

Increased renewable energy penetration united arab emirates

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The UAE Energy Strategy 2050 aims to triple the contribution of the renewable energy and invest AED 150 to AED 200 billion by 2030 to meet the country's increasing demand for energy as a result of a rapidly growing economy.

The updated strategy aims to promote the deployment of renewable and nuclear energies, enhance energy efficiency, drive R& D and innovation in energy technologies, increase local clean energy capacity, and encourage investments in the country's renewable and clean energy sector.

Renewable energy has become economically attractive in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates (UAE). Ramping up renewables to 10% of the country's total energy mix, and 25% of total power generation, could generate annual savings of USD 1.9 billion by 2030 through avoidance of fossil-fuel consumption and lower energy costs. With health and environmental benefits factored in, the transition to renewables could generate additional net annual savings of USD 1 billion to as much as USD 3.7 billion by 2030.

This report is a joint effort of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the UAE-based Masdar Institute, and the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Directorate of Energy and Climate Change. The analysis of the UAE's renewable energy prospects comes as part of REmap 2030, IRENA's roadmap for doubling the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

To achieve such rapid scale-up, government agencies must be empowered to take holistic, comparative views of energy costs and to follow through on such views in power-sector regulation and tendering. The Emirate of Dubai's governance model and the creation of a UAE federal energy policy taskforce are important initial steps.

2017 saw the launch of the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 - the first unified energy strategy in the country that is based on supply and demand. The strategy aims to increase the contribution of clean energy to the total energy mix from 25 per cent to 50 per cent by 2050, and reduce the carbon footprint of power generation by 70 per cent, thus saving AED700 billion by 2050. It also seeks to boost the consumption efficiency of individuals and corporates by 40 per cent.

The strategy targets an energy mix that combines renewable, nuclear and clean energy sources to meet the UAE's economic requirements and environmental goals as follows:

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced the strategy during a discussion about the future of energy, organised by the Ministry of Energy in cooperation with the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future.

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The strategy is a joint effort of all energy-related authorities and executive councils in the UAE, and falls under the supervision of the federal government, represented by the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said: "Ensuring the sustainability of energy resources is a guarantee of sustainable growth in our country. He who does not think of energy is not thinking about the future."

He added: "Countries of the GCC region are similar in their economic structure, and we hope that we will one day have a unified GCC energy strategy in order to ensure sustainable growth for our people and global influence for our economies."

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