The Main Features and Possible Directions of the Transition to the "Green Economy "

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Annotation: This article talks about the content and essence of the status of the green economy.

Key words: Green economy, Sustainability, Renewable energy, Sustainable agriculture, Resource efficiency, Green infrastructure, Circular economy, Green jobs.

The world is now facing the global challenges of a rapidly growing population and the increasing pressure on the environment related to it that should be prevented. The globalization process requires developed countries policy to make a new strategy to achieve sustainable development. Scholars made a new economic system as, they believe that current economic system is imperfect. Even though, it has produced some considerable results in improving people's living standards, it also caused numerous environmental issues such as, carbon dependency, lack of fresh water, energy resources and poverty. As a consequence of these factors the term "Green economy "has recently become the focus of policy development at both national and international scales.

The agreed definition of green economy is yet to emerge. The UNEP considers green economy as a strategy which improves human well-being and social equity, as well as, reducing global ecological problems. Furthermore, green economy provides people with new job opportunities, growth in income and green investments which reduce carbon emission and pollution, and prevent the loss of biodiversity while addressing global financial crisis. From a business perspective green economy is "an economy in which economic growth and environmental responsibility work together in a mutually reinforcing fashion while supporting progress on social development. "(The International Chamber of Commerce (2011))

A green economy refers to an economic system that is based on sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. This includes the production and consumption of goods and services in a way that minimizes impact on the environment, while also promoting social equity and economic prosperity.

Some key features of a green economy include:

1. Renewable energy: The use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydro power to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Sustainable agriculture: Practices that promote soil health, biodiversity conservation, and minimal use of chemical inputs, as well as support for local food systems.

3. Resource efficiency: Minimizing waste and maximizing the efficient use of resources through recycling, reusing, and reducing consumption.

4. Green infrastructure: Investing in environmentally-friendly infrastructure such as public transportation, bike lanes, green buildings, and sustainable urban planning.

5. Circular economy: Designing products with a focus on reuse, repair, remanufacturing, and recycling to minimize waste generation.

6. Green jobs: Creating employment opportunities in sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, and environmental conservation.

The transition to a green economy requires policy support from governments as well as active participation from businesses and individuals. It aims to address environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, deforestation, and resource depletion while also promoting economic growth and social well-being.

Renewable energy: The use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydro power to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewable energy refers to the use of naturally replenishing sources of energy, such as solar, wind, and hydro power, to generate electricity or heat. This approach aims to reduce dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, which contribute to air pollution and climate change. By harnessing renewable energy sources, we can decrease greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change while also promoting sustainable energy practices.

Sustainable agriculture: Practices that promote soil health, biodiversity conservation, and minimal use of chemical inputs, as well as support for local food systems.

Sustainable agriculture involves various practices aimed at maintaining the long-term productivity of the land while minimizing negative impacts on the environment. These practices include crop rotation, cover cropping, no-till farming, integrated pest management, and agroforestry. Additionally, sustainable agriculture prioritizes the conservation of natural resources, such as water and soil, and supports local economies by promoting local food production and distribution. By incorporating these principles, sustainable agriculture aims to provide a healthy and resilient food system while reducing the ecological footprint of agricultural activities.

Green infrastructure: Investing in environmentally-friendly infrastructure such as public transportation, bike lanes, green buildings, and sustainable urban planning.

Green infrastructure refers to the implementation of environmentally-friendly solutions and practices in infrastructure development. This can include investments in public transportation systems, such as electric buses or light rail, to reduce emissions and traffic congestion. Additionally, creating bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly pathways can encourage alternative modes of transportation and reduce reliance on cars.

Green buildings are another aspect of green infrastructure, involving the construction or retrofitting of structures to be more energy-efficient, use renewable materials, and incorporate sustainable design principles. Sustainable urban planning also plays a crucial role in green infrastructure by promoting mixed land use, efficient water and waste management, and preservation of natural spaces within urban areas.

By investing in green infrastructure, communities can work towards reducing their environmental impact, improving public health, and creating more resilient and sustainable cities for future generations.

Circular economy: Designing products with a focus on reuse, repair, remanufacturing, and recycling to minimize waste generation.

The circular economy is a sustainable economic model that aims to minimize waste and maximize the use of resources by designing products with a focus on reuse, repair, remanufacturing, and recycling. This approach encourages businesses to consider the entire life cycle of their products, from raw material extraction to end-of-life disposal. By incorporating principles of the circular economy into product design, companies can reduce their

environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable future. This shift towards a circular economy requires collaboration across industries, policymakers, and consumers to create a system where resources are used efficiently and waste generation is minimized.

Green jobs: Creating employment opportunities in sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, and environmental conservation.

Green jobs are essential for economic growth and environmental sustainability. They help reduce the impact of climate change and create employment opportunities in sectors that prioritize environmental conservation and renewable resources. This can lead to a more sustainable and resilient economy while also promoting clean and efficient energy production. Additionally, green jobs can contribute to the development of new technologies and practices that benefit both the environment and the workforce. Overall, investing in green jobs is crucial for building a greener, more inclusive economy.

Resource efficiency: Minimizing waste and maximizing the efficient use of resources through recycling, reusing, and reducing consumption.

Resource efficiency is a key principle in sustainable development, aiming to reduce the environmental impact of resource use while also promoting economic efficiency. By minimizing waste and optimizing the use of resources, we can help preserve natural resources, reduce pollution, and minimize the impact on ecosystems.

Some ways to achieve resource efficiency include:

1. Recycling: Converting waste materials into new products to prevent the depletion of raw materials and reduce energy usage.

2. Reusing: Extending the lifespan of products and materials by using them multiple times or repurposing them for different uses.

3. Reducing consumption: Consuming only what is necessary and avoiding unnecessary waste by being mindful of our consumption habits.

4. Using renewable resources: Utilizing resources that can be replenished naturally, such as solar or wind energy, instead of relying solely on finite resources like fossil fuels.

5. Adopting efficient technologies: Using energy-efficient appliances, vehicles, and industrial processes to minimize resource use and waste production.

By implementing these practices, individuals, businesses, and governments can contribute to a more sustainable and resource-efficient society.

Finally, the transition to a green economy should benefit from research involving different impact assessments, including methodological innovations in evaluation studies. It concerns the assessment of the impact of important key trends, such as digitization and automation, globalization and nationalization, among others, on ecological and distributional outcomes, as well as cooperation perspectives on green innovation and different business models inspired by the economy. Assessments can be particularly important for understanding future paths to greening and decarbonizing key technology sectors. Clearly, policy instruments and policy combinations need to be evaluated to improve them. With increased attention to the role of technology-specific policies, such assessments are not straightforward. They should consider the roles of different policies in innovation systems and consider important interactions; any evaluation must also recognize policy learning over time.

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