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## Legal Regulation of Low-Carbon Economy

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### Abstract

As a new economic growth model, low-carbon economy will result in a revolution due to its low energy consumption, low pollution and low-emission. Nowadays, low-carbon economy has been an inevitable choice for sustainable development and ecological civilization, which should be regulated and protected by law. In this paper, we first elaborate the status quo of low-carbon economy legal regulation, and then propose that low-carbon economy legal system should be optimized carefully to strengthen the implementing and supervision of the relevant laws and finally enhance the legal protection of a low-carbon economy.

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### 1. Introduction

Low-carbon economy is another significant progress which following the agricultural civilization and industrial civilization. And Development of low-carbon economy is necessary for the transformation of economic development to achieve the object of sustainable development. As a socio-economic activity, it needs a clear and reliable guidance-support-system to promote low-carbon economy development. And because legal has the ability of promote, guide, regulate and mandatory, so construct and promote the low-

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carbon economic development law will provide clear guidance and specifications for the development of a low carbon economy.

## **2. Connotation of legal regulation in Low-carbon economy**

### *2.1. Concept of low-carbon economy*

Low-carbon economy is first proposed in the form of British government documents in energy white paper “our energy future: creating a low carbon economy”, of which the purpose is getting more economic output by fewer natural resource consumption and less environmental pollution. In 2005, ministers of environment and energy come from twenty greenhouse gas emitting countries participate in the high-level meeting of “Move to a low carbon economy” which held in the United Kingdom. And since then the concept of low-carbon economy quickly swept to the world and accepted by the international community.

However, scholars did not give an exact Interpretation of carbon economy, and this is because every country develops their low-carbon economy based on its own national circumstances. Nowadays, mainstream shows that low-carbon economy is a new green eco-economic development model which develops clean and efficient use of energy. It focuses on the innovation energy saving technologies and improving energy utilization technology to adjust the industrial structure and innovative design of the system. This new kind of economy development model will give an opportunity to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable human development<sup>[1-3]</sup>.

### *2.2. Legal characteristics of low-carbon economy*

There are four features for low-carbon economy from a legal perspective, (1) Extensiveness: the fields of low-carbon economy involve building, consumption, environmental protection and other industries, and will also increase the contents of legal regulation. (2) Diversification: Legal relationship adjustment is a breakthrough of traditional legal relationship, it is based on a global basis points which including the various countries, institutional organizations, businesses and individuals. (3) Non-mandatory: in China, developments of low carbon economy and protecting the environment have been treated as the two most important issues and regulated by Policy Act and Promotion Act. It leads to a healthy and rapid development of low-carbon economy by using of multi-use tax, financial, marketing and some other way and it lack mandatory. (4) It emphasizes the responsibility of the government. Due to the uncertainty and Externality of market, it is difficult for the development of low-carbon economy by the mediation role of the market alone, so many governments Introduces a series of policies and measures to promote the healthy development of low-carbon economy<sup>[4]</sup>.

### *2.3. Legal regulation-interpretation of low-carbon economy*

Low-carbon economy needs the regulation of law which achieves normal social relations of social life through some adjustments with the backing of national force. It reflects the dynamic process from the establishment of legal norms to achievement of specific rights and obligations. Legal regulation of low-carbon economy is a mechanism that formulates and restrict concept of low-carbon, low-carbon development principles and the legal system of low-carbon, which follow the inherent law of development of low-carbon economy. This regulation mainly in three aspects, firstly, it exhibits proper functioning which mean the uniform act regulations that development of low-carbon economy, also should fulfils the coordinated development of environmental, economic and society. Secondly, the objective function that requires the

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