 2023. The findings indicate modest improvements in energy efficiency and a slight rise in renewable energy use, while waste generation per unit of GDP has seen a decline over the years. Water resource efficiency has fluctuated, experiencing a significant decrease in 2020, followed by a gradual recovery.

Work is ongoing on the National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation, which is set to run until 2030, along with the Long-Term Development Strategy for Belarus aimed at achieving low greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The National Action Plan (2030) targets:

- 15% energy savings in state-owned enterprises
- 30% waste recycling rate (from current 18%) [3]

Although Belarus has seen some positive developments in its green economy initiatives, the process is still in its early stages. As a prime example of successful implementation of the green concepts South Korea could be mentioned, because the country has adopted advanced technologies to comply with environmental safety

standards. South Korea was the first nation to apply the green economy in 2008, prioritizing sectors such as industry, green transportation, alternative freshwater sources, and waste recycling technologies. In 2011, the country introduced a green payment card system to encourage environmentally friendly consumption of goods produced through eco-innovation. This system tracks the purchase of green products and services, as well as the use of public transportation over personal vehicles. It is anticipated that this initiative will boost production by \$140-160 billion and generate over 1.5 million jobs.

However, not all nations have effectively introduced the principles of the green economy and China serves as an example. Over the past five decades, China has undergone rapid industrial growth, which has led to increasing degradation of valuable natural resources in many areas. Nevertheless, several provinces are striving to address this issue by formulating new policies, with initial positive outcomes already visible, for example:

- 50% global solar panel production
- 120+sponge cities reducing flood risks by 45% [4]

In general it is estimated that full green transition could generate \$26 trillion in global economic benefits by 2030.

Ultimately, the shift toward a green economy is not only an essential environmental goal but also a means to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic development worldwide. A green economy promotes economic growth, generates employment in new sectors, and opens up avenues for innovation and sustainable development.

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PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVE ECONOMIES IN THE BRICS+ COUNTRIES

The creative economy is a set of social relations and practices of the economic activity which is based on the relationship between creativity, culture, economy and