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# Module 1: Environmental Pathway

## 1.1 UNDERSTANDING THE GREEN ECONOMY

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# Introduction

## Welcome to the Green Economy module!

In this course, you will explore the fundamental concepts of the Green Economy, including sustainability, circular economy, renewable energy, and green jobs. You will participate in quizzes, case studies, and reflection activities to deepen your understanding of how the Green Economy can be applied in real life. Let's dive in!



Before we begin, what comes to your mind when you hear "Green Economy"?

Sustainability

Renewable Energy

Jobs for the Future

Circular Economy

All the above



# What is Green Economy?

*Explained in 3 minutes*



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

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# Core principles of Green Economy



**Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**



**Circularity refers to a model where products are reused, recycled, and remanufactured, keeping resources in use for as long as possible**



**Green Innovation refers to the development and application of new ideas, products, processes, and technologies that reduce environmental impacts and promote sustainability.**



**Social Equity ensures fairness in access to resources, opportunities, and privileges, promoting equal rights for all in the Green Economy.**



# Which of the following is the most fundamental goal of the Green Economy?

To reduce climate change

To create new jobs

To balance environmental, economic,  
and social factors

To promote technological innovation

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# Why?

The Green Economy aims to **create a balance between economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection.** While reducing climate change, creating green jobs, and promoting innovation are all important, the primary goal is finding harmony between these elements to create a sustainable and resilient future.

# Green Jobs and Future Opportunities

As the Green Economy grows, so does the demand for **green jobs**—jobs that contribute to the preservation or restoration of the environment. Green jobs span across sectors like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and environmental consulting.

Examples of green jobs include:

- ***Solar Energy Technician***
- ***Sustainability Consultant***
- ***Environmental Policy Advisor***
- ***Green Construction Engineer***
- ***Eco-Tourism Guide***

Green jobs not only offer a chance to work for a sustainable future but also provide economic opportunities in a growing global sector.

# Why are green jobs important for the future?

They help address climate change.

They create long-term employment.

They promote innovation in green technologies.

They support sustainable development by creating jobs and reducing environmental impacts.



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Which of these green jobs would you be most interested in?

Solar Technician

Sustainability Consultant

Environmental Policy Advisor

Other

Specify other:

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# Systems Thinking in Action: Circular Economy

The concept of the Circular Economy is a direct application of systems thinking. Unlike the traditional linear model of **"take, make, dispose,"** the circular economy aims to keep products, materials, and resources in use for as long as possible. It focuses on **reuse, recycling, remanufacturing, and reducing waste,** ultimately aiming to create a closed-loop system where the value of products is preserved.

## Linear Economy Example:

- Consider a simple everyday product: a plastic water bottle.
- Step 1: The bottle is made from petroleum-based plastic.
- Step 2: It's used once, then discarded into a landfill or incinerated.

In the traditional linear model ("take, make, dispose"), the bottle's lifecycle ends after its initial use, wasting resources and contributing to environmental pollution.

## Circular Economy Example:

Now, let's imagine the same plastic water bottle in a circular economy.

- Step 1: The bottle is made using recycled plastic from previous bottles.
- Step 2: After use, the bottle is recycled again and remanufactured into a new bottle or another product.
- Step 3: The cycle continues, and the plastic is kept in use for as long as possible.

Which model (linear or circular) do you think would benefit the environment more?

Linear

Circular

Why?

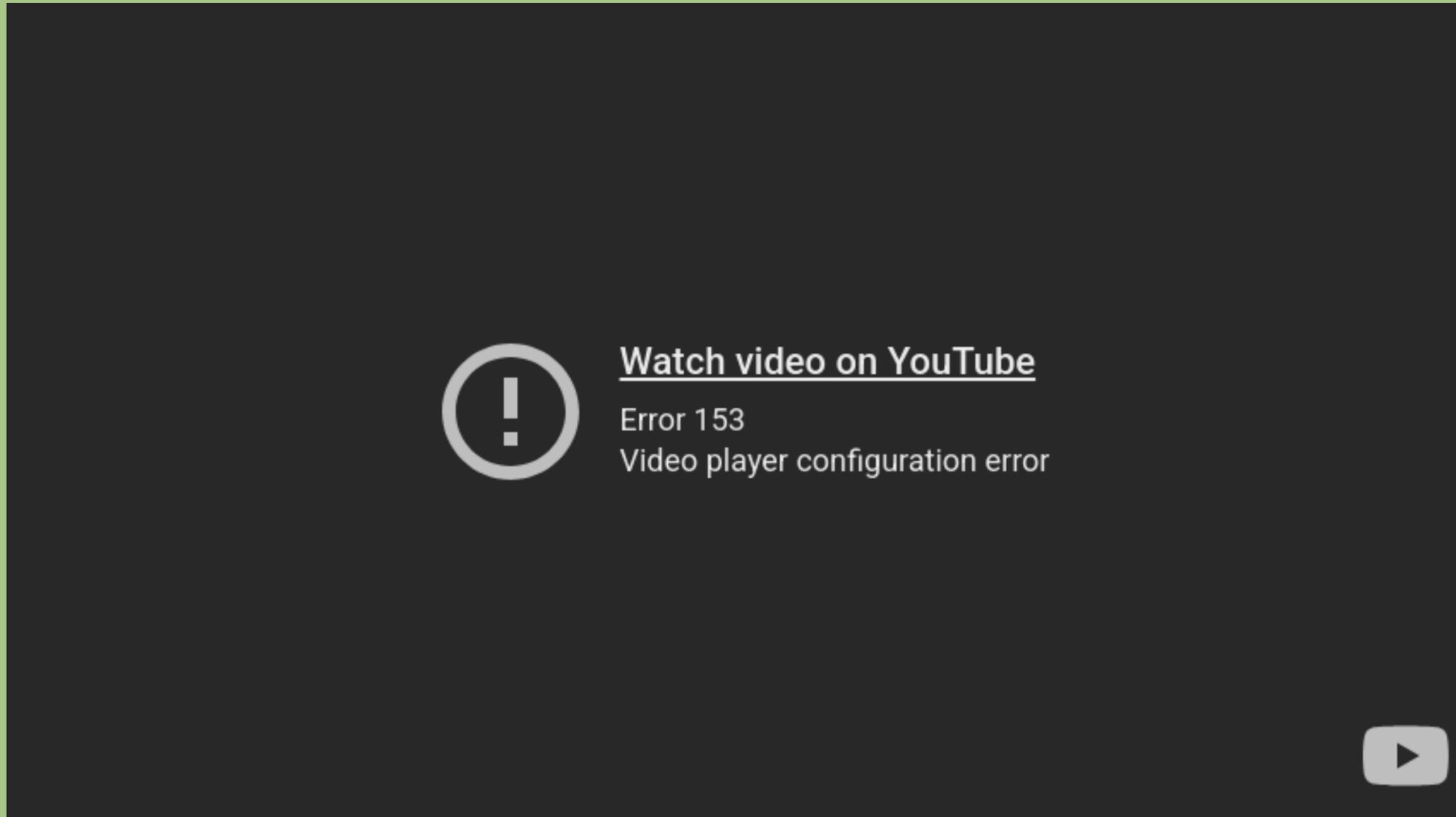
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# Case Study: The Role of Renewable Energy in the Green Economy

In Iceland, renewable energy accounts for almost 85% of total energy use, with geothermal and hydropower as the primary sources. This transition to renewable energy has allowed Iceland to significantly reduce its carbon footprint and lead the way in climate responsibility.

Iceland's success demonstrates the potential of green jobs in the renewable energy sector and highlights the importance of sustainability in shaping a future with reduced dependence on fossil fuels.



**How can Iceland's renewable energy model  
inspire your community to reduce its carbon  
footprint?**

# THANK YOU!

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