

Transition to the Green Economy

Rural Development policy has a key role to play in supporting the transition to the green economy – one that sees economic growth in harmony with social and environmental sustainability. Find out more by reading [EU Rural Review 23](#) [1].

Definition of the 'Green Economy'

“An economy that results in improved human well-being and reduced inequalities over the long term, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities.”

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) can support **low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially equitable investments** in rural areas as well as **sustainable management of natural resources** in a wide range of economic sectors.

Achieving the full scale of the potential transition to the green economy will mean adoption of current good practice on a much greater scale than is currently the case within the EU-28 and new ways of thinking and working across territories. **Cooperation, innovation, rural entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer** must be encouraged and supported.

Planning how to **combine RDP Measures in packages to support integrated schemes** to deliver particular outcomes will be important, as will the use of Financial Instruments, particularly looking at how these might support **small-scale investments at local level**.

[Main reports](#)

- [Final Report of the Thematic Group on 'Promoting the transition to the Green Economy'](#) [2]
- [Factsheet on 'Promoting the transition to the Green Economy'](#) [3]
- [Thematic Group background and scoping paper](#) [4]

[Publications](#)

EAFRD Projects Brochure on '[Transition to Greener Rural Economies](#) [5]'

EU Rural Review 23 on '[Green Economy - Opportunities for Rural Europe](#) [6]'

[Events](#)

- [European Seminar 'Promoting the Transition to the Green Economy'](#) [7] (1 July 2016) – see [Seminar highlights](#) [8]
- [1st TG meeting](#) [9] (16 December 2015) – see [meeting highlights](#) [10]
- [2nd TG meeting](#) [11] (5 April 2016) – see [meeting highlights](#) [12]
- [3rd TG meeting](#) [13] (17 May 2016) – see [meeting highlights](#) [14]

Browse through all events under the broader topic '[Greening the Rural Economy](#) [15]'.

[Case studies](#)

- [Programming for the Green Economy in Emilia-Romagna, Italy](#) [16]
- [Programming for the Green Economy in Finland](#) [17]
- [Programming for the Green Economy in Ireland](#) [18]
- [Programming for the Green Economy in Lower Saxony and Bremen, Germany](#) [19]
- [Programming for the Green Economy in Wales, the UK](#) [20]

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https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/greening-rural-economy/transition-green-economy_en?2nd-language=hu

Links

[1] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/publications/eu-rural-review_en

[2] http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg-ge_final-report.pdf

[3] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/s2_ge_twg-factsheet_0.pdf

[4] http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg-ge_background-paper.pdf

[5] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/publications/eafrd-projects-brochure-transition-greener-rural-economies_en

[6] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/publications/eu-rural-review-23-green-economy-opportunities-rural-europe_en

[7] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/enrd-seminar-promoting-transition-green-economy_en

[8] http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/s2_ge_finalreport.pdf

[9]

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/1st-meeting-thematic-group-tg-promoting-transition-green-economy_en

[10] http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg1-ge_final-report.pdf

[11]

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/2nd-meeting-thematic-group-tg-promoting-transition-green-economy_en

[12] http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg2_ge_report_0.pdf

[13]

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/3rd-meeting-thematic-group-tg-promoting-transition-green-economy_en

[14] http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg3_ge_report.pdf

[15] <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/past/greening-the-rural-economy>

[16] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/case-study_green-economy_emilia-romagna.pdf

[17] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/case-study_green-economy_finland.pdf

[18] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/case-study_green-economy_ireland.pdf

- [19] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/case-study_green-economy_saxony-bremen.pdf
- [20] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/case-study_green-economy_wales.pdf