

Bahrain stands fifth in green energy increase

Kingdom's use of green energy grew by 900pc in last ten years

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TDT | Manama

A new study has revealed that Bahrain has seen the fifth-greatest increase in renewable capacity since 2011.

The Kingdom's use of renewable energy has grown by 900 per cent during the past ten years.

The study by *Compare the Market Australia* analysed each developed country's renewable energy capacity between 2011 and 2020, to reveal the countries with the greatest overall increases.

The nation that has seen its use of renewable energy increases the most in the United Arab Emirates, where renewable capacity has grown by almost 20,000 per cent over the last decade.

The UAE has traditionally relied on its plentiful supplies of oil but has recently made a big effort to shift away from fossil fuels, although just 7.2pc of the country's energy needs are met by renewable means.

Saudi Arabia ranks second, another country that has had a strong reliance on oil for its energy needs. Saudi Arabia however has been pushing towards more renewable alternatives with an increase of over 13,000pc in the last ten years.

The Caribbean country of Barbados comes in third place, having increased its renewable energy capacity by 4,900pc. Barbados is followed by Malta in fourth place, which saw a rise of 2,262.5 per cent.

The Kingdom, whose use of renewable energy has grown by 900 per cent during the past ten



Dr Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza visiting a renewable energy project at the Avenues Complex in Manama (file)



A solar energy project in the Kingdom (file)

years, is in fifth place on the list.

Norway tops the list of countries relying on green energy the most. "Looking specifically at the countries where renewable energy makes up the greatest share of total electricity capacity, Norway comes out on top with 97.4pc," the study says.

"The country produced 33,003 MW of hydroelectric power in 2020, but also makes use of wind, solar, and bioenergy too."

Dr Khaled Fahad Alalawi, As-

sistant Undersecretary of Industrial Development within the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, was earlier quoted by The Daily Tribune, urging the Kingdom's industrial sector to take the green route.

"One of the primary pillars of the industrial plan 2022-2026 is to support the sector's transformation to Industry 4.0, as well

as the implementation of the concept of the circular economy along with environmental and social governance.

"This strategy focuses on a variety of industries that offer opportunities for growth and prosperity, particularly manufacturing in the aluminium and petrochemical sectors, as well as clean industries such as renewable energy, green and blue hydrogen, which will help the Kingdom achieve its objective of Net-Zero Carbon by 2060."

"The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism, in collaboration with other stakeholders, is encouraging industrial companies to adopt environmentally friendly technology as one of the best methodologies in the industrial sector and a tool to reduce costs and increase competitiveness, as well as to ensure the efficiency of resource use, particularly water and energy. The industrial sector has a role to play in the gradual transition to a green economy focused on sustainable growth."

The Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) has already unveiled a plan to establish a green hydrogen plant.

7.2

7.2 per cent of the energy needs in the UAE are met from renewable energy sources

Earlier in January this year, Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) President Dr Abdulhussain Mirza discussed the project with a high-level delegation from Al Judy Company, led by Chairman Ibrahim Ali.

Dr Mirza outlined the SEA initiatives and projects for 2022, including a plan to benefit from the green hydrogen. The delegation gave an overview of its plan to

establish a 4-Megawatt plant for the production of green hydrogen – a first in the Arabian Gulf region.

The company which holds a patent registered in Germany has also been conferred the gold medal for best invention, according to SEA.

The factory will be established according to the highest level of international standards in the construction and operational stage. The project will be built in its first phase on land with a total area of 20,000 square metres and an estimated cost of \$150 million.

Damaging rented cars: Court orders father-son duo to pay around BD3,000

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Mishandling and damaging rented cars landed a father and son in hot waters, whom the Court said should pay the car company nearly BD3,000 against repair costs and to settle unpaid traffic tickets.

Owners of the car company, who sued the father-son duo, also told the Court that a cheque paid by one of the defendants also got bounced when produced for collection.

The father-son duo also failed to defend the accusations levelled against them or attend the court proceeding.

Accepting the evidence filed



Representative picture

by the car company, the Court ordered the father and son to pay BD2,887 to the rent-a-car

company. Incidents leading to the case started with the father and son

signing a long-term lease agreement for two cars owned by the company.

However, the Court files say the duo failed to honour the agreement and amassed dues for up to three months or BD1,800.

The company also found that the vehicles had sustained several damages, which an expert evaluator said would cost the company BD1,087.

The father, reportedly, agreed to shoulder the repair costs and gave the company a cheque for BD280.

The company, however, told the Court that the cheque got bounced when produced for collection, forcing them to approach the court.

Passing the verdict, the Court ruled that the cheque issued by the first defendant and a bank

certificate show that the defendant's account didn't have sufficient funds.

The Court also found that the duo received the cars and pledged to shoulder responsibility for the damages caused to the vehicles and pay for their traffic violations. "The statements had their signs," the Court said.

"But the pair failed to come to the Court for the entire length of the hearing and defend the accusations levelled against them, while the plaintiff produced enough documents to prove their case."

"As a result, the Court orders the defendants to pay BD2877 to the company," the ruling said.