



Transformation of the Green Economy as a Foundation for Sustainable Civil Society Development

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Abstract

The transformation to a green economy is a strategic element in achieving sustainable civil society development, especially in facing global challenges related to climate change and environmental degradation. This research aims to analyze how the transformation towards a green economy can serve as a strong foundation for sustainable development. Using a qualitative approach, this study explores the role of community participation, technological innovation, and government policies in supporting the implementation of a green economy. The findings suggest that collaboration among the public sector, private sector, and civil society is crucial in creating effective synergy in the implementation of environmentally-friendly policies. Furthermore, this transformation is expected to create new jobs, improve quality of life, and ensure ecosystem sustainability. Thus, the green economy functions not only as a driver of economic growth but also as an instrument to achieve social justice and environmental sustainability, which are the core pillars of sustainable development.

Keywords: Transformation , Green Economy, Sustainable Civil Society Development

Introduction

The transformation to a green economy has become an increasingly relevant topic in the context of sustainable development worldwide. With the growing awareness of the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, the green economy concept has emerged as an alternative to conventional development models that often overlook sustainability (Mairiza & Noviarita, 2023; Styawati et al., 2023). Therefore, it is essential to understand how the transformation to a green economy can serve as a strong foundation for sustainable civil society development.

As population growth and rapid urbanization continue, pressure on natural resources is increasing. Many countries are facing challenges in meeting the needs for energy, food, and water, while also maintaining ecosystem sustainability (Abas et al., 2015; Adianto & Prayuda,



2018). In this study, the transition to a green economy becomes crucial to ensure that the development carried out is not only economically beneficial but also socially and environmentally sustainable. This aligns with global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which emphasize the need for a holistic approach to development.

The development of civil society plays a crucial role in a sustainable economy, requiring active participation from all sectors of society, including the government, private sector, and civil society (Rovy Rosidah et al., 2024). In the process of green economy transformation, the role of society is vital in driving innovation and implementing sustainable practices (Nanda Hidayati et al., 2023). Communities that are aware of the importance of the environment and sustainability are more likely to support eco-friendly policies and contribute to the conservation of natural resources. Therefore, education and outreach about the green economy should be an integral part of community development.

One important aspect of the green economy transformation is the development of environmentally-friendly technologies. Innovations in renewable energy technology, waste management, and sustainable agriculture can improve resource efficiency and reduce environmental impacts. The application of these technologies not only benefits the environment but also creates new jobs and boosts economic competitiveness (Aidhi et al., 2023; Indrayani, 2012). In this context, investment in research and development is crucial to supporting the transition to a green economy. Moreover, the success of the green economy transformation is also determined by supportive policies and regulations. The government needs to establish a legal framework that encourages investment in sustainable practices and provides incentives for companies that apply green economy principles.

The green economy transformation must also consider social justice aspects. It is important to ensure that the benefits of this transition are felt by all segments of society, including vulnerable groups (Georgeson et al., 2017a). Programs that support access to education, training, and technology for marginalized communities must be implemented to avoid social inequality. Thus, the green economy is not only a tool for achieving economic growth but also a means of creating a fair and prosperous society.

Overall, the transformation to a green economy is a crucial step in creating a solid foundation for sustainable civil society development. Through a holistic and inclusive approach, this transformation is expected to have a positive impact not only on the economy but also on the environment and society. With strong commitment from all parties, a sustainable future can be realized for the well-being of future generations.

Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with a focus on literature review. The data analyzed includes scholarly articles, books, policies, and case studies related to the green economy and civil society development. The analysis technique involves identifying key themes from the



collected data. This process includes categorizing information based on its relevance to the green economy transformation and its impact on civil society.

Results and Discussion

2.1. Definition of Green Economy

According to the OECD (Wang et al., 2023), the green economy is a growth model that emphasizes resource efficiency and low-carbon technology innovation to maintain quality of life without damaging the environment. The OECD states that the green economy is not only focused on economic growth but also on improving environmental quality with nature-based solutions. According to the IPCC (Georgeson et al., 2017b), the green economy is defined as an economic system that reduces carbon emissions and adopts adaptation strategies for climate change. The IPCC emphasizes that to achieve a green economy, a major transformation is required in the energy, transportation, and industrial sectors.

According to Groom & Turk (2021), the green economy is a system that places high value on biodiversity and ecosystem services as important economic assets. They argue that the green economy must consider ecosystem sustainability in every economic policy, with the goal of protecting nature and ecosystems to ensure long-term human well-being. Overall, the green economy, according to these experts, is an economic approach that prioritizes resource efficiency, ecological sustainability, and clean energy, while ensuring human well-being by minimizing negative environmental impacts.

2.2. Concept of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development includes meeting the needs of society today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. According to the Brundtland Commission (Burton, 1987; Purba & Saragih, 2023), sustainable development is defined as a process that considers three main pillars: economy, society, and environment. This means that economic development must be balanced with environmental preservation and social justice to ensure the sustainable use of resources. Sustainable development also includes poverty alleviation, increasing access to education and healthcare, as well as reducing social and economic inequalities within society.

2.3. Civil Society Development

Civil society refers to communities or organizations that support active participation in public decision-making processes in a democratic and fair manner. In the context of sustainable development, the role of civil society is crucial to ensuring that the policies adopted benefit not only some parties but all layers of society (Margaretha, 2024). This active involvement also strengthens the bargaining power of civil society to influence environmental policies and social welfare.



An active civil society with a high level of environmental awareness plays a role in maintaining the continuity of development (Buijs et al., 2024). They act as advocates for eco-friendly policies, monitor their implementation, and educate the public about the importance of sustainable practices. This role is essential in achieving a balance between development needs and environmental preservation, especially in areas vulnerable to ecological damage. In this case, civil society helps build collective awareness to create social change toward sustainability.

2.4. The Relationship Between Green Economy and Civil Society

The green economy and civil society support each other in driving more equitable sustainable development. Green economy policies often require the support of civil society to ensure their implementation meets local needs and long-term sustainability. Civil society plays an essential role in educating the public about eco-friendly practices, such as community-based waste management or the adoption of organic farming. With strong social networks, civil society can promote the implementation of community-based green economy initiatives, which positively impact social, economic, and environmental sustainability (Adami & Schiavon, 2021). Collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society is key to the transformation toward a more inclusive and sustainable economic model.

a) **Government Policies**

Government policies play a key role in supporting the transformation to a green economy. Several programs that have been implemented include:

1. **Incentives for Renewable Energy**

The government provides incentives for the development of new energy sources, such as solar and wind power (Adami & Schiavon, 2021). This program aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and create jobs in the clean energy sector.

2. **Sustainable Forest Management**

Programs that involve local communities in forest management have enhanced welfare and maintained environmental sustainability (Klooster, 2002). By involving communities, forest sustainability can be maintained, and local communities can benefit economically from resource management.

3. **Support for Organic Agriculture**

The government encourages sustainable agricultural practices that reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers (Kusmiati et al., 2023). This program not only improves the quality of agricultural products but also protects soil health and the environment.

Although there are various supporting policies, challenges such as a lack of inter-institutional coordination and limited resources remain barriers to the implementation of these policies. It is essential for the government to periodically evaluate and adjust policies to ensure they are effective.



b) Community Participation in the Green Economy

Community involvement in green economy programs has proven to have a positive impact (Aidhi et al., 2023). For example, in some areas, communities involved in renewable energy projects, such as solar panel installations, not only gain access to clean energy but also create new jobs. Active community participation in resource management fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the environment.

c) Technological Innovation to Drive the Green Economy

Technological innovation plays an important role in improving resource efficiency.

- **Waste Processing Technology.** This technology, which utilizes waste to produce energy or other products, can reduce environmental impacts (Syahbanu & Pawestri, 2024). By utilizing waste, communities can generate new resources that hold economic value.
- **Sustainable Agriculture.** The use of smart farming technologies, such as efficient irrigation systems and soil monitoring, increases productivity without harming the environment (Halawa, 2024). By using this technology, farmers can optimize agricultural yields and reduce the risk of crop failure.

d) Social and Economic Impacts

The implementation of the green economy contributes to job creation and the improvement of community living standards. In the context of civil society, increasing community participation in the economic process not only enhances welfare but also strengthens social networks. Communities involved in the green economy tend to be more aware of the importance of the environment and strive to conserve natural resources. A tangible example of green economy implementation can be seen in the "Green Village" program in several regions in Indonesia, where communities are involved in the sustainable management of natural resources.

Green Economy Activity Programs

No	Program	Location	Activity
1	Sustainable Tourism Village	Sade Village, Central Lombok, NTB	Development of eco-tourism based on local nature and culture, with eco-friendly accommodations and tourism guide training to boost the local economy.
2	Herbal Plant and Traditional	Pagerharjo Village, Kulon Progo, Yogyakarta	Cultivation of herbal plants such as ginger, turmeric, and temulawak, which are then sold as organic products with high market value.



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	Medicine Cultivation		
3	Mangrove Forest Rehabilitation	Temajuk Village, Sambas Regency, West Kalimantan	Planting and rehabilitation of mangroves to protect the coast from abrasion, absorb carbon, and develop mangrove ecotourism.
4	Agroforestry	Pakuli Village, Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi	Integration of agriculture and forestry without damaging the forest ecosystem, where farmers plant food crops like coffee and fruits in forest areas.
5	Micro-hydro Power Plant	Koto Panjang Village, Solok Selatan Regency, West Sumatra	Utilizing river flow for renewable electricity generation without fossil fuels, providing sustainable electricity access to the village.
6	Solar Energy Use	Wae Rebo Village, Manggarai Regency, NTT	This remote village started using solar panels as its main power source, helping reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
7	Green Economy Training Center	Cibodas Village, Lembang Regency, West Java	A training center for rural communities focusing on eco-friendly practices such as organic farming, water management, and environmentally-based businesses.
8	Community-Based Waste Management	Sanankerto Village, Malang Regency, East Java	The village implements a community-based waste management system, sorting household waste to be turned into compost or recycled products.
9	Critical Land Rehabilitation	Oe Ekam Village, Timor Tengah Selatan Regency, NTT	A greening program for critical land through planting bamboo and drought-resistant plants to restore barren land and support village agriculture.
10	Organic Agriculture	Pelaga Village, Badung Regency, Bali	Farmers are taught to switch to organic farming using compost, local seeds, and reducing chemical pesticides to produce high-quality products.

The green economy transformation represents a vital strategy for achieving sustainable development within civil society. By integrating government policies, technological innovation, and active community participation, this transition offers a comprehensive solution to environmental, economic, and social challenges. Through continued collaboration, these efforts will pave the way for a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future.



Conclusion

The transformation to a green economy is a crucial strategic step for the sustainable development of civil society. In this effort, the green economy approach aims to ensure environmentally friendly economic growth and efficient resource use. With support from government policies, technological innovation, and active community participation, the green economy can create widespread positive impacts. In addition to preserving environmental sustainability, this initiative promotes social inclusion and creates new jobs, particularly in renewable energy, organic agriculture, and waste management sectors. These programs highlight the importance of synergy between the government, private sector, and civil society to strengthen the solid foundation of a green economy. Overall, these efforts are expected to create a more environmentally conscious society, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and ensure the well-being of future generations through a more sustainable environment.

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