

## 2. ՏՆՏԵՍՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԻՐԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՏՎԱԾԻ ՀԻՄՆԱԽՆԴԻՐՆԵՐ

### GREEN ECONOMY AS A GUARANTEE OF JOB CREATION

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Հոդվածը ստացվել է՝ 13.02.24, ուղարկվել է գրախոսման՝ 01.03.24, երաշխավորվել է տպագրության՝ 06.06.24

**Introduction:** The green economy is a framework for sustainable development that emphasizes reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities while fostering economic growth and improving human well-being. This article aims to analyze the role of the green economy in job creation and its social benefits, focusing on key areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and waste management. The green economy, characterized by its emphasis on sustainable development and environmental preservation, has gained significant attention in recent years. As global awareness of climate change and ecological degradation grows, the transition to a green economy is seen not only as an environmental imperative but also as a catalyst for job creation and social advancement. This article delves into various academic and policy-oriented works to explore the relationship between the green economy, job creation, and social benefits, highlighting key findings and theoretical perspectives.

**The aim** of this article is to analyze and evaluate the impact of the green economy on job creation using current statistics and research, also to identify trends, opportunities, and challenges associated with the transition to a sustainable economic model.

The following **main problems** were addressed on the way to achieving the research goals:

1. Study the theoretical foundations of the green economy:
  - Consider the concept of green economy and its principles.
  - Identify the main directions and sectors contributing to sustainable economic growth.
2. Analyze global trends in job creation:
  - Provide statistics on job creation in various aspects of the green economy (renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, and recycling).
  - Compare data from different world regions, including the European Union, USA, China and other countries.
3. Evaluate the economic benefits of the green economy:
  - Investigate the impact of investments in the green economy on GDP growth and reduction in energy costs.
  - Assess social and economic benefits for businesses and households.
4. Offer recommendations for the green economy development:
  - Develop recommendations for policymakers and businesses to support and develop the green economy.

- Identify key areas for future research and investment.

**Literature review:** One of the most prominent areas of job creation within the green economy is the renewable energy sector. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable energy employed over 11 million people globally by 2018, with significant growth in solar and wind energy sectors. Studies such as "Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review" by IRENA emphasize the potential for renewable energy to generate employment opportunities across diverse skill levels, from high-skilled engineering roles to low-skilled maintenance positions<sup>1</sup>.

The clean transportation sector also contributes substantially to job creation. Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing, public transit improvements, and bicycle infrastructure development are pivotal areas. For instance, "Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World" by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) highlights that investments in public transportation can create more jobs per USD spent compared to investments in road construction<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, the rise of EVs has spurred demand for new skills in battery technology and vehicle maintenance.

Energy-efficient construction is another critical area where the green economy fosters job growth. Retrofitting buildings to improve energy efficiency and constructing new green buildings require a skilled labor. The book "Sustainable Construction: Green Building Design and Delivery" by Charles J. Kibert discusses the various employment<sup>3</sup> opportunities in sustainable architecture, engineering, and construction<sup>4</sup>. Kibert's study reveals that green construction not only creates jobs but also promotes long-term economic benefits through reduced energy costs and improved building performance.

The transition to a green economy also yields substantial social benefits, particularly in public health. Reducing emissions from fossil fuels leads to better air quality, which in turn decreases respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. In "The Health Benefits of Tackling Climate Change," authors Paul Wilkinson and colleagues demonstrate that policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions can

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<sup>1</sup> International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). (2019). Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2019. 40 p., [https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2019/Jun/IRENA\\_RE\\_Jobs\\_2019-report.pdf?rev=58ac56eaa71242309b0278055747df68](https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2019/Jun/IRENA_RE_Jobs_2019-report.pdf?rev=58ac56eaa71242309b0278055747df68)

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2008). Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World., 376 p., [https://old.adapt.it/adapt-indice-a-z/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/unep\\_2008.pdf](https://old.adapt.it/adapt-indice-a-z/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/unep_2008.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Stevis, D., & Felli, R. (2015). Just Transitions: Social Justice in the Shift Towards a Low-Carbon World. In E. Morgera & K. Kulovesi (Eds.), Research Handbook on International Law and Natural Resources. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar. Retrieved from Taylor & Francis website. [file:///C:/Users/tun/Downloads/aceccato,+BR++Abraham+on+Morena+et+al.+\[451\]+-+final+PQ.pdf](file:///C:/Users/tun/Downloads/aceccato,+BR++Abraham+on+Morena+et+al.+[451]+-+final+PQ.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Kibert, C. J. (2016). Sustainable Construction: Green Building Design and Delivery (4th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 608 p.

simultaneously improve health outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and enhance overall quality of life<sup>1</sup>.

The green economy also contributes to an enhanced quality of life through improved environmental conditions and sustainable urban development. The book "Prosperity without Growth: Foundations for the Economy of Tomorrow" by Tim Jackson argues that a green economy can promote well-being and prosperity without relying on traditional economic growth metrics<sup>2</sup>. Jackson's study suggests that focusing on ecological sustainability and social equity can lead to a more resilient and inclusive society.

Finally, the green economy has the potential to reduce social inequality. Investments in green sectors can provide employment opportunities for marginalized communities, contributing to economic inclusion. In "Just Transitions: Social Justice in the Shift Towards a Low-Carbon World," authors Dimitris Stevis and Romain Felli explore how equitable policies in the green economy can address social disparities. Their analysis underscores the importance of ensuring that the benefits of the green economy are widely shared, preventing the exacerbation of existing inequalities.

**Methodology:** In the scope of this research, descriptive, statistical, scientific-historical-logical methods were implemented.

**Analyses and discussion:** The green economy encompasses a variety of sectors that contribute to sustainable development. These sectors include:

- **Renewable Energy:** According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the renewable energy sector employed 12 million people globally in 2020, with the solar photovoltaic sector alone accounting for nearly 4 million jobs<sup>3</sup>.
- **Energy Efficiency:** The energy efficiency sector in the United States supported approximately 2.4 million jobs in 2019, according to the U.S. Energy and Employment Report<sup>4</sup>.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Organic farming practices in Europe have shown a 10-20% higher employment rate per hectare compared to conventional farming<sup>5</sup>.
- **Waste Management and Recycling:** In South Korea, the recycling industry has created over 100,000 jobs, demonstrating the potential of waste management for job creation<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Wilkinson, P., et al. (2009). The Health Benefits of Tackling Climate Change. Public Health. Retrieved from NCBI website, 8p.

<sup>2</sup> Jackson, T. (2017). Prosperity without Growth: Foundations for the Economy of Tomorrow (2nd ed.). New York: Routledge. 350 p.

<sup>3</sup> International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). (2020). Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2020, 44p.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Energy and Employment Report. (2019), 177p.

<sup>5</sup> European Commission. (2020). Organic Farming Statistics

<sup>6</sup> South Korean Ministry of Environment. (2021). Recycling Industry Job Creation Report

A green economy has several social benefits such as:

- **Improved Quality of Life:** The transition to a green economy contributes to a higher quality of life by reducing pollution, enhancing public health, and providing access to clean energy and sustainable resources.
- **Social Equity and Inclusiveness:** Green economy initiatives often prioritize social equity, ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable communities benefit from sustainable development. Programs that promote renewable energy access in rural areas and training programs for green jobs are examples of such initiatives.
- **Education and Workforce Development:** The green economy requires a skilled labor, leading to increased investment in education and training programs. These programs not only prepare individuals for green jobs but also enhance overall workforce quality and adaptability.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Reducing environmental hazards through green economy practices leads to improved public health outcomes. For example, decreased air pollution from renewable energy sources can significantly reduce respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

The countries and regions that have a successful experience of green economy are the following:

- **Germany:** Germany's Energiewende (Energy Transition) is a prime example of successful green economic policies. The country has significantly increased its renewable energy capacity, resulting in substantial job creation and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>.
- **Costa Rica:** Costa Rica has implemented ambitious environmental policies, aiming to become carbon-neutral. The country's focus on renewable energy and sustainable tourism has created numerous jobs and promoted environmental stewardship<sup>2</sup>.
- **South Korea:** South Korea's Green New Deal focuses on green energy and digital transformation, aiming to create 1.9 million jobs by 2025. This initiative underscores the potential of comprehensive green policies to drive job creation and economic growth<sup>3</sup>.

A green economy focused on sustainable development and minimizing environmental impact demonstrates significant economic benefits. Here are some key indicators and examples:

1. GDP growth and job creation:

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<sup>1</sup> German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. (2020). Energiewende: The Energy Transition

<sup>2</sup> Costa Rican Ministry of Environment and Energy. (2021). National Decarbonization Plan

<sup>3</sup> South Korean Green New Deal Policy Report. (2020)

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the transition to a green economy could create 24 million new jobs worldwide by 2030<sup>1</sup>. A report by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) noted that investment in energy-efficient technologies could lead to global GDP growth of 1.1% annually until 2030.

## 2. Energy efficiency and cost reduction:

A report from the International Energy Agency (IEA) found that every 1 USD invested in energy efficiency could result in savings of 4 USD in reduced energy costs.

In Europe, improving the energy efficiency of buildings can reduce energy costs by up to 40%<sup>2</sup>.

## 3. Renewable energy sources:

Renewable energy attracted more than 303 billion USD in investment in 2020<sup>3</sup>. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), every million dollars invested in renewable energy creates twice as many jobs as investment in fossil fuels.

## 4. Reduce Healthcare Costs:

Shifting to a green economy can reduce air pollution, which, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), results in savings of up to 2 trillion USD annually in reduced morbidity and mortality.

## 5. Sustainable Agriculture:

Organic and sustainable agriculture can increase farmers' incomes by 30-40% through higher product prices and lower costs of pesticides and chemicals. In India, the transition to organic agriculture in the state of Sikkim led to a 20% increase in farmer income and a reduction in health care costs due to reduced use of chemicals.

These data highlight the significant economic potential of the green economy, stimulating both economic growth and improving the quality of life of the population.

Transitioning to a green economy requires significant investments and policy shifts, which can be hindered by economic constraints and political resistance. Ensuring that the benefits of a green economy are equitably distributed is crucial. Policymakers must address potential disparities in access to green jobs and resources to avoid exacerbating social inequalities. Table 1 and 2 contain the key statistics related to the green economy and job creation.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/24-million-jobs-open-green-economy-0#:~:text=ILO%20flagship%20report%20estimates%20job,moves%20to%20a%20greener%20economy.&text=GENEVA%20\(ILO%20News\)%20%E2%80%93%20Twenty,a%20new%20ILO%20report%20says.](https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/24-million-jobs-open-green-economy-0#:~:text=ILO%20flagship%20report%20estimates%20job,moves%20to%20a%20greener%20economy.&text=GENEVA%20(ILO%20News)%20%E2%80%93%20Twenty,a%20new%20ILO%20report%20says.)

<sup>2</sup> <https://greenbusinessjournal.co.uk/energy-efficiency-in-buildings-could-be-improved-by-up-to-40/>

<sup>3</sup>[https://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Global-Investors-Move-Into-Renewable-Infrastructure\\_July-2021.pdf](https://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Global-Investors-Move-Into-Renewable-Infrastructure_July-2021.pdf), p1. , 56p.

Table 1

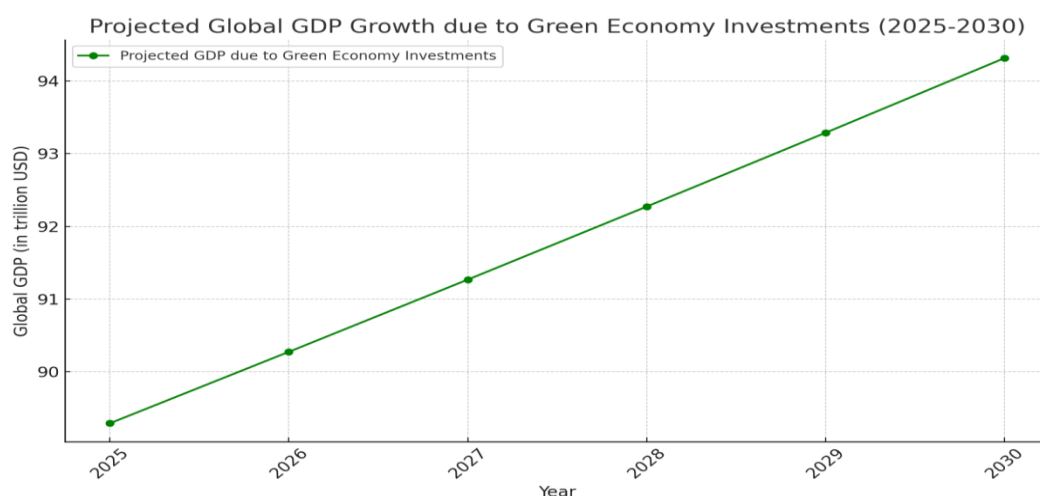
## Job creation by sectors

Sector	Number of workplaces (million)
Renewable Energy <sup>1</sup>	12
Energy Efficiency <sup>2</sup>	3.5
Waste Management and Recycling <sup>3</sup>	1.5

Table 2

## Job Creation by Regions

Region	Number of workplaces (million)
European Union <sup>4</sup>	4.0
USA <sup>5</sup>	2.1
China <sup>6</sup>	4.5

Graph 1. Projected Global GDP Growth due to Green Economy Investments (2025-2030)<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2021, (<https://www.irena.org/publications/2021/Oct/Renewable-Energy-and-Jobs-Annual-Review-2021>)

<sup>2</sup> International Energy Agency (IEA), (<https://www.iea.org/reports/employment-impacts-of-energy-efficiency>)

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, Waste Management in Developing Countries, (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/brief/solid-waste-management>)

<sup>4</sup> European Commission, The European Green Deal, ([https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en))

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, Solar Energy Technologies Office, (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-energy-technologies-office>)

<sup>6</sup> International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), China Energy Transition, (<https://www.irena.org/china>)

<sup>7</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO): Transition to a Green Economy, (<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/lang--en/index.htm>), United Nations Environment

The Graph 1 illustrates the projected global GDP growth due to investments in the green economy from 2025 to 2030. Assuming an annual growth rate of 1.1% due to these investments, global GDP will increase from approximately 89.48 trillion USD in 2025 to over 94 trillion USD by 2030.

**Scientific novelty:** The scientific novelty of the article lies in its comprehensive, data-driven analysis that quantifies job creation and social benefits across diverse sectors, highlighting the green economy's potential to enhance economic resilience and inclusivity while aligning with sustainable development goals.

**Conclusions:** The green economy holds substantial premise for job creation and social benefits. By focusing on sustainable development, we can achieve economic growth while improving quality of life, social equity, education, and health. However, addressing the challenges and barriers to this transition is essential for maximizing its benefits. Policymakers and stakeholders must work together to create inclusive and effective green economy strategies.

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## GREEN ECONOMY AS A GUARANTEE OF JOB CREATION

Meri Gagik Manucharyan

**Abstract:** This article explores the issue of job creation in the context of the green economy development. The green economy represents an economic model focused on sustainable development and reducing environmental impact, which is becoming increasingly relevant nowadays. The article explores the mechanisms through which the green economy contributes to the job creation across various sectors, including renewable energy, clean transportation, energy-efficient construction, and waste management. It also analyzes the social benefits of the green economy, such as improved public health, enhanced quality of life, and the reduction of social inequality. Drawing on international research data and case studies, the article demonstrates that transitioning to a green economy can not only promote environmental protection but also foster social progress and economic growth, which determines the **relevance** of the article.

**The aim of this article** is to analyze and evaluate the impact of the green economy on job creation using current statistics and research, also to identify trends, opportunities, and challenges associated with the transition to a sustainable economic model.

The following **main problems** were addressed on the way to achieving the research goals:

- Study the theoretical foundations of the green economy,
- Analyze global trends in job creation,
- Evaluate the economic benefits of the green economy,
- Offer recommendations for the development of a green economy.

In the scope of the research, descriptive, statistical, historical, and logical methods were implemented.

The **scientific novelty** of the article lies in its comprehensive, data-driven analysis that quantifies job creation and social benefits across diverse sectors, highlighting the

green economy's potential to enhance economic resilience and inclusivity while aligning with sustainable development goals.

The transition to a green economy presents significant opportunities for job creation and the enhancement of social benefits. By analyzing case studies and statistical data, this article highlights the positive impacts on quality of life, social equity, education, and health. Furthermore, the article discusses the challenges and barriers to a green economic transition and provides recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to maximize the benefits of a green economy.

**Keywords:** green economy, jobs, sustainable development, growth, social inequality, economic growth, environment, economic benefits

## ԿԱՆԱՉ ՏՆՏԵՍՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ ՈՐՊԵՍ ԱՇԽԱՏԱՏԵՂԵՐԻ ՍՏԵՂԾՄԱՆ ԵՐԱՇԽԻՔ

### Մերի Գագիկի Մանուչարյան

**Համառոտագիր:** Հոդվածն ուսումնասիրում է աշխատատեղերի ստեղծման տնտեսագիտական հիմնահարցերը՝ կանաչ տնտեսության զարգացման համատեքստում: Կանաչ տնտեսությունը տնտեսական մոդել է, որը կենտրոնացած է կայուն զարգացման և շրջակա միջավայրի վրա ազդեցության նվազեցման վրա, ինչն ավելի ու ավելի արդիական է դառնում ներկայում: Հոդվածում ուսումնասիրվել են այն մեխանիզմները, որոնց միջոցով կանաչ տնտեսությունը նպաստում է նոր աշխատատեղերի ստեղծմանը տարբեր ոլորտներում, ներառյալ վերականգնվող էներգիան, մաքուր տրանսպորտը, էներգաարդյունավետ շինարարությունը և թափոնների կառավարումը: Այն նաև վերլուծում է կանաչ տնտեսության սոցիալական առավելությունները, ինչպիսիք են հանրային առողջության բարելավումը, կյանքի որակի բարձրացումը և սոցիալական անհավասարության նվազեցումը: Հիմնվելով միջազգային հետազոտությունների տվյալների և գործնական օրինակների վրա՝ հոդվածը ցույց է տալիս, որ անցումը կանաչ տնտեսության կարող է ոչ միայն նպաստել շրջակա միջավայրի պաշտպանությանը, այլև խթանել սոցիալական առաջընթացը և տնտեսական աճը, ինչն էլ պայմանավորում է հոդվածի **արդիականությունը**:

Հոդվածի **հիմնական նպատակն** է վերլուծել և գնահատել կանաչ տնտեսության ազդեցությունը աշխատատեղերի ստեղծման վրա՝ օգտագործելով ընթացիկ վիճակագրական տվյալները և հետազոտությունները, ինչպես նաև բացահայտել կայուն տնտեսական մոդելին անցման միտումները, հնարավորությունները և մարտահրավերները: Այդ **նպատակին** հասնելու ճանապարհին լուծվել են հետևյալ հիմնական խնդիրները.

- Ուսումնասիրել կանաչ տնտեսության տեսական հիմունքները,
- Վերլուծել աշխատատեղերի ստեղծման համաշխարհային միտումները,
- Գնահատել կանաչ տնտեսության տնտեսական օգուտները,

- Ներկայացնել առաջարկություններ ուղղված կանաչ տնտեսության զարգացմանը:

Հետազոտության շրջանակներում կիրառվել են գիտական հետազոտության նկարագրական, վիճակագրական, պատմական, տրամաբանական մեթոդները:

Հոդվածի **գիտական նորույթը** կայանում է տվյալների վրա հիմնված համապարփակ վերլուծության մեջ, որը տալիս է աշխատատեղերի ստեղծման և տարբեր ոլորտներում սոցիալական օգուտների քանակական գնահատականը՝ ընդգծելով կանաչ տնտեսության ներուժը տնտեսական ճկունության և ներառականության բարձրացման գործում՝ հավատարիմ մնալով կայուն տնտեսական զարգացման նպատակներին:

Կանաչ տնտեսության անցումը զգալի հնարավորություններ է ստեղծում աշխատատեղերի ստեղծման և սոցիալական օգուտների ավելացման համար: Վերլուծելով տարբեր երկրների օրինակները և վիճակագրական տվյալները՝ հոդվածն ընդգծում է կանաչ տնտեսության դրական ազդեցությունները կյանքի որակի, սոցիալական հավասարության, կրթության և առողջության վրա: Ավելին, հոդվածը քննարկում է կանաչ տնտեսության անցման մարտահրավերներն ու խոչընդոտները և ներկայացնում առաջարկություններ քաղաքականություն մշակողներին և շահակիրներին՝ առավելագույնի հասցնելու կանաչ տնտեսության օգուտները:

**Բանալի բառեր.** կանաչ տնտեսություն, աշխատատեղեր, կայուն զարգացում, աճ, սոցիալական անհավասարություն, տնտեսական աճ, շրջակա միջավայր, տնտեսական օգուտներ

## ЗЕЛЕНАЯ ЭКОНОМИКА КАК ГАРАНТИЯ СОЗДАНИЯ РАБОЧИХ МЕСТ

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**Аннотация:** В данной статье исследуется вопрос создания рабочих мест, связанных с развитием зеленой экономики. Зеленая экономика представляет собой экономическую модель, ориентированную на устойчивое развитие и снижение воздействия на окружающую среду, которая становится все более актуальной в современном мире. В статье рассматриваются механизмы, с помощью которых зеленая экономика способствует созданию новых рабочих мест в различных секторах, включая возобновляемую энергетику, экологически чистый транспорт, энергоэффективное строительство и утилизацию отходов. В нем также анализируются социальные выгоды зеленой экономики, такие как улучшение общественного здравоохранения, повышение качества жизни и сокращение социального неравенства. Опираясь на данные международных исследований и практические примеры, в статье показано, что переход к зеленой экономике может не только способствовать защите окружающей среды, но и способствовать

социальному прогрессу и экономическому росту, что и определяет **актуальность** статьи.

Основная **цель статьи** — проанализировать и оценить влияние зеленой экономики на создание рабочих мест с использованием текущей статистики и исследований, а также выявить тенденции, возможности и проблемы, связанные с переходом к устойчивой экономической модели.

На пути к достижению цели исследования решались следующие **основные проблемы**:

- Изучить теоретические основы зеленой экономики,
- Анализировать глобальные тенденции создания рабочих мест,
- Оценить экономические выгоды зеленой экономики,
- Предложить рекомендации по развитию зеленой экономики.

**Методология:** В рамках исследования были реализованы описательные, статистические, историко-логические методы.

**Научная новизна** статьи заключается в ее комплексном, основанном на данных анализе, который дает количественную оценку создания рабочих мест и социальных выгод в различных секторах, подчеркивая потенциал зеленой экономики для повышения экономической устойчивости и инклюзивности при одновременном согласовании с целями устойчивого развития.

Переход к «зеленой» экономике открывает значительные возможности для создания рабочих мест и увеличения социальных выгод. В данной статье исследуются различные сектора «зеленой» экономики, которые способствуют росту занятости, и рассматриваются социальные преимущества, связанные с этим переходом. Анализируя тематические исследования и статистические данные, мы подчеркиваем положительное влияние на качество жизни, социальную справедливость, образование и здоровье. Кроме того, в статье обсуждаются проблемы и препятствия на пути перехода к «зеленой» экономике, а также приводятся рекомендации для политиков и заинтересованных сторон по максимизации преимуществ «зеленой» экономики.

**Ключевые слова:** зеленая экономика, рабочие места, устойчивое развитие, рост, социальное неравенство, экономический рост, окружающая среда, экономические выгоды