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As global GDP and population growth have aggravated environmental problems and raised awareness of energy resource limitations, many countries have made the transition to sustainable development their main goal.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) research shows that raising the CO2 price to USD50 per tonne of carbon dioxide (/tCO2) emitted into the atmosphere and expanding the use of RESs would help reduce CO2 emissions 38% by 2030, and 70% by 2050.

Although the energy intensity of Uzbekistan"s GDP has been declining in recent years, this indicator remains much higher than that of developed countries. Average global energy intensity of GDP is currently 240kilogrammes of oil equivalent (kgoe)/USD1000. However, the energy intensity of Uzbekistan"s GDP is almost four times higher than the European Union"s and twice the world average. As a result, Uzbekistan is one of a group of countries with rather high levels of CO2 emissions per unit of GDP.

Renewable energy potential

In 2018, Uzbekistan ratified the Paris Agreement and adopted a national commitment to reduce GHG emissions per unit of GDP by 10% of the 2010 level by 2030. According to the Strategy on the Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the "Green" Economy for the Period 2019-2030, Uzbekistan aims to increase the share of RESs in total electricity generation to more than 25% by 2030. It also plans to double its energy efficiency indicator, reduce the carbon intensity of GDP, and provide the entire population and all economic sectors with access to modern, inexpensive and reliable energy.

Uzbekistan"s considerable RES potential could spur significant development of a green, environmentally friendly economy. The country"s total RES potential is 117984Mtoe, while its technical potential is 179.3Mtoe.

The bulk of this potential lies in solar energy (total potential of 51Gtoe and technical potential of 177Mtoe). In fact, solar energy"s technical potential is almost four times the country"s primary energy consumption. Its favourable climate and geographical location would allow Uzbekistan to use solar energy for a wide range of industrial purposes. Wind energy potential totals 2.2Mtoe, with 19% technical development possible.

Although total geothermal energy potential (67Gtoe) exceeds that of solar, the underdevelopment of simple

and cost-effective technologies to exploit this type of energy limits technical development to only 0.3Mtoe.

Total alternative energy sources

Uzbekistan"s total renewable energy capacity was 1844 MW in 2018, which covered about 3% of total energy consumption. On average, 10-12% of the country"s total electricity is generated from RES.

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