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NAVIGATING GREEN ECONOMY THROUGH INNOVATIONS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

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Abstract

This article talks about the Green Economy, which is a model that combines economic growth with protecting the environment. Since the 21st century, fast industrial growth, new technologies, and increasing production have caused serious problems for nature, like global warming, air and water pollution, using up natural resources, and losing plants and animals. The Green Economy tries to solve these problems by keeping nature safe, reducing harmful gases from factories, recycling waste, saving resources, and giving a healthy environment for future generations. Examples from Japan, South Korea, Germany, and China show how using green technologies, renewable energy, and eco-friendly policies can help the environment while still growing the economy. This article also shows that countries must work together and that everyone has a role in protecting nature. The Green Economy not only gives chances for new eco-businesses, jobs, and investments but also helps balance economic growth with keeping the environment safe.

Keywords: Green Economy; Sustainable Development; Environmental Protection; Air Pollution; PM2.5; Climate Change; Renewable Energy; Solar Energy; Waste Management; Recycling; Plastic Pollution; Economic Growth; Green Technology; Natural Resource Conservation; Public Health; Carbon Emissions; Ecological Sustainability; Green Jobs; Circular Economy; Global Cooperation

Introduction

Harmful factors such as chemical and toxic gases released from factories, fuel used by vehicles, plastic products and waste, deforestation, and pesticides used in agriculture are not only damaging the environment but also posing serious health risks to people. How does this happen?

According to the World Health Organization, more than 4.2 million deaths every year are caused by air pollution. Air pollution leads to several serious diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, lung cancer, asthma, and allergies. These illnesses are mainly caused by harmful substances such as PM2.5 and NOx emitted from vehicles.

Countries that have started transitioning to a green economy, such as Japan and South Korea, are implementing green transport projects. These projects are expected to significantly reduce the level of air pollution caused by vehicles.

As a result, humanity is facing many serious challenges, including global warming, water scarcity, air pollution, depletion of natural resources, and the extinction of some plant and animal species. In this situation, one important question arises: Do you think it is right to sacrifice nature for economic growth?

The current situation creates new challenges for humanity to ensure ecological sustainability along with economic development. According to the United Nations Global Environmental Outlook report, climate change is a threat not only to one country but to the entire planet. Today, global environmental problems cannot be solved by a single country or organization. Instead, they require global cooperation and collective action toward a common goal.

In this process, world leaders and scientists are developing step-by-step plans to move toward "Green Development." The first and most important stage of this transition is the shift to a "Green Economy."

- This process includes:
- Using renewable energy sources (solar and wind);
- Recycling plastic and other types of waste;
- Applying environmentally friendly technologies in transport and industry;
- Conserving natural resources.

At this point, an important question arises: What is a "Green Economy"?

A green economy is a model that combines economic development with the protection of nature by using natural resources efficiently and responsibly. The main goals of this model are:

Ensuring ecological sustainability;

- Reducing harmful emissions from factories;
- Recycling waste;
- Saving natural resources;
- Leaving a healthy environment for future generations.



Another important aspect of the green economy is that it not only protects nature but also creates new directions for economic growth. For example, renewable energy and waste recycling are becoming important sectors of the modern economy.

Today, about 20 million people are employed in waste management and recycling industries worldwide. If this sector continues to grow, millions of additional jobs are expected to be created by 2030.

Around the world, many environmental solutions are already being implemented to support the transition to a green economy. For example, Japan and South Korea have introduced green transport projects, which have significantly reduced the harmful impact of vehicle emissions.

In addition, approximately 8 million tons of plastic waste are dumped into oceans every year, posing a serious threat to marine ecosystems and aquatic life. The green economy aims to solve such environmental problems. Germany, for instance, has introduced advanced technologies for recycling waste and plastics, and as a result, it has managed to reduce waste volumes by half.

The green economy is not limited to recycling and eco-friendly transport. It also focuses on reducing the harmful effects of traditional energy sources on the environment and human health. Transitioning to renewable energy sources is becoming essential. In this regard, China has made significant progress by investing 70 billion dollars in the solar energy sector. This investment not only supports economic growth but also helps conserve natural resources and reduce air pollution.

The green economy can also be applied in construction, agriculture, and industry. For example, modern irrigation systems can save up to 50% of water without reducing agricultural productivity.

Traditional economic development has often been built at the expense of nature. However, the green economy is opening a new era — one that focuses on balancing economic growth with environmental protection and creating new, sustainable development opportunities.

Today, humanity is standing at an important turning point. It is time to clearly understand what the path of development has brought us and what consequences it may lead to in the future.

Today, we have two choices: one is to continue sacrificing nature for economic growth and turning it into profit; the other is to work in harmony with nature by moving toward a Green Economy.

This choice is not simple. It is not only about economic benefits or comfort, but also about the future of humanity.

The Green Economy is not just a path, but also an opportunity for modern eco-businesses, investment growth, and new job creation. At the same time, it helps maintain a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability. This is not only an opportunity, but also our responsibility toward nature and future generations.

This model encourages people to change their way of thinking — not only to use nature, but also to protect and respect it.

We are part of the nature that we are destroying. If we do not understand this, any development we achieve will only be temporary.

The consequences of this destruction can be more serious than we expect. It can affect human health, quality of life, and even the future of the next generations.

Environmental problems do not have borders. If we do not set clear limits and act, these problems can seriously threaten humanity.

That is why every person should think about their actions and understand that even small decisions can have a big impact.

In this struggle, not only dozens or hundreds of people, but every individual has their own role and responsibility. Real change starts with collective effort. The Green Economy needs the power to unite all humanity. It is not only about governments or organizations, but about every member of society.

The quality of our lives today and the stability of our future depend on the decisions we make now.

And one important question still remains: what choice will we make today?

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