

sustainability across all levels of the organization. Leaders should actively participate in green programs and encourage sustainable behavior through regular communication and recognition of employee contributions.

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## **GREEN ECONOMY: ANALYSIS AND SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES**

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In the last decade, "green economy" has emerged as an important new term in discussions on sustainability and national development strategies on a global scale. In the United Nations (UN) vision document titled "The Future We Want," the green economy is described as an economic development model that improves human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and resource scarcity[1]. According to several panels of experts from the UN, this represents a "new form of the growth paradigm," outlining a path towards transitioning the economic system from "causing crises or leading to them" to "preventing and addressing them"[2].

Recognizing that current economic growth models are not socially, ecologically, or economically sustainable, producers and decision-makers in the private sector are collectively striving to develop alternative models like the "green economy." This has urged the international community to seriously focus on transitioning to a "green" economy, which is believed to ensure a sustainable and desirable future aimed at social equity, ending poverty, and promoting human well-being.

Regarding green economy or green growth, new publications by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Green Economy Coalition, Stakeholder Forum, Green Growth Leaders, and many other organizations have aimed to address existing knowledge gaps and clarify the conceptual frameworks surrounding the term “green economy.”

Currently, the innovative information economy is developing worldwide. Previously, the environmental factor in economic activities was not included in research, leading to the irreversible consequences of natural resource waste. In contrast, the post-industrial information economy is based on environmental factors. At present, the ecological aspect is one of the most critical issues among the priority tasks for overcoming the negative impacts of the global economy. The formation of a new economy sets new challenges for science to address existing negative phenomena.

In modern economic theory and practice, trends such as the “green” economy are helping to solve these problems. Today, the “green economy” is one of the most popular areas of economic practice. At the same time, within the context of the formation of a new economy, many issues related to the theory and practice of accounting for environmental factors in investments and job creation, aimed at ensuring sustainable development, remain unresolved and require further in-depth research in the fields of economic and social sciences. The significance of the “green economy” necessitates the establishment of its philosophical foundations and the identification of its role and position in the development of modern social life.

The green economy is a trend in the field of economics that emphasizes the existing natural environment as a dependent component. The concept of the “green economy” is the most important theoretical and practical approach to addressing contemporary ecological issues within the framework of sustainable development theory. This term and approach emerged relatively recently in economic sciences—approximately four decades ago. This approach is based on three fundamental principles: 1) the interconnectedness of all life on the planet, 2) the need to forego meeting the continuously growing demands within limited resources, and 3) the abandonment of infinite expansion within a limited space.

Russian scientist V. I. Vernadsky made a significant contribution to the development of scientific theories for the ecologicalization of economic activities. In 1926, V. I. Vernadsky published his work “Biosphere,” in which he marked the emergence of a new science concerning the connection between nature and humanity. The next stage in the formation of ecological economics as a science began in 1935 when A. Tansley introduced a new definition of the concept of “ecosystem,” referring to a stable living system formed by a collection of living organisms (communities) and their habitats, along with the process of

material circulation[3]. The publication of R. Carson's book "Silent Spring" (1961) is considered the starting point of modern social ecology, addressing issues related to the negative impacts of human activity on the environment[4].

Ecology, as a science, forms the theoretical basis for environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources. One of the founders of the theory of the relationship between nature and human economic activity is the American scientist B. Commoner. In 1971, he formulated the laws of ecology as four fundamental principles, emphasizing the need for the sustainable development of the natural environment and calling on humanity to base its impact on the environment on these principles:

**First Principle:** "Everything is connected to everything else." This principle highlights the existence of universal connections between things and events, emphasizing that the dynamics of complex ecological chains form a single system.

**Second Principle:** "Everything must go somewhere." Here, Commoner raises one of the most complex issues regarding the assimilation of civilization's waste by the biosphere by reformulating the basic physical law of the conservation of matter.

**Third Principle:** "Nature knows best." This principle contrasts with the traditional approach initiated by Francis Bacon, where nature is seen merely as a workplace, and humans exploit it solely in relation to their interests. This law emphasizes the necessity of care and caution in relations with natural ecosystems.

**Fourth Principle:** "There's no such thing as a free lunch." According to Commoner, because the global ecosystem functions as a single entity, everything taken from it through human labor must be returned.

In the 1980s, the philosophy of ecological economics emerged as an integral part of the concept of the green economy. It arose as an alternative to environmental economics, focused on understanding and solving issues related to the interactions between the environment and society. Notable representatives of this field include R. Costanza[5], R. H. Daly[6], Norgaard[7], and J. Van den Berg[8].

Ecological economics is a new interdisciplinary research field focused on the relationships between ecosystems and economic systems. This theory combines ideas from economics, philosophy, ecology, and other natural and social sciences based on an interdisciplinary approach, encapsulating the most beneficial aspects of traditional economic theory and conventional ecology.

Ecological economics establishes a new model in which the economic system is viewed as a part of society, and society, in turn, is considered a subsystem of the natural environment—essentially a part of the overall ecosystem. One of the founders of ecological economics, R. Costanza, emphasizes that this field involves describing the relationships between economic systems and large dynamic but generally slowly changing ecological systems[9]. Thus, in

ecological economics, the economy is seen as an open subsystem of a larger ecosystem. Since the ecosystem is a continuous phenomenon, it is essential to focus on the use of natural resources in the economy and the capacity to accept the losses that arise from utilizing the ecosystem in economic processes.

However, there are some critical questions that arise when discussing the Green Economy:

Is there a dilemma between economic development and ecological sustainability? While the path to reducing human impact on the environment is clear, we are uncertain about how to grow our economies and benefit the least advantaged members of society—specifically, how to link the three E's (environment, economy, and equity) of development.

Similarly, is it possible to reorient global capital investments towards green investments and green innovations? These questions can only be addressed when the economies of the world are ready to shift from the current growth model and neoclassical framework to a new system emphasizing local economies, bio-efficiency, public awareness, and public transport.

In general, the philosophy of the green economy applies the scientific principle of ecological centrality, which considers the biosphere as the main source of life and emphasizes the equality of natural and social systems within the overall ecosystem, indicating the need for their joint development and co-evolution. The results of analyzing approaches related to the green economy demonstrate the superiority of a systematic approach in understanding the essence of this correct category, reflecting the interrelations between the environment and the economy and forming a holistic view.

In our opinion, the systematic approach is the most comprehensive way to understand the essence of the ecosystem from a scientific perspective, as it implies that the green economy operates as a complex dynamic system and is formed as a collection of interconnected ecological and economic systems. This approach integrates factors and functional methodologies to understand the essence of the green economy, which is expressed through the concept of a “system.”

Our main conclusions regarding the popularization of the Green Economy are as follows:

- Working with nature should be at the center of the transformation process of the Green Economy.
- Human and societal well-being is dependent on nature.
- Investing in nature helps save finances and promotes economic growth in the long term.
- Good governance is crucial in transforming the Green Economy.
- All sectors of the economy benefit directly or indirectly from nature, and their participation is essential in the process of transitioning to a green economy.

- It is necessary to understand the value of nature and incorporate this value into public and private decisions, as nature provides numerous benefits. This is one of many ways to assess the role and importance of nature.
- Investments in nature today—whether for restoration or for the management of protected areas—will contribute to financial savings and long-term economic growth.

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE ARAL SEA**

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Uzbekistan faces a number of environmental and socio-economic problems related to the overuse of natural resources, air and water pollution, and climate change. One of the major environmental disasters is the drying up of the Aral Sea.

The Aral Sea is the former fourth largest lake in the world, located on the territory of modern Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Until the 1960s, the Aral Sea had an area of about 68 thousand square kilometers. It was supported by water from two large rivers - the Amu Darya and Syr Darya. In the middle of the 20th century, large-scale diversion of water from these rivers for irrigation of cotton fields in Central Asia began. From that moment on, the rapid reduction of the sea's water surface began.