

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION IN PAKISTAN

It is frequently stated that saved energy is superior to and less expensive than newly produced or acquired energy.

The 1973 oil crisis sparked a Western push for energy efficiency, self-sufficiency, and renewable energy. Since then, these areas have evolved. Historically, increasing

GDP by 1% necessitated an increase in energy supply or consumption of 1-1.5%. This index is currently 0.5 in most countries and negative in some, indicating that energy efficiency and conservation are growing faster than the economy.

By 2050, the EU hopes to be the first climate-neutral continent. To meet the EU's target of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, the Commission revised the Energy Efficiency Directive as well as other energy and climate policies. The revised plan calls for a 1.7% annual reduction in energy consumption in public buildings, transportation, water, and street lighting.

In developing countries like Pakistan, poverty, lack of education, and lack of technology prevent this from happening. Last year, Pakistan ranked 28th out of 100 in the World Bank's RISE energy efficiency index. Our policies, regulations, and financing are lagging behind those of other countries. Raising public and government policy awareness can help bridge the gap between the policy and required action at the national level.

For decades, Pakistan has ignored energy efficiency. All governments have prioritized increasing generation capacity over reducing demand, despite demand-side measures being less expensive. **The national energy efficiency and conservation authority (NEECA) replaced the national energy efficiency and conservation authority (ENERCON) in 2016 to address energy efficiency and conservation throughout the economy. Since then, NEECA has promoted energy efficiency and conservation by identifying conservation opportunities, technological demonstration, information and outreach, and energy conservation best practices.**

Despite the efforts made by the NEECA for energy conservation efforts, the generation shortfall reached 8 gigawatts, resulting in 14-hour load shedding in



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it threatens the nation's macroeconomic stability. The government must prioritize energy conservation and conduct effective public awareness campaigns. Energy conservation should also be prioritized by all stakeholders. PEMRA can raise public awareness using all platforms; through various media and meaningful advertisements.

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