



NET
Balkan

New Environmental Transition Balkan

**Just Transition:
A Climate
Transformation That
Leaves No One Behind**

2026

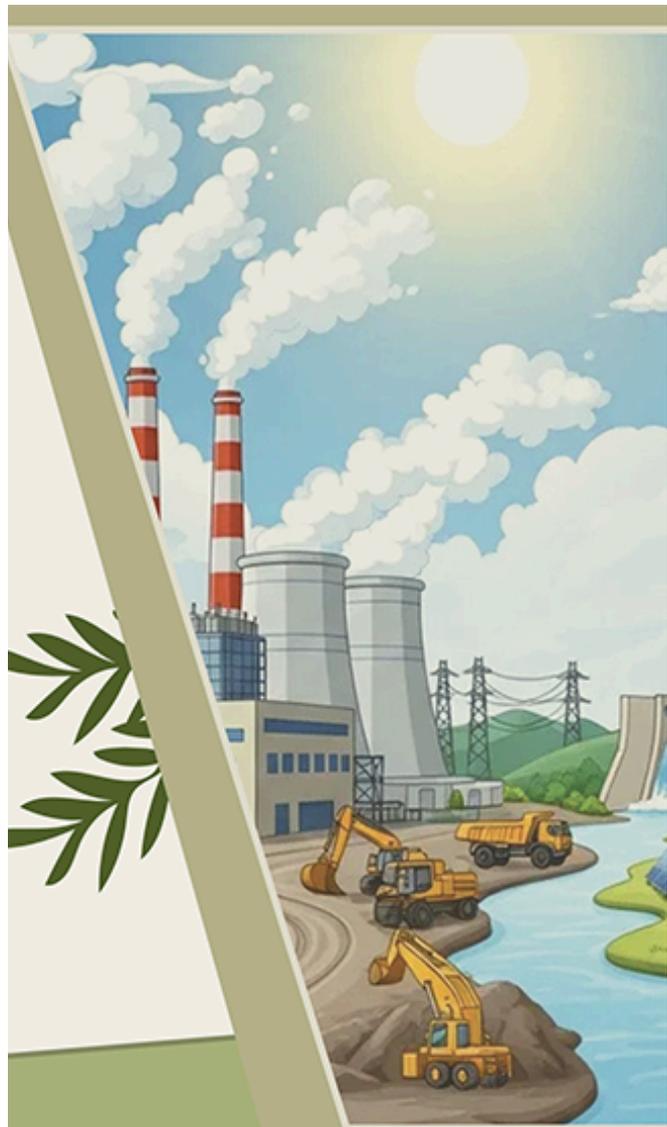
Green Jobs in Bosnia and Herzegovina: An Economic Opportunity We Cannot Afford to Miss

SUMMARY:

Just Transition represents an approach to climate transformation that ensures social justice, worker protection, and the creation of new economic opportunities. In the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this concept is essential for balancing decarbonization goals with socio-economic stability.

KEYWORDS:

just transition, just transition Bosnia and Herzegovina, energy transition Bosnia and Herzegovina



Introduction

In 2026, Just Transition has become one of the central issues in global climate policy. As countries accelerate their shift toward low-carbon development models, it is increasingly clear that the energy transition cannot be solely a technical process of reducing emissions - it must also be socially just, inclusive, and economically sustainable.

Just Transition ensures that the shift toward a green economy does not deepen existing inequalities, but instead creates new opportunities for workers, local communities, and vulnerable groups.

What Does Just Transition Mean?

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), Just Transition refers to greening the economy in a way that is fair and inclusive, while creating decent work and ensuring social protection for affected workers and communities.

Key elements of this approach include:

- social dialogue between governments, employers, and workers
- reskilling and upskilling of the workforce
- support for local communities during the transition
- active labor market policies in green sectors

The ILO Guidelines for a Just Transition (2015) provide a reference international framework for policy development in this field.

Global Framework: The Paris Agreement and UNFCCC

The concept of Just Transition is recognized in the preamble of the Paris Agreement (2015), which highlights the importance of ensuring decent work and safeguarding the workforce during the climate transition.

The UNFCCC further documents and analyzes the integration of Just Transition principles into national climate frameworks and policies, emphasizing the social dimension of climate action.

This approach is increasingly becoming an integral part of national climate plans and development strategies worldwide.

Just Transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina occupies a specific position in the context of the energy transition.

A significant share of electricity in BiH is generated from coal-fired thermal power plants, which makes the transition toward a low-carbon economy socio-economically sensitive. The process of alignment with EU climate policies, including obligations under the Energy Community framework and decarbonization targets, inevitably carries socio-economic implications.

In this context, Just Transition is particularly important due to:

1. Employment in the Energy Sector

The transformation or closure of mines and thermal power plants must be accompanied by reskilling programs, regional development strategies, and economic restructuring measures.

2. Regional Disparities

Certain municipalities and cantons are highly dependent on fossil fuel industries. Without a planned and participatory approach, the transition may lead to economic decline and social tensions.

3. Potential for Green Investments

BiH has significant potential in the areas of:

- renewable energy
- energy efficiency
- circular economy
- development of green jobs, particularly for young people

According to analytical reports by UNDP, Just Transition can represent a development opportunity through the creation of green jobs and support for local economies, while simultaneously meeting climate commitments.

The Role of Civil Society in BiH

Civil society organizations play a crucial role in advancing Just Transition by:

- advocating for transparent and inclusive energy policies
- involving local communities in decision-making processes
- monitoring the implementation of climate strategies
- raising public awareness about the socio-economic aspects of the transition

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Just Transition cannot be limited to a technical process of energy reform - it must represent a broader social agreement involving all relevant stakeholders.

Concluding Remarks

Just Transition represents a bridge between climate action and social justice. For Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is both a challenge and a development opportunity.

A successful transition requires participation, strategic planning, and coordination among public institutions, the private sector, and civil society. Only such an approach can ensure long-term stability, economic resilience, and sustainable development.

Sources

1. International Labour Organization (ILO)

Just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies

<https://www.ilo.org/topics-and-sectors/just-transition-towards-environmentally-sustainable-economies-and-societies>

2. ILO (2015)

Guidelines for a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies

<https://www.ilo.org/publications/guidelines-just-transition-towards-environmentally-sustainable-economies>

3. UNFCCC

Paris Agreement

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

4. UNFCCC (2023)

Just transitions in national climate frameworks and climate policies

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/just%20transitions%20in%20national%20climate%20frameworks%20and%20climate%20policies.pdf>

5. UNDP

How Just Transition Can Help Deliver the Paris Agreement

https://climatepromise.undp.org/sites/default/files/research_report_document/UNDP_Just_Transition_Report_0.pdf

6. LSE Grantham Research Institute

What is the just transition and what does it mean for climate action?

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/what-is-the-just-transition-and-what-does-it-mean-for-climate-action/>