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Green Economy

The green economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. Green economy is an economy or economic development model based on sustainable development and knowledge of ecological economics.

Green economy includes green energy generation based on renewable energy to substitute for fossil fuels and energy conservation for efficient energy use. Capitalist modes of production never operate according to the reproductive needs of humans and nature, which in fact pose limits to the process of production. The advocates of a Green Economy promise the reconciliation of economics, ecology and society.

Today the technological base of a Green Economy is much more developed. In the capitalist centers the Green Economy is hailed as a solution to the deep-rooted (economic and financial) crises. The Green Economy appears most palatable precisely due to the “constructive force of the crisis”. With the aid of the Green Economy the driving forces for social and ecological disastrous capitalism are not called into question; on the contrary, they are to be used for a green conversion.

The strict decoupling of economic growth and environmental destruction is not possible under capitalism. The Green Economy is masking exploitation and power relations. Decoupling of capitalist economic growth and environmental destruction are possible through technological and social innovations.

Within the Green Economy there is no room for a class, gender and ethnic perspective or general questions concerning (re)production and the global division of labor. The Green Economy rests on a fallacious assumption when reducing the social question to a generation of so called green jobs that will not produce social justice. The first command of capitalist production is maximizing profits by increasing production of goods and services. Products, even so called “green” ones, require natural resources like rare-earths or agricultural goods which are mostly visible in the case of agrofuels. Mining under the rule of international corporations leads to countless evictions and massive environmental degradation.

By cultivating commodities for agrofuels the local food production has to give the way to the mobility needs of the global middle and upper classes. Instead of counteracting social disparities, racist, class- and gender-specific oppression, the strategies of the Green Economy amplify such tendencies.

Everyone can join the "green" movement and it does not involve radical changes; it is enough to use the same plastic bags more than once, collect and turn in the same glass, paper and metal recycled.