Assessment of the North-West regions development in the concept of green economy context

Galina T. Shkiperova, Cand. of Sci. (Econ.), Associate Professor
e-mail: *shkiperova@mail.ru*

Anna E. Kurilo, Dr. of Sci. (Econ.), Associate Professor
e-mail: *akurilo@mail.ru*

Abstract

Subject/topic. The article examines the features of the ecological and economic development of the regions of the North-West Federal District from the standpoint of the concept of green economy. The possibility of using the model of green growth to assess the development of a green economy is considered. ***Goals/Objectives.*** The aim of the work is to analyze the changes in the ecological intensity of the economic development of the regions and assess the impact of the frontier factor on them. ***Methodology.*** We used the methods of statistical and comparative analysis. The study of changes in the vector of development of the economy was carried out on the basis of P. Victor's green growth model, which makes it possible to comprehensively evaluate the change in economic indicators in comparison with a specific environmental load in a time and spatial context. As an information base, data from Federal State Statistics Service and State reports on the state and protection of the environment of the Russian Federation were used. ***Results.*** Based on calculations of the cost and natural indicators of eco-intensity of economic development, it was shown that the intensity of environmental pollution in the regions of the North-West is significantly higher than the average Russian level. The economic development vector for most regions of the district mainly corresponds to the zone of «brown» or «black» growth. The shift of the vector of economic development towards green growth is more pronounced in the border regions of the district. The most significant influence of the frontier factor is in assessing the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions, which may well be explained by the influence of international environmental standards that apply to greenhouse gases. ***Conclusions/Relevance.*** In modern conditions, the transition to a green economy for most regions of Russia is more desirable than a real direction of development. This is due to the need to increase of economic growth rate, which, in fact, is the only source of investment needed for green modernization. A key factor in the successful implementation of the prospects for green growth is targeted government stimulation of the greening of the economy and the transition to the best available technologies. ***Application.*** The obtained results can be used as an information and analytical base in the development of economic and environmental policy of the regions.

Keywords: *«green» economy, «green» growth, North-West Federal District, border region*

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About authors

Galina T. Shkiperova, Cand. of Sci. (Econ.), Associate Professor, Senior Researcher, Institute of Economics of the Karelian Research Centre of RAS, Petrozavodsk.

Anna E. Kurilo, Dr. of Sci. (Econ.), Associate Professor, Leading Researcher, Institute of Economics, Karelian Research Centre of RAS, Petrozavodsk.

For citation

Shkiperova G.T., Kurilo A.E. Assessment of the North-West regions development in the concept of green economy context. - 2019. - № 3. - Pp. 5-13 (In Russian).

DOI: https://doi.org/10.33051/2500-2325-2019-3-05-13