

Barcelona Declaration

Spanish Green Growth Group



The Spanish Green Growth Group comprises a group of companies in Spain which aim to convey to society and government their vision of an economic growth model that is compatible with the efficient use of natural resources.

Social and environmental sustainability is essential to ensure the economic sustainability of business, and it is something that our stakeholders—shareholders, clients and suppliers—are demanding. We understand that the response to this demand must be shared with other players, particularly with government.

This approach inspires us to define a Green Growth model for Spain, and identify our country's potential and the necessary conditions for it to be realised. A model which is compatible with the ultimate goal of economic growth and job creation.

Green Growth is linked to those economic activities which help preserve the quality of our environment, primarily through the efficient use of resources.

Efficient use means working together to protect biodiversity, the quality of air, soil and water and, of course, reduce greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change,

In 2015, the debate on climate change at a national and international level makes us keenly aware of the need to publicly position ourselves and to implement initiatives in our companies to analyse the climate footprint and adopt abatement and offsetting measures. Working together to achieve emission reduction targets must be perceived as a task shared by citizens, companies, and also the public administrations.

The goal is to respond to the challenge of sustainable development, a concept which is currently the subject of discussion in many international forums, inspiring policies in developed and emerging countries. It is a concern that will lead to demand for new goods and services, in which public-private partnerships will be essential. The world must evolve towards a low carbon economy. In view of this challenge, the economies that lead the transformation will be the first to leverage the opportunities that green growth is already beginning to provide. Spain's business sector has an enormous opportunity to position itself and to lead the change in the growth model, in Spain and around the world.

SPAIN TODAY AND TOMORROW

As economies develop, services gain steadily in importance with respect to the production of goods, as observed in Spain in the last few decades. Tourism, infrastructure development and management, energy supply, waste management, financial services, and telecommunications, among others, become increasingly important, and are strengths recognized at international level, coexisting with the great potential of our industrial sectors, such as automobiles, textiles and agri-food. Following the difficulties of the last few years, we believe that the low-carbon economy will be an effective method for mitigating vulnerabilities in both services and industry and for strengthening our business fabric.

We have identified many positive elements in our current economic positioning. One of the basic approaches must be to promote our best capacities to drive global leadership, especially in connection with the framework of the green or low-carbon economy, and respond to the demands of the future, in and outside Spain.

Along these lines, we highlight the potential of renewable energies and sustainable generation technologies; tourism, where excellence means quality, and Spain ranks second in the world in biosphere reserves with exceptional biological diversity; massive use of

information and communication technologies, which is changing the way we live and is already providing more eco-efficient solutions, such as Smart Cities; the capacity to manage and develop water, energy and waste infrastructure, which is the main response required by the global population's growing urban concentration; organic agriculture, in which we are already the leading producer in Europe... and many other examples which place us at a perfect starting point.

However, to be able to convert this potential into growth and jobs, a shared commitment is needed to create specific conditions. Along these lines, we propose the following **recommendations**:

1. Recognise the green economy as a source of economic growth and prosperity

The green economy is and will be a central element of economic growth, and not merely a complementary or aesthetic aspect. As prices gradually factor in negative environmental externalities, the green economy will increasingly make sense.



The Spanish economy has notable strengths which make green growth an opportunity. However, the cooperation of government at all levels is required, as is a commitment by civil society.

2. Approve policies which strengthen the green option

The concepts of low-carbon economy and Green Growth must be integrated transversally into all economic policies, contributing to enhancing their efficiency. When talking of building refurbishment, sustainable mobility, decarbonising energy, a circular economy approach to waste management, and many other issues, it's necessary to define public policies which promote this development in all areas.

3. Establish a regulatory framework which is stable, predictable and transparent

Promoting the green economy requires that the commitment be included in stable, predictable and transparent sector regulations as a special condition for mobilising the necessary private capital.

4. Eliminate red tape and ensure institutional coordination

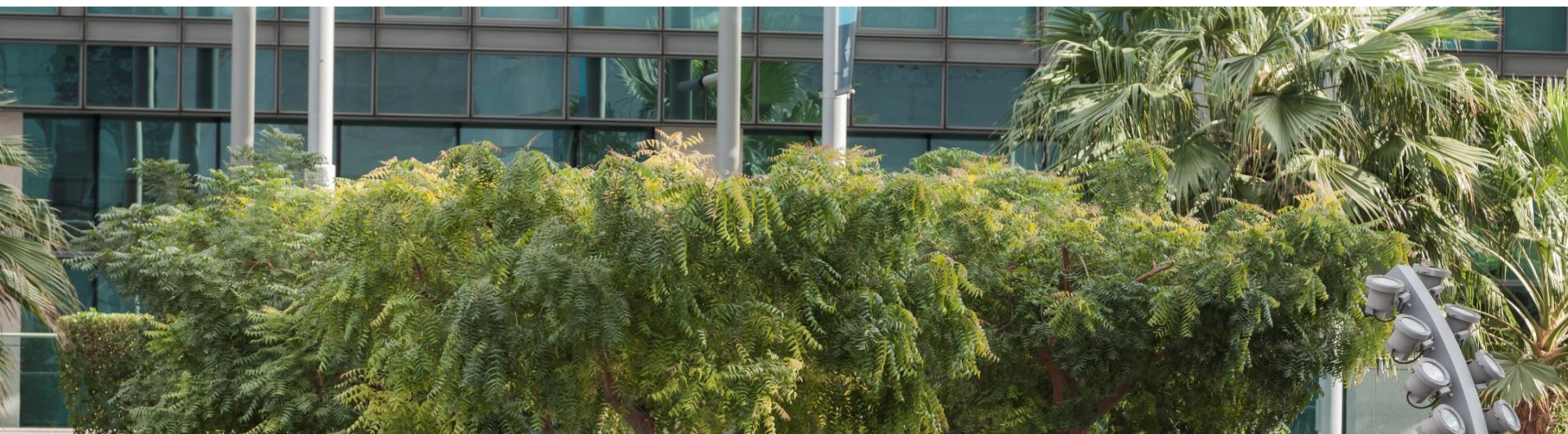
Administrative paperwork should be reduced as much as possible and better coordination between the various levels of the Administration is required, at national and European Union level, to align objectives and instruments. A disparity of legislation may lead to legal uncertainty that hampers investment in these areas.

5. Promote research, innovation and technology as drivers of growth

Knowledge and technology are key sectors for economic growth. The creation of knowledge and its use to conceive new and improved products, processes and services to compete in the global markets is a source of wealth and prosperity for the Spanish economy.

6. Promote information and awareness-raising

Citizens must be seen as the protagonists of any green growth strategy. In this regard, transparency, traceability and reliable product information (e.g. labelling) will be essential for the success of Spain's green economy.



7. Develop funding capabilities and eliminate barriers

Financial market trends in connection with the green economy must be leveraged and the barriers to competitive access to funding must be mitigated. The financial sector has a key role to play in the transition to a low-carbon economy. In order to ensure that sufficient funds are available at an affordable cost, it is vital to minimise the funding risk associated with the investments, which are generally sizeable and long term. Accordingly, public-private partnerships are essential.

8. Advance towards a low-carbon economy with the contribution of all sectors

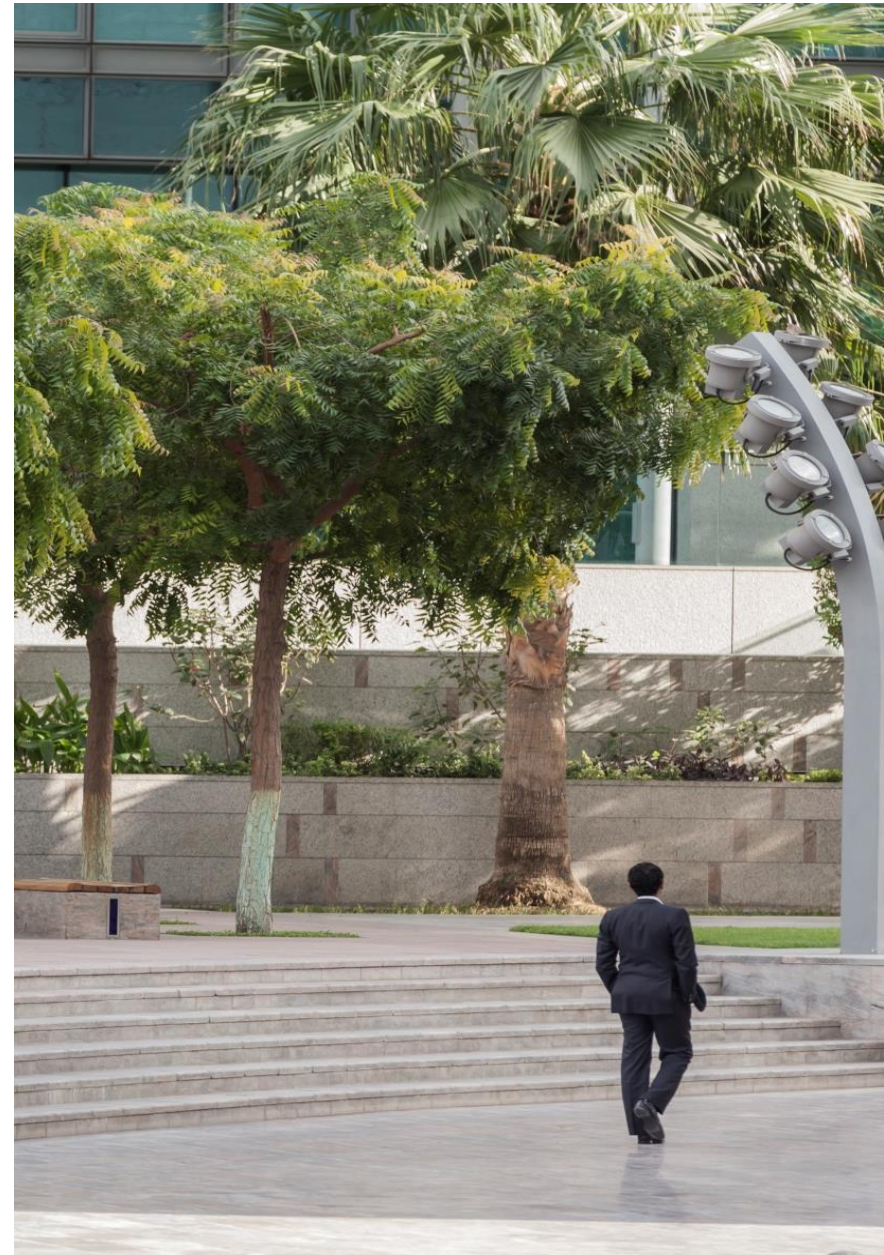
The energy sector will play a decisive role in decarbonising the economy, in the framework of a model where not only the energy mix but also more efficient consumption of resources play a key role. However, the energy sector alone cannot achieve those objectives; areas such as transportation and building, and information and communication technology solutions, among others, will make a decisive contribution and offer new opportunities.

9. Incentivise public-private partnerships

Solutions for major environmental problems require closer cooperation between the public and private sectors. Creating a stable, transparent environment with legal certainty will be vital for the leveraging the opportunities of the low-emission green economy.

10. Revise taxation so that it supports green growth

Taxation is an essential tool for supporting the chosen growth model. It would be advisable to revise our tax model so as to promote sustainable consumption and a low-carbon economy.



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amadeus

BBVA

Santander

ECOALF
UPCYCLING WORLDWIDE

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ENERGÍA & CELULOSA

endesa

factorverde
promoción e innovación en bioenergía

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