

Jerusalem energy storage for load shifting

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Germ?n Jos? Manuel Toro Ghio, son of Germ?n Alfonso and Jenny Isabel Cristina, became a citizen of planet Earth in the cold dawn of Sunday, May 11, 1958, in Santiago, capital of southern Chile....

JERUSALEM, May 7 (Reuters) - Israel approved on Sunday a plan to create an energy storage network in cities to produce off-peak electricity, which will also supply "kosher" electricity for ultra-Orthodox Jews observing the Sabbath.

In Israel, with a new government that has strong religious representation, there is an added interest for ultra-Orthodox communities that strictly observe Jewish law, including restrictions on electricity use on Saturdays, the Jewish Sabbath.

Observant Jews do not turn on electric appliances on Saturdays, though systems like air conditioners or water heaters can be turned on beforehand and run throughout the day.

In some neighbourhoods generators are activated ahead of time and provide electricity for the day, which is expensive, polluting and can be dangerous, Israel's energy ministry says.

The government approved a pilot - a 24-megawatt battery facility - to store excess power from peak production times that will be drawn on by some 3,000 households in the city of Bnei Barak, an ultra-Orthodox enclave in central Israel.

It will be built by state-owned Israel Electric Corp for up to 120 million shekels (\$33 million) and privatised after three years. If successful, hundreds of megawatts in storage facilities will be built nationwide, the ministry said, without giving a timeframe.

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Web: https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/ Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com WhatsApp: 8613816583346

