

Development Status and Path of Low-carbon Economy in Minority Areas

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Abstract: Ethnic minority areas have the objective need and great potential to develop low-carbon economy. This paper, on the basis of defining the relevant basic concepts, analyzes the objective necessity of developing low carbon economy in ethnic areas, combined with the actual situation of ethnic areas, advocate the new concept of low carbon life, optimizing the industrial structure, transform the specific ideas and paths of low carbon economy development in ethnic areas, and puts forward specific countermeasures and suggestions. Ensure the development of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas.

Keywords: Ethnic areas; Low carbon economy; Development status; Countermeasures and suggestions

Global warming is the biggest environmental challenge facing mankind in the 21st century, which makes people have to rethink the current social and economic development mode to explore the future development road. In 2003, the UK was the first to release the Energy white paper “China’s Energy Future - Creating a Low carbon economy”, which marked the goal of energy conservation and emission reduction, the development of low carbon economy has become the leading direction to deal with global climate change. The energy consumption per unit GDP and industrial added value are high, and the resource utilization efficiency is low, which has seriously restricted the sustainable development of the economy in the minority areas. The development of low-carbon economy can effectively solve the current situation of high energy consumption and high carbon emissions in minority areas, is an effective way and rational choice to reduce environmental pollution and change the extensive economic development mode and industrial development mode, and is also a concrete embodiment of responding to climate change and responding to the national call for energy conservation and emission reduction. Therefore, it is urgent to study the ideas and countermeasures to accelerate the development of low-carbon economy in underdeveloped areas, which has great practical significance.

1. Ethnic minority areas and low-carbon economic development

1.1 Definition of regional scope and the concept of low-carbon economy

Ethnic minority areas mainly refer to the marginal provinces of China, ethnic minority autonomous regions (Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang, Tibet, Guangxi and Ningxia), as well as some ethnic minority provinces, mainly Qinghai, Yunnan and Guizhou. Therefore, the ethnic minority areas in this paper mainly refer to the regional scope of the above eight provinces (autonomous regions). As for the definition of the concept of low carbon economy, the academic circle has not reached a unified understanding, but the low carbon economy is a social and economic development model aimed at low energy consumption, low pollution and low emission. In addition to the above meanings, the concept of low-carbon economy in this paper also includes the change of people’s life style, living habits and consumption concept to low-carbon economy.

1.2 Objective necessity of developing low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas

1.2.1 Compared with the national average level, the energy consumption of ten thousand yuan of GDP in ethnic minority areas is high

In 2008, the average level of comprehensive energy consumption per 10,000 yuan GDP in ethnic areas was 2.33 tons of standard coal, while the average level of comprehensive energy consumption per 10,000 yuan GDP was 1.10 tons of standard coal. It is 1.23 tons of standard coal higher than the national average. In other words, every one ton of standard coal consumed in ethnic minority areas can only create 4,291.85 yuan of GDP. Compared with the national 9,090.91 yuan to 4,799.06 yuan less. That is, the consumption of

one ton of standard coal is less than half of the national GDP. Therefore, the energy consumption of 10,000 yuan of GDP in ethnic minority areas is quite high, and the energy utilization efficiency is far lower than the national average level.

1.2.2 The energy ratio of industrial consumption is significant, and the energy efficiency is low.

In 2008, the average industrial energy consumption in ethnic minority areas was 55,630,500 tons of standard coal, accounting for the total energy consumption. The average level is 73.10 percent, which is much higher than the level of 30 percent to 40 percent in developed countries. In 2008, the average level of energy consumption per ten thousand yuan of industrial added value in ethnic minority areas was 3.97 tons of standard coal. This is 81.74% higher than the energy consumption of 2.19 tons per 10,000 yuan of industrial added value of standard coal. therefore. In ethnic minority areas, the industrial energy consumption accounts for a large proportion, and the energy utilization efficiency is low. High energy efficiency is imminent.

1.2.3 Unreasonable industrial structure is the main reason for the high unit energy consumption in ethnic minority areas.

The industrial structure of ethnic minority areas shows the characteristics of 2,3,1, and the average proportion of industry in GDP is 41.3%. The higher the output of the higher energy-consuming sector in GDP. The higher the overall energy consumption level is. Chemical and non-metal products, metal smelting and power sectors, which have high energy consumption in ethnic areas, the average GDP accounted for 49.76% of GDP, but the industrial added value accounted for only 15.34%, while the average level of energy consumption in the above industrial sectors reached 54.600/0. Therefore, the unreasonable industrial structure and the high proportion of industrial sectors with high energy consumption are the main reasons for the high energy consumption per unit of GDP in ethnic minority areas.^[1]

2. Development and path selection of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas

2.1 Is characterized by low-carbon life, advocating the new concept of low-carbon life

The development of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas should first do a good job of vigorously promoting and advocating the development of low-carbon economy. Low-carbon lifestyle, low-carbon consumption behavior, energy conservation and emission reduction, and low-carbon business concepts throughout the life of individual residents and the daily operation of enterprises. From the perspective of enterprises, we should change the traditional extensive production mode, implement energy conservation and emission reduction measures, establish clean production mode, and promote the production of low-carbon products. For individual residents, try to choose green travel; life consumption, choose low carbon consumer goods, no luxury or waste. Actively respond to the country's call to promote low carbon economy, in daily life. Become a good low-carbon cultural atmosphere, advocating the new concept of low-carbon life.^[2]

2.2 Optimize the industrial structure dominated by low-carbon industries

The industrial structure of ethnic minority areas shows the characteristics of 2,3,1, and the economic development is mainly driven by the industrial sector in the secondary industry. In the secondary industry, it is highly dependent on high-energy-consuming industries such as coal, petroleum, chemical industry and metal smelting, which is not conducive to the development of low-carbon economy. Therefore, the development path of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas should choose the leading industries suitable for low-carbon development (such as tourism in the service industry), and at the same time, the tertiary industry such as the service industry with relatively low carbon emissions should be vigorously developed. With the low-carbon industry as the leading role, we should transform the extensive economic growth mode, optimize the existing industrial structure, and gradually cultivate the tertiary industry into a nation. The support point of regional economic growth, to the industrial structure model of three two one.^[3]

2.3 Take the transformation of the economic development mode as the main line, and change the existing industrial development mode

On May 15, 2010, Wen Jiabao pointed out in the Explanation on the formulation of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development: "To promote scientific development, we must accelerate the transformation of economic development mode as the main line." And the main support point of economic development in ethnic minority areas is the secondary industry. In addition, the output of the energy-intensive sectors in the secondary industry accounts for more than 40% of GDP, which is an economic development mode that is not conducive to the development of low-carbon economy.

3. Countermeasures and suggestions for the development of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas

3.1 Improve the system and policies for low-carbon economic development and ensure the development of low-carbon economy

It is not enough for the development of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas to only rely on its own strength. The country

should vigorously support the development of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas from the institutional level and policy level. The experience of developed countries shows that the development of low-carbon economy must be guaranteed by institutions and policies. Therefore, in terms of institutional policies and measures, industrial policies and measures suitable for the development of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas should be constructed, including various resource property rights systems, environmental protection property rights system, compulsory system for energy conservation and emission reduction, and “low-carbon” performance assessment system of government departments. Establish an efficient coordination and linkage mechanism between governments at all levels of countries and governments in ethnic minority areas to promote the development of low-carbon economy.

3.2 We will make solid progress in energy conservation and emission reduction, and strengthen ecological and environmental development

Energy conservation and emission reduction is a measure that must be implemented in developing low-carbon economy in China and ethnic minority areas. In 2010, the National Development and Reform Commission issued the Urgent Notice on Further Improving the Current Energy conservation and emission reduction work, which pointed out: “In 2010 January to August, Guangxi, Ningxia, Xinjiang and Qinghai warning level 1, and Guizhou warning level 2.” Therefore, the work of energy conservation and emission reduction in ethnic minority areas is very severe. Governments at all levels should steadily promote energy conservation and emission reduction, and take energy conservation and emission reduction as the main work of the performance assessment. At the same time, while doing a good job in energy conservation and emission reduction, we should strengthen the ecological environment construction, vigorously develop forestry and other “carbon sink” projects, neutralize the carbon dioxide emissions, and reduce the carbon concentration.

3.3 Establish an incentive and restraint mechanism to support the development of low-carbon economy

The energy consumption per unit GDP in ethnic minority areas is high, but it also shows that ethnic minority areas have great potential for developing low-carbon economy, which requires the establishment of state-led carbon emission reduction incentive and carbon emission constraint mechanism. Through the guidance of the government, the high-carbon behavior of enterprises and the high-carbon consumption of residents are necessary and restricted to promote the development of low-carbon economy. Corresponding preferential policies and measures should be adopted for enterprises that develop circular economy, develop new energy and promote low-carbon new products to fully mobilize their enthusiasm in energy conservation and emission reduction and to develop low-carbon economy. Enterprises with high energy consumption, high pollution, high input and low output should be restricted and punished by using tax leverage Change its business and development mode, to adapt to the low-carbon economic development.

4. Conclusion

Ethnic minority areas have the objective needs and great potential of saving energy and emission reduction and developing low carbon economy. In order to promote the development of low-carbon economy in ethnic minority areas. The author puts forward the specific ideas and paths from the aspects of advocating the new concept of low carbon life, optimizing the industrial institutions, transforming the existing 1= industry development mode, developing the low carbon new products and the guarantee system of low carbon economic development in ethnic areas. Combined with the actual situation and operational feasibility of ethnic minority areas, this paper puts forward specific countermeasures to ensure the development of low carbon economy in ethnic minority areas, which has important reference value for guiding the development of low carbon economy in ethnic minority areas.

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