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Energy Dimension of Economic Goods of United Territorial Communities of Ukraine

The functioning of united territorial communities (UTC) raises the issue of increasing their financial and economic capacity, the solution of which largely depends on the creation of economic goods within these socio-spatial entities, which would meet the growing needs of consumers.

In this context, it is important not only the quality of these goods, but also the level of their energy intensity. In view of this, it is expedient to reveal the essence of the energy dimension of UTC's economic goods. To achieve this goal, it is quite appropriate to apply an energy approach to the production of material goods, which is based on the physico-economic paradigm.

The paradox is that the ancient man understood better than the modern dependence of his own life on the production of energy, subordinating his economic activity to obtaining as much energy as possible. According to the modern anthropologist F. Spier: «throughout the history of mankind, the search matter and energy sufficient for survival and reproduction were key issues» [1].

Let us clarify that matter is substance, but energy is not matter. It is what matter is, it is a property of matter. In this sense, economic goods can be a good or service of various origins, produced and provided to meet various human needs. Therefore, economic goods have value. Thus, certain resources are spent on the production of economic benefits, among which the priority belongs to natural and human, which not only have a certain energy reserve, but also reproduce the energy budget of the environment.

Thus, there is a close relationship between economic goods, natural and human resources, and the production of goods has not only a value but also an energy dimension.

It is the energy dimension of economic goods with the development of civilization becomes crucial for humanity. According to the forecasts of influential international organizations, given the rapid growth of energy consumption and population growth, by 2030 for the continued existence of mankind will need natural capital, which is twice the planetary potential [2].

This is the basis for considering the gifts of nature, which primarily include agricultural land, as of a certain good, the corresponding resources and factors of production, capital and energy sources. Hence there is a need to assess the economic goods in the energy dimension.

In this context, UTC's, as the grassroots units of the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine, represent a kind of energy field in which natural and human resources are organically combined. If land resources are a source of energy, then man is its consumer, and thanks to labor, also a reproducer. Thus, the energy dimension combines natural and economic goods, the properties of which are not only consumer value but also viable energy.

An important source of economic goods, a condition for the development of society and the individual is solar energy, which through human labor is converted into thermal energy used to sustain life. In this sense, economic activity is nothing more than an energy activity aimed at social reproduction.

S. Podolinsky, the founder of the national school of physical economy, was one of the first in science to substantiate this position. He proved that a person is endowed with productive abilities, the ability to «consume mechanical and mental work accumulated in the body, resulting in an increase in the amount of energy converted on the earth's surface». At the same time, he focused primarily on labor in agriculture, which has a «constructive, productive nature, contributes to the preservation and accumulation of energy of natural forces, especially the Sun» [3, p. 229]. That is, labor is like a bioenergy transformer, which converts lower energy (solar energy) into higher (economic goods), thus creating the reproduction of society. As a result, there is an increase in the energy potential of mankind.

The modern representative of the school of physical economy M. Rudenko saw the primary basis for the emergence and further multiplication of absolute value added in the energy of the Sun, and considered the source of relative (transformed, cultivated, preserved) value primarily as creative human labor capable of making the best use of and saving various natural

forms of energy. on our planet [4].

This approach differs significantly from the point of view of the ratio of physical and economic ancestor of the physical economy L. Larush and especially in the question of determining the source and measure of ownership. Thus, the leader of this scientific field considered labor, mainly intellectual, as a source of value, and considered physical quantities as its measure. [5, p. 46–47].

Unlike L. Larush, M. Rudenko considered solar energy as a source of value, and such energy quantity as grain as a measure [4, p. 70], thus laying the foundation for the construction of an energy model of modern civilization, which should combine physical, environmental, economic, social and spiritual principles.

One of the components of such a model should be considered the energy budget of UTC's as a socio-spatial formation. So far, this problem is understood within the traditional approach, the essence of which is the efficient and economical use of energy resources of communities. However, the system of energy management in UTC's is in its infancy and is limited to energy monitoring, development of action plans for sustainable energy development.

These undoubtedly important measures should be radically reconsidered taking into account the physico-economic paradigm, the concepts of closed-loop economics, sustainable, smart and inclusive development.

References

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