



GREEN ENERGY AND RATIONAL WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AS ONE OF THE FIVE PRIORITY AREAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article analyzes green energy development and the rational use of water resources as one of the five priority areas outlined in the 2026 Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In the context of global climate change, increasing water scarcity, and the transition to sustainable development models, the issues of renewable energy expansion and efficient water management have gained particular importance. The study examines the legal, institutional, and strategic foundations of state policy in the fields of green energy and water resource management, emphasizing their role in ensuring environmental security, economic stability, and social well-being. Special attention is paid to the integration of sustainable development principles into national legislation and public administration practices. The article concludes that the implementation of green energy initiatives and rational water use mechanisms is a key factor for achieving long-term sustainable development in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Green energy; renewable energy sources; water resource management; rational use of water; sustainable development; environmental security; state policy; legal regulation; public governance; Uzbekistan

Introduction

In the contemporary global context, characterized by accelerating climate change, increasing water scarcity, and the progressive depletion of conventional energy resources, states are confronted with fundamentally new legal,



institutional, and governance-related challenges. These phenomena necessitate the reconfiguration of traditional regulatory frameworks and the development of innovative legal mechanisms aimed at ensuring environmental sustainability and long-term socio-economic stability. Within this paradigm, the development of green energy and the rational management of water resources emerge not merely as economic or technological priorities, but as complex legal and regulatory issues of paramount importance.

Against this backdrop, the Republic of Uzbekistan has demonstrated a consistent commitment to the principles of sustainable development by prioritizing the integration of environmental considerations into state policy and legal regulation. Over the past decade, a significant number of strategic, normative, and programmatic documents addressing green energy development and water resource management have been adopted, largely at the direct initiative of the Head of State. This heightened institutional attention reflects a deliberate state strategy aimed at strengthening legal governance in the environmental sector and aligning national policy with international environmental standards and best practices.

By way of illustration, in December 2025, the Head of State, acting within the framework of his constitutionally defined powers and competencies, addressed the people of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Oliy Majlis with a subsequent Address concerning the most significant issues of the implementation of state domestic and foreign policy¹. This Address, as a form of constitutional and political communication, serves not only as a programmatic statement but also as a normative-guideline document shaping the priorities of legislative and executive activity².

It should be emphasized that the substantive core of the Address comprised a comprehensive program identifying six key priority directions for state development to be implemented in 2026. In particular, the fifth priority direction of this program is devoted to ensuring ecological balance and establishing a coherent legal framework for the development of “green” energy, as well as for

¹ The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://lex.uz/docs/6451070#6452832>

² Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan. <https://president.uz/en/lists/view/8834>



the rational, sustainable, and legally regulated use of water resources, thereby reinforcing the principles of environmental protection, intergenerational equity, and sustainable development enshrined in national legislation.

Why, then, do we emphasize the concept of “green” energy? Fundamentally, green energy refers to energy derived from renewable sources, including solar, wind, hydro, and other alternative energy resources. These sources are primarily utilized for energy production while adhering to the principles of environmental safety and sustainable development.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the development of green energy is being advanced through a combination of legal and institutional mechanisms. These include legislative acts supporting the use of renewable energy sources, the establishment of public-private partnership frameworks, and the adoption of normative legal documents setting ecological requirements and standards for the sector. Such mechanisms ensure that the promotion of green energy is integrated into both the legal and policy frameworks of the state.

In his Address at the end of 2025, the President of Uzbekistan recognized green energy as a key component of the country’s long-term development strategy, highlighting the dual objectives of ensuring energy security and minimizing adverse environmental impacts.

Similarly, the Address places significant emphasis on water resources. Why does the Head of State specifically highlight this issue? Water resources constitute a limited and strategically critical natural asset. Their management is governed by fundamental legal principles, including the rational and equitable use of water, the protection of water resources, and the consideration of the interests of future generations. These principles serve as the normative and institutional foundation for sustainable water governance in the country.

The Address specifically emphasizes the necessity of enhancing water use efficiency under conditions of water scarcity, implementing water-saving technologies, and improving governance within the water management sector. These imperatives, in turn, necessitate the further development of a normative-legal framework in the field of water law.

The Address illustrates that, in the context of contemporary trends in state and legal development, the Head of State seeks to maximize the use of alternative



***Modern American Journal of Business,
Economics, and Entrepreneurship***

ISSN (E): 3067-7203

Volume 2, Issue 1, January, 2026

Website: usajournals.org

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energy sources and, taking into account global climate change, to optimize water consumption in Uzbekistan's predominantly agrarian economy. Recognizing the critical dependence of agricultural production on water availability and aiming to prevent water wastage, the state actively promotes rational use of domestic water resources. This is achieved through a combination of state functions, public-private partnerships, and the provision of incentives to agricultural producers and other economic actors involved in water-intensive activities.

The following excerpt from the Address demonstrates the Head of State's role as a genuine principal reformer:

"The problem of water scarcity is becoming increasingly acute worldwide. From the very first days of our reforms, we elevated the rational use of water to the level of state policy. Recently, we adopted a major three-year program worth 5.5 billion US dollars to expand the use of water-saving technologies, modernize water infrastructure, and implement irrigation measures. Within the framework of this program, water-saving technologies will cover 61 percent, or 2.6 million hectares, resulting in an annual saving of 2.5 billion cubic meters of water and a reduction of 200,000 tons of natural gas consumption. Overall, a total of 3.3 trillion Uzbek soms will be allocated in 2026 to implement measures related to water-saving technologies."

This statement underscores the strategic, normative, and practical approach of the Uzbek state in addressing water scarcity through legal, institutional, and policy instruments, thereby reinforcing sustainable development objectives and environmental security.

The aforementioned considerations cannot be regarded as mere rhetoric. By 2025, a series of substantive legal and institutional reforms had been implemented at the local level under the direct guidance of the Head of State, through formal decrees, and by the government, aimed at regulating relations in the fields of green energy and water resource management. These reforms have established tangible, practical frameworks for policy implementation.

Among the key legal reforms, the following instruments can be highlighted:

- The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2019, "On Approving the Strategy for Transition to a Green Economy in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019–2030";



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- The 2022 Program “On Ensuring Transition to a Green Economy and Green Growth in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030”;
 - The Decree of the President, 2019, “On Measures to Expand Mechanisms for Promoting the Introduction of Water-Saving Technologies in Agriculture”;
 - The Decree, 2019, “On Measures to Accelerate the Implementation of Water-Saving Technologies in Agriculture”;
 - The Decree, 2022, “On Measures to Further Improve the Implementation of Water-Saving Technologies in Agriculture.”

A major reform in 2025 was the adoption of the **Water Code**, a unified, systematized legal instrument regulating relations concerning water, water bodies, hydraulic facilities, and water fund lands. This Code provides a comprehensive legal framework for the rational use and protection of water resources, thereby constituting a cornerstone of water governance and reflecting the state’s strategic commitment to sustainable management of its hydrological assets³.

Indeed, at present, green energy and water resources are intrinsically interconnected, necessitating a comprehensive and integrated legal approach to their regulation. For example, hydropower is directly dependent on the use of water resources, whereas solar and wind energy contribute to reducing the pressure on water consumption. Accordingly, the state policy emphasizes the coordinated development of these two sectors as a strategic imperative.

Global challenges, including climate change, water scarcity, and energy security, impose new demands on contemporary legal systems. In this context, the legal regulation of green energy and water resource management constitutes a critical component in ensuring sustainable development.

In recent years, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been formulating a comprehensive state policy aimed at environmental security, the introduction of renewable energy sources, and the efficient use of water resources. In particular, the Address delivered by the President to the Oliy Majlis at the end of 2025 identified these areas as strategic priority directions for the country’s development.

³ Water Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/7658590>



In conclusion, the legal regulation of green energy and water resource utilization occupies a pivotal place in Uzbekistan's sustainable development strategy. The priority areas outlined in the President's 2025 Address underscore the need to deepen legal reforms in these sectors. The development of effective normative and legal mechanisms in this domain serves to ensure environmental security and safeguard national interests, thereby reinforcing the state's long-term commitment to sustainability and responsible governance.

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