

Green Economy: Opportunities for Jobs, Growth and Innovation in Europe

EPA Network event in Brussels, 5 June 2015.

At this conference, the EPA Network – an informal network of heads of Environmental Protection Agencies from across Europe – aims to illustrate the various benefits a green economy provides – for business, the environment and society as a whole. It is the only sensible pathway for Europe if it wants to foster jobs, economic growth, investment and competitiveness while preserving the environment. The constraints by limited resources and the climate crisis have been well-documented and lead to the adoption of the EU’s 7th Environment Action Programme ‘Living well, within the limits of our planet’.

During the morning session, we will discuss the challenges ahead with decision-makers in policy and business. We will take a closer look at real-life examples for developing a greener economy, and discuss their political implications. In the afternoon, green economy experts will speak on how to provide targeted and robust information for political decision-making.

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| 08:30-09:00 | Registration and coffee | |
| Green Economy: Opportunities for Growth, Jobs and Innovation in Europe | | |
| 09:00-09:15 | Welcome, setting the scene | Laura Burke, Director General, Environmental Protection Agency Ireland, EPA Network |
| <i>Why do we need a Green Economy? The global context</i> | | |
| 09:15-09:35 | The global aspect. How a green economy can contribute to global sustainable development. | Marianne Fay, Chief Economist, World Bank |
| 09:35-09:55 | Keep the EU competitive in the long run. | Paul Ekins, Director of the University College London Institute for Sustainable Resources |
| <i>Green Economy in the European Union – where do we go from here?</i> | | |
| 09:55-10:15 | What role will the green economy concept play in the European Commission’s agenda for jobs, growth and innovation? | Gwenole Cozigou, Director, DG GROW, European Commission |
| 10:15-10:35 | Green economy in the 7 th Environment Action Programme | Karl Falkenberg, Director General, DG Environment, European Commission (tbc) |
| 10:35-11:15 | Panel Discussion | Marianne Fay, Paul Ekins, Gwenole Cozigou, Karl Falkenberg (tbc); moderator: Georg Rebernick, Managing Director Austrian Environment Protection Agency |
| 11:15-11:45 | Coffee | |
| <i>Glimpses of real-life examples of a Green Economy: what are the impacts, what is the potential of a Green Economy to create jobs, innovation and welfare?</i> | | |
| 11:45-12:10 | Example 1: Creating industries with future potential in a traditionally industrialised country. | Emyr Roberts, Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales, in dialogue with Guy Piers, Director Onshore Wind Development, Vattenfall UK |
| 12:10-12:35 | Example 2: A growing Green Economy sector. | Fokko Wientjes, Vice-President, Royal DSM, in dialogue with Sarah Nelen, member of the cabinet of the EU Commission’s First Vice President |

| Conclusions | | |
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| 12:35–13:05 | Conclusions from the morning session | Sarah Nelen; Fokko Wientjes; Stefano Laporta, Director General, Italian Institute for Environment Protection; Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency |
| 13:05–13:15 | Closing of the morning session | Maarten Hajer |

The morning session will be chaired by Maarten Hajer, Director-General of PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.

13:15–14:00 lunch

| Best practices, opportunities and challenges for a Green Economy – lessons learnt and the way ahead | | |
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| 14:00–14:10 | Welcoming words and aims of the session | Per Mickwitz, Finnish Environment Institute |
| Best practices from European countries | | |
| 14:10–14:30 | Shift to a green/circular economy to support the ‘Green Growth’ agenda in Scotland | Allan Reid, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, UK |
| 14:30–14:50 | Green Economy contributing to economic development in countries of crisis | Kristín L. Árnadóttir, Environment Agency of Iceland |
| 14:50–15:10 | Learning from comparative case studies – selected Green Economy cases from Finland, France, the Netherlands and Germany | Riina Antikainen, Finnish Environment Institute |
| 15:10–15:30 | Lessons learnt from green growth indicator development in Slovakia. | Martin Darmo, Ministry of Environment, Slovakia |
| World café – lessons learnt and the way ahead | | |
| 15:30–15:45 | Introduction to group work, moving to the other room followed by a short break | Per Mickwitz and Riina Antikainen, Finnish Environment Institute |
| 15:45–16:30 | How can the EPAs support the development of a Green Economy? Topics under discussion: 1) Data and indicators 2) Good practice examples on national and regional levels 3) Success stories of new business models (technological and social innovations) 4) Learning from comparative case studies | World cafe facilitated by EPA GE IG members |
| 16:30–17:00 | Closing the afternoon session, suggestions for next steps and future work | Per Mickwitz and group work facilitators |

The afternoon session will be facilitated by Per Mickwitz, Research Director at the Finnish Environment Institute.