

## Performance of Green Economic Development and Achievements in Sustainable Development Goals in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: The Republic of Uzbekistan seeks to realize the sustainable development goals, especially that it characterized with economic development and continuous population growth coupled with the rapid urbanization. On this regard, Uzbekistan needs more than a traditional economy, an economy which goes in line with the achievement of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. The 'Strategy 2030' program based on three pillars a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious nation represents a departure of Uzbekistan to a novel economy and society. To accomplish this program, several series of policies and strategies are necessary to be developed based on a framework for the implementation of environmental and economic sustainability and promoting social well-being. For instance, to realize these policies, the government launches several projects such as the Uzbekistan Green Initiative ("Yashil Makon" program launched in 2021, to plant 1 billion trees and shrubs across the country over the next five years).

This paper aims to examine how policies in Uzbekistan performs to achieve sustainable development during the period 2021–2026 to adopt EEPSE Green Economy Index (EEPSE GEI). The index shows the importance of the relationship among the economic actors: education, industry, government, society and environment. Our theoretical and empirical contributions in this paper are two fold. First, most of the contemporary research has been focused on the renewable energy consumption–environment nexus without admitting how green economy can close the gap between economic activity and sustainable development in Uzbekistan. Second, from an empirical side and compared to existing studies, we adopt a novel index system technique that assesses the performance of green economic development and reflect the sustainable development goals achievement for the case of Uzbekistan.