

Prospects of Implementing Green Economy Policies for Sustainable Development in Bekasi Regency

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ABSTRACT

The issue of sustainable development arises along with various environmental impacts due to irresponsible industrial and economic activities, such as river pollution, global warming and emission gaps. Bekasi Regency is a buffer zone for the capital city of Jakarta and is included in the Greater Jakarta area. Initially, Bekasi Regency was a rural and rice-producing area, but with massive development and industrialization, Bekasi Regency experienced a shift in land use. Another situation is the damage to the quality of groundwater, rivers and air due to factory waste. The objective of this research is to describe and analyze the prospect of implementing a green economy in Bekasi Regency so that environmental-based development recommendations can be produced

INTRODUCTION

The issue of sustainable development arises along with various environmental impacts due to irresponsible industrial and economic activities, such as river pollution, global warming and emission gaps. Bekasi Regency is a buffer zone for the capital city of Jakarta and is included in the Greater Jakarta area. Initially, Bekasi Regency was a rural and rice-producing area, but with massive development and industrialization, Bekasi Regency experienced a shift in land use. Another situation is the damage to the quality of groundwater, rivers and air due to factory waste.

The objective of this research is to describe and analyze the prospect of implementing a green economy in Bekasi Regency so that environmental-based development recommendations can be produced, including analyzing the existing supporting factors. This qualitative descriptive study uses a literature exploration method that presents theories related to the green economy and its implementation, the conceptual model used is the Global Green Economy Index (GGEI) Model with four main dimensions assessed, namely: Leadership & Climate Change, Sector Efficiency, Market & Investment and the last Environment & Natural Capital.

The conclusion is that with a unique regional typology, the Green Economy concept should be implemented in Bekasi Regency. Green Economy is a sustainable development issue that has emerged along with various environmental impacts due to irresponsible industry and economic activities, such as river pollution, global warming and emission gaps. Even a study report from the Journal of Science of Total Environment in January 2021 said that pandemic diseases that had a global impact, including the Covid-19 Virus, were supported by climate change.

The United Nations through one of its bodies namely UNEP defines the Green Economy as a system that results in increased human well-being and social equality, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcity; low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. Meanwhile, the Ministry of National Development Planning stated that the green economy is a new economic order that uses less energy and natural resources. It can be concluded that the green economy places the environmental element as an important part of economic activity, not to exploit it, but to make it an important element for sustainable development.

Since 2007, the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development has focused on sustainable development issues in three policy areas, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection. UN member states have also been encouraged to implement green economy a year later (2008) through the Green Economy Initiatives (GEI) program.

Bekasi Regency is a buffer zone for the capital city of Jakarta and is included in the Greater Jakarta area. Initially, Bekasi Regency was a rural and rice-producing area as well as neighboring areas, namely Karawang, Subang and Purwakarta Regencies. However, with the massive development and industrialization, Bekasi Regency has experienced a demographic shift.

Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (2015) there are 1,170 companies located in Bekasi Regency, the highest in West Java Province. This number continues to increase until it reaches 2,503 (2017) with an investment value of 22 trillion Rupiah.

Moreover, Bekasi Regency is one of 15 special Industrial Areas in Indonesia. Where large-scale companies are mostly located in seven Cikarang industrial clusters, namely Jababeka, Lippo Cikarang, MM 2100, Bekasi Industrial International Estate, EJIP, Delta Mas and Bekasi Fajar Industrial Estate, and spread over 5 sub-districts in Cikarang. (Yudistira et.al. 2011) Apart from Cikarang, many industrial areas are located in the Tambun & Cibitung areas.

With more and more industries choosing Bekasi Regency as their factory location, the demographic and land use changes have shifted to semi-urban areas, especially in the industrial area. This is marked by the shift in utilization from agriculture to housing (boarding services). In other words, Bekasi Regency has shifted from a rural to a suburban type. Suburbanization of an area is closely related to the urbanization process itself, where it is considered a post-urbanization stage and is characterized by a large number of population movements to peri-urban areas due to overcrowding and environmental degradation in urban centers (Hudalah et.al, 2012).

Another situation is the damage to the quality of groundwater, rivers and air due to factory waste. Based on statistical data on the potential of villages in West Java Province, there are 7 cases of water pollution due to factories (2011) in Bekasi Regency. These industrial centers have rural and urban characteristics, blending together so that they are categorized as: rural-urban. This is where the process of expansion and sub-urbanization occurs, and often if there is no government regulatory supervision there will be overlapping land use uses (McGee et.al, 2016). Agricultural land is the most common conversion target due to the massive industrialization development in rural-urban areas.(Hudalah et.al, 2012) Of course, if this is not regulated in government regulations, it will threaten the sustainability of its development.

The spirit of a green economy that does not only focus on the exploitation of the environment and natural resources needs to be applied, where economic practices that are only concerned with short-term profits have left various problems, can be replaced with low-carbon economic activities. (Pearce et.al, 1992),The objective of this research is to describe and analyze the prospect of

implementing a green economy in Bekasi Regency so that environmental-based development recommendations can be produced, including analyzing the existing supporting factors.

METHODOLOGY

This qualitative descriptive study uses a literature exploration method that presents theories related to the green economy and its implementation, especially its application in Bekasi Regency, West Java Province. However, this research still has limitations related to location data and policies related to green economy at the locus. The qualitative analysis used the Miles and Huberman model.

The conceptual model used is the Global Green Economy Index (GGEI) Model. This model is a platform for policy makers, international organizations, the private sector and the public in analyzing the extent to which a country's success in directing its economy towards growth that is pro-green economy. Broadly speaking, there are four main dimensions to be assessed, namely: Leadership & Climate Change, Efficiency Sector, Markets & Investment and the last one is Environment & Natural Capital.

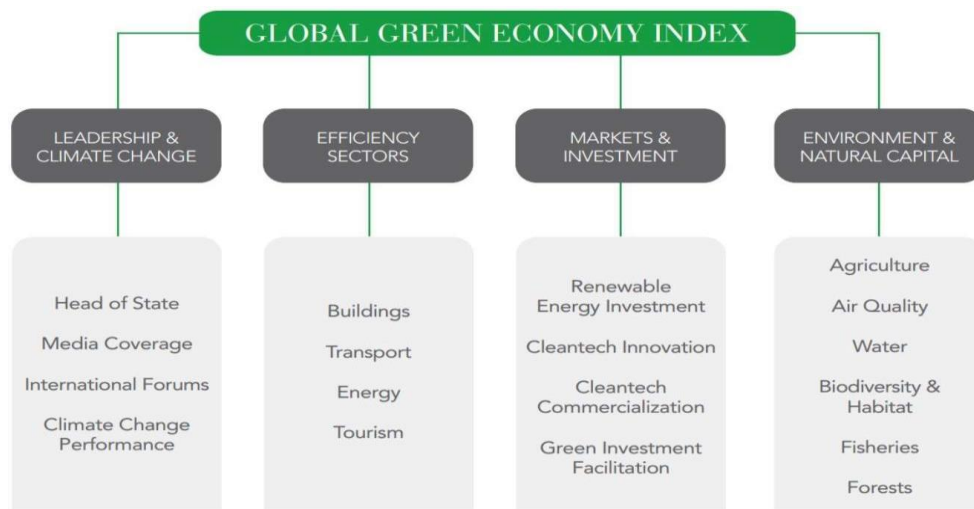


Figure 1. Global Green Economy Index
Source: Dual Citizen LLC

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The growth rate of the Bekasi Regency Gross Regional Domestic Product for the last 7 (seven) years has shown fluctuations, but the trend of the GRDP growth rate in general shows a declining trend. A signal that the growth is not so good.

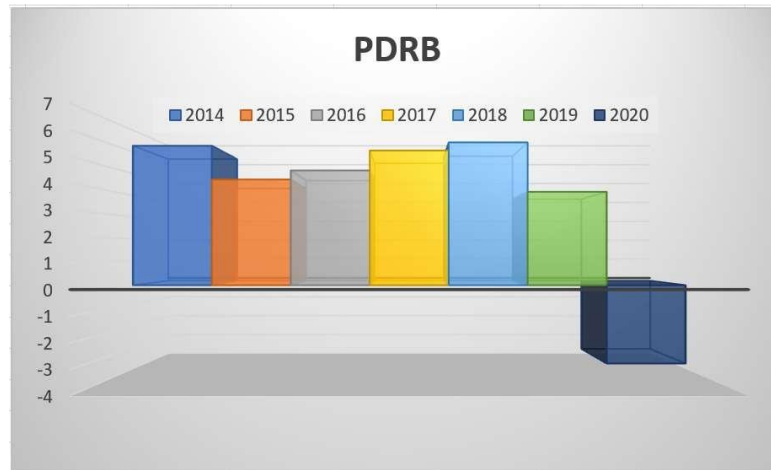


Figure 2. Bekasi Regency Gross Regional Domestic Product Rate by Business Field (%) 2014 - 2020

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Bekasi Regency (processed)

Based on research by Rosana et.al (2019), there are four economic sectors that have a comparative advantage, and are the main drivers of the Bekasi Regency economy, namely: Manufacturing Sector, Construction Sector, Electricity and Gas Procurement Sector and Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Sector.

It is interesting to analyze that according to the research results of Kurnia et.al (2020) Bekasi Regency is experiencing suburbanization, namely the expansion of Metropolitan Jakarta, industrialization and the process of shifting settlements and industry towards hinterland. So that the typology of Bekasi Regency is divided into Rural (rural), Urban (city) and one more type that has both urban and rural characteristics, namely Rural-urban. This is reflected in the sectors driving the economy, which are Industry, Construction but also agriculture.

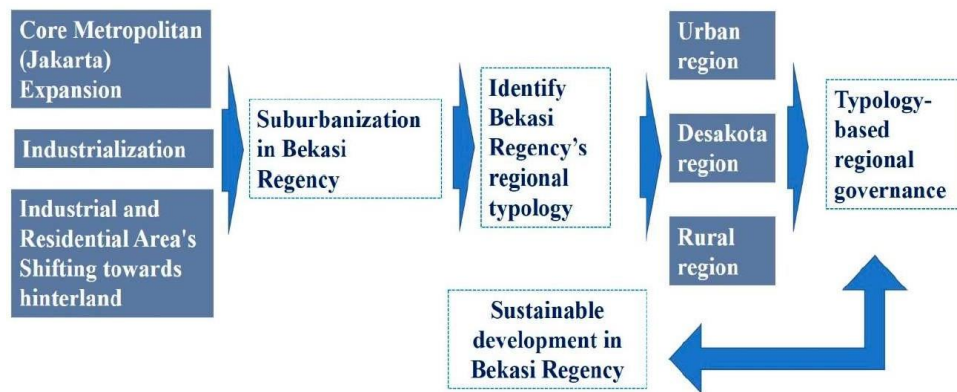


Figure 3. Typology of Bekasi Regency

By looking at the unique regional typology above, the Green Economy concept should be started in Bekasi Regency. Considering that rural areas are certain to be affected by the vortex of industrialization, which if not regulated, will threaten their sustainability, especially as agricultural producers and providers of clean water sources.

By using the principles put forward by the Global Green Economy Index (GGEI), there are four major dimensions and their sub-dimensions that can be done to apply the Green Economy concept in Bekasi Regency.

1.1 Leadership & Climate Change

The first dimension relates to regional stakeholders. Regional leaders, in this case the Regent, the Regional Head and his staff, have a major role to play in grounding the concept of a green economy in their region, namely how the region is oriented towards green investment (environmentally friendly) without neglecting economic growth. In addition, how does the mainstream media report various topics related to the green economy. Through national or even international forums, regional representatives can promote regional commitments to apply green economy principles. Climate change in question is the existence of supervision and regulation related to the content of air quality in industrial zones and surrounding settlements (urban and rural-urban areas).

1.2 Efficiency Sector

The performance of the efficiency sector in question is how the regions can begin to transfer resources more efficiently, namely the reduction of the effect of greenhouse emissions, starting from environmentally friendly factory and office buildings, transportation, and the use of renewable energy. In addition, tourism that does not sacrifice the environment must also get attention.

1.3 Markets & Investment

The shift towards a green economy requires investment from both the government and the private sector. Which includes the issue of Renewable Energy, which is related to Macroeconomic Accelerators such as macroeconomic

stability, investment climate and ease of applying for business permits. Several other sub-dimensions include clean technology innovation, clean technology commercialization and green investment facilities.

1.4 Environment & Natural Capital

Local governments must emphasize the maintenance of the Environmental Performance Index in environmental management and natural capital of an area, which includes 6 sub categories namely Agriculture/Agriculture, Air Quality, Water Quality, Biodiversity & Habitat, Fisheries and Forestry.

CONCLUSION

Environmental preservation is the main goal of implementing a green economy. This concept has advantages for the economic sector but without compromising environmental quality. In Bekasi Regency the concept of a green economy has not been implemented, although it has been widely discussed. With a unique regional typology, the Green Economy concept should be implemented in Bekasi Regency.

The economic growth of Bekasi Regency which emphasizes industry causes many problems that affect the quality of the environment, natural resources, pollution and environmental damage. For this reason, the implementation of a green economy through the Global Green Economy Index (GGEI) scheme can be a first and urgent step, to be implemented gradually. Thus, it is hoped that Bekasi Regency as a buffer for the capital can improve its economic growth while maintaining its sustainability, especially as an agricultural producer and provider of clean water sources.

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