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## **The Role of Green Economic Development for Sustainable Development in Vietnam**

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### **Abstract**

Vietnam with the goal of becoming a modern industrialized country by 2030. In which, focusing on a number of internationally competitive industries, deeply involved in the global value chain. This has increased pressure on the environment and natural resources. Therefore, green economic development is an inevitable trend, both ensuring the goal of economic modernization, environmentally sustainable development and enhancing the ability to respond to climate change. The article points out the role of green economic development in sustainable development in Vietnam today but still faces many challenges and suggests some solutions to help promote the green economy in Vietnam in a sustainable way.

**Keywords:** Green economy, Green economic development, Sustainable development

### **1. Introduction**

Vietnam is a country interested in sustainable development. This is expressed through the issuance of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the period 2011 - 2020 with the aim of sustainable and effective growth, coupled with progress, social justice, protection of natural resources and the environment, keeping stabilize socio-political stability, firmly protect national independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. With the context of the new economy, Vietnam's economy is in the recovery phase after the Covid-19 epidemic, which has made the green economy an inevitable trend of not only Vietnam but all other countries in order to achieve this goal. economic growth, while maintaining environmental sustainability. Realizing this, over the past years, Vietnam has accelerated the implementation of plans and strategies for green economic development aimed at sustainable development.

## **2. Some related arguments**

### *Sustainable Development:*

The concept of sustainable development first appeared clearly in the "World Conservation Strategy" of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 1980, but it has only mainly addressed the issue of biological sustainability.

From the 21st agenda, sustainable development has been identified as the development of the needs of the current generation without harming the ability to meet the needs of the future generation.

Sustainable development includes 4 main contents: economic growth; ensure social justice; Environmental protection and respect for human rights. The concept of sustainable development is built on a general principle of human progress - the principle of ensuring equality between generations.

Sustainable economic development *is understood as rapid development, safety and quality in all aspects of the economy, must create a common prosperity for everyone, not just focusing on a few people.* Within the allowable limit of the ecosystem and not infringing upon the basic human rights.

### *Green economy development:*

Green Economic is a concept that has become familiar with the economies around the world. This is an economy to improve human life and social property, and at the same time, focus on reducing environmental dangers and resource scarcity (under the UN Environment Program - 2010).

The World Bank (WB) offers green economic definitions as *"economic development to ensure effective use of natural resources, which minimize pollution and impact on the environment, enhance the ability. Recover before natural changes, promote the role of state management of the environment and natural resources in preventing natural disasters from nature."*

At present, the green economy is understood as the combination of three factors: economy (alleviating poverty, improving the quality of community health care, developing clean energy, meeting the employment needs of people) population and promote growth...), environment (ensure sustainable production and consumption, conserve marine resources, protect, regenerate and encourage sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.. .) and society (improve the quality of education, narrow the gender inequality gap and reduce social inequality...). Green economy has a sustainable nature, which means activities in the economy that generate profits or beneficial values, aiming to develop the life of the human social community; At the same time, these activities are environmentally friendly. These 3 factors are balanced to satisfy sustainability. A green economy is an essential economy because it creates jobs, ensures sustainable economic growth and prevents environmental pollution, global warming, resource depletion and environmental degradation.

In a green economy, environmental resources are an important factor that determines economic development, improves value chains, and brings stability and long-term prosperity. Environmental protection, sustainable management and use of natural resources, response to climate change are considered key issues of the green economy. The State and the private sector focus on prioritizing investment in economic activities, infrastructure and works that ensure the goal of reducing pollution and carbon emissions; improve efficiency in the use of resources and energy; prevent loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), a green economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while reducing environmental risks and ecological damage. It deals with activities and consumption patterns that cause adverse effects on the environment and harm human life.

Different international institutions have introduced different characteristics and nature of green economy. Some common features are:

- Green economy facilitates sustainable development;
- Green economy is resource and energy saving;
- This economy creates green jobs;
- Green economy respects planetary boundaries, ecological limits or scarcity;
- This economy measures economic progress beyond GDP using appropriate indicators/metrics;
- A green economy that provides equality, equity and justice - between and within countries and between generations;
- Green economy protects biodiversity and ecosystems;
- This economy effectively reduces poverty, improves living standards, livelihoods, social protection and access to essential services;
- The green economy improves governance and the rule of law. Includes: Democracy; community participation; in charge of; stable.

Green economic development is sustainable development:

The G20 Summit in Seoul on 11-12 November 2010 stated: “We recognize that sustainable green growth, as it is inherently part of sustainable development, is a development strategy. quality, allowing countries to stay ahead of old technologies in many areas, including through the efficient use of energy and clean technology. To that end, we will take steps to create, where appropriate, environments conducive to development.

Clean energy technology and energy efficiency, including policies and practices in our countries and beyond, including technology transfer and capacity building.”

International policymakers consider “green growth”, the promotion of energy efficiency and clean technology, and sustainable development as complementary goals. Therefore, improving energy efficiency and developing clean technologies are the means to achieve “green growth” and ultimately sustainable development.

### **3. Current status of green economic development in Vietnam**

In September 2015, the United Nations announced the 2030 Agenda, which includes 17 sustainable development goals to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality and protect the planet. Since the member states of the United Nations have agreed to this 2030 Agenda, progress has been made to achieve prosperous and harmonious development of all three aspects of economy, society and environment in each country. has a specific and agreed destination. And after nearly 6 years of pursuing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Vietnam has achieved many remarkable achievements and is currently ranked at 51/165 countries according to the United Nations' ranking on Sustainable Development. stable until 2021.

In the Socio-Economic Development Strategy for the 2021-2030 period, Vietnam's goal by 2030 is to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men is still a developing country. developed with modern industry, high middle income and by 2045 will become a developed country with high income. Vietnam's criteria for sustainable development up to 2030 in terms of economy are:

- Average GDP growth rate is about 7%/year; GDP per capita at current prices by 2030 will reach about 7,500 USD;
- The proportion of processing and manufacturing industry is about 30% of GDP, the digital economy is about 30% of GDP;
- The urbanization rate is over 50%;
- Total social investment averaged 33-35% of GDP; public debt does not exceed 60% of GDP;

Resolution of the 13th National Congress of the Party affirms the policy of "fast and sustainable development" and green economy development: "Continuing to develop rapidly and sustainably the country, ensuring economic stability. macro, strongly renovate the growth model, improve the productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness of the economy. Actively and effectively adapting to climate change, managing, exploiting, rationally, economically, efficiently and sustainably using natural resources; taking the protection of the living environment and people's health as the top goals; resolutely eliminate projects that pollute the environment.

Over the past years, the Government, ministries, branches and localities have issued many legal documents, programs, action plans and guiding documents on green economy development, durable growth. Sustain and environmental protection such as Decision No. 2139/QĐ-TTg dated December 5, 2011 approving the National Strategy on Climate Change; Decision No. 1474/QĐ - TTg issued a National Action Plan on climate change in the period of 2012-2020 to realize the tasks of strategy 1; Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg dated May 10, 2017 promulgating the National

Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2; Decision No. 1670/QĐ-TTg dated October 31, 2017 approving the target program to respond to climate change and green growth in the 2016-2023 period. It was shown in detail in the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1393/QĐ -TTg of September 25, 2012, approving the National Strategy on Green growth in the 2011-2020 period and a vision to 2050. This is the first and comprehensive national strategy in the field of green economic development in Vietnam.

After implementing the National Strategy for Green Growth, Vietnam has achieved some outstanding results, reflected in the contents of institutional building, awareness raising, implementation and mobilization of sources. State and private force. By 2018, there were 7 ministries promulgating the Green Growth Action Plan; 34 provinces and cities directly under the Central Government formulate and implement the Green Growth Action Plan at the provincial and city level; In which, focusing on a number of key fields and branches, bringing high performance value towards green economic development.

Vietnam is continuing to innovate, promoting the transformation of the growth model in depth, upholding the quality and efficiency, and at the same time trying its best to restore the back of Covid-19. Thanks to its solid foundation, the Vietnamese economy has shown significant resistance in crisis periods, recently Covid-19 pandemic. GDP growth slowed to 2.58% in 2021 due to the arrival of the Delta variant but recovered and grew by 8.02% in 2022.

- In the industrial sector:

The trend of green industry development focuses on two main goals: limiting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, toxic chemicals from industrial parks and export processing zones to the environment; at the same time, research and develop new energy sources, new and environmentally friendly technical machinery.

Recognizing the development potential, impact and positive contribution of renewable energy, the Government has issued policy documents to improve the investment environment in this field, such as: Development Strategy Vietnam's renewable energy to 2030, vision to 2050; preferential policies on electricity purchase prices of wind power, small hydroelectricity, biomass, waste treatment and solar power production facilities; adjust a series of national strategies, national programs.

Develop a number of new legal documents to promote the implementation of activities related to green growth; pollution control and effective waste management; building a legal framework on economical and efficient use of energy in production and daily life; establish minimum energy efficiency standards and energy labeling for capital goods products and consumer equipment.

By the end of August 2020, the whole country had put into operation 102 solar power projects with a total capacity of 6,314 MWp (equivalent to 5,245 MWac). By the end of May 2021, 130 wind power projects have signed power purchase agreements with EVN, of which 12 projects have been put into commercial operation with a total capacity of 581.93 MW.

- Production and consumption sectors:

Greening production and greening lifestyle and sustainable consumption are the two main themes in Vietnam's green growth action plan for the period 2014 - 2020. In fact, Vietnam has implemented many related activities. towards sustainable production and consumption, in which green consumption is getting more and more attention. Many related documents have been signed such as: International Declaration and National Action Plan on Sustainable Production and Consumption (1999), legal documents related to consumer protection; Law on Economical and Efficient Use of Energy; The International Declaration on Cleaner Production (1999) ... Programs related to green products such as the program for granting eco-labels, energy-saving labels, and eco-labels for the tourism industry were also implemented.

- Construction and transportation sector:

Vietnam has had a number of major undertakings and policies to promote a greener, more environmentally responsible construction industry such as: Action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in cement production until 2020 and orientation towards 2030; National urban upgrading program for the period of 2009 -2020; National strategy on integrated solid waste management to 2025 with a vision to 2050; Program to develop unburnt building materials until 2020; Vietnam's green growth urban development plan to 2030; regulations on green growth urban construction norms; Amended Construction Law (2020). Green building as well as the strategy of greening the construction industry, transforming the construction market in the direction of saving, efficiency, and environmental protection are among the key contents of Vietnam's architectural development orientation to the year. 2030, vision to 2050.

Vietnam has nearly 150 buildings recognized as green buildings according to different technical standards: LEED, EDGE, LOTUS, Green Mark (as of April 2020). Among the green building criteria that have been applied in Vietnam, LOTUS is a set of certificates built for Vietnamese conditions, developed by the Vietnam Green Building Council in Vietnam; the rest are international or national toolkits.

In the field of green transport development, the Ministry of Transport has implemented a research project on the conversion of fuel use from diesel to compressed natural gas (CNG) for road motor vehicles, aiming to consume buses and taxis fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and solar energy.

However, according to the World Bank in the period 2011 - 2018, Vietnam's GDP grew quite high, continuously and stably. Vietnam is considered one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia with an average growth rate of 6.21% between 2011 and 2018. However, growth in Vietnam is also the cause of high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Carbon emissions in Vietnam in the period 2011 - 2018 tended to increase steadily over the years, in which it increased sharply in 2015 and 2018, respectively 24.11% and 16.09% over the previous year.

Table 3.1: Annual growth rate of carbon emissions in Vietnam

Targets	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
GDP growth annua (%)	6,24	5,25	5,42	5,98	6,68	6,21	6,81	7,08
CO2 emissions per year (thousand tons)	149,02	147,27	153,63	168,56	209,20	223,87	222,13	257,86
Annual growth in CO2 emissions (%)	-0,28	-1,17	4,2	9,72	24,11	7,01	-0,78	16,09

(Source: WB)

Vietnam has set up many green economic development programs and plans, but there are still some limitations in implementation, leading to the goals of green economic development have not been achieved. Desire.

#### **4. Some solutions to develop green economy in Vietnam**

*Firstly*, the Government needs to have a strategy to create conditions for green economic development by building a fair and effective legal corridor, with sanctions for organizations and individuals that have acts of destroying the economy. environmental damage in the process of production and business. Develop laws and regulations to promote, encourage and support development for organizations, individuals and businesses with the direction of green development, green business, and environmental protection.

*Secondly*, environmental propaganda and education is an important job, from which practical actions can be taken in restoring ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, and preventing climate change... in each citizen, contributing to improving the effectiveness of strategies, programs and action plans that the Government has set out, towards a green economy, green and sustainable development. Ministries, sectors and localities should soon issue plans, programs, and perform according to their functions and tasks in order to have a basis for organizing and implementing green economic development and sustainable development in accordance with the guidelines. policies of the Party and State.

*Third*, investment in science and technology should be increased, at the same time receiving and transferring advanced technologies suitable to Vietnam's conditions, promoting research in fields of green economic development such as: reduce carbon emissions, develop renewable energy, environmentally friendly energy...

*Fourth*, calling for investment from foreign organizations and enterprises should be strictly controlled by the Government. Resolutely not allowing foreign corporations and organizations that tend to cause harm to the environment to be allowed to invest in business, construction and production.

*Fifth*, promoting green consumption propaganda is the future development trend. Consumers in our country have certain perceptions and priorities in using green products. This is a strong

development trend in the near future, so the production of green products in a green environment needs to be moved immediately.

*Sixth*, Vietnam needs to study the "green public spending" model of South Africa to develop the country's green economy. The government can promote green technology development, through encouraging the use of green goods in both public and private sector, thereby reducing investment costs in green industries and encouraging consumption. Lasting. The Government supports the market for organic salary production, renewable energy and energy saving.

*Seventh*, set out environmental standards also play an important role for the transition to the green economy. For example, adjusting carbon tax. Standards and restrictions based on production processing methods can be used to create advantages for domestic manufacturers. (Example: Mark the carbon composition).

*Eighth*, it is necessary to improve the "green standard" with exported goods. The Government will guide export companies to meet the necessary standards. These standards are tools to check and certify goods. Improving national standards and reaching international standards will help expand the amount of goods to foreign markets, while reducing environmental pollution and increasing resource efficiency.

### **Acknowledgments**

Converting traditional economy into green economy is a trend of many countries around the world. In order to have a sustainable direction, the Vietnamese government needs a master plan as a basis for green development ideas to be put into operation. In order to implement the National Economic Development Strategy and Plan on Green Economic Development, it is important to integrate into the common economic development strategy along with the specific budget allocation and guarantee to ensure that there is a specific budget. sufficient resources for a long time before receiving specific effects brought by the green economy.

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