

Does Kuwait use solar energy?

KUWAIT: Kuwait enjoys sunny days almost the whole year long, but this source of energy is not exploited like in many other countries. Solar energy is used in Kuwait in a few places, including private houses.

Is Kuwait a good place to build a solar power plant?

The average insolation of 5.2 kWh/m²/day and maximum annual sun hours of around 9.2 hours daily makes Kuwait a very good destination for solar power plant developers. Wind energy also has good potential in the country as the average wind speed is relatively good at around 5m/s in regions like Al-Wafra and Al-Taweel.

What is the business case for green energy proliferation in Kuwait?

Job creations, growth of private sector, development of green SMEs sector and heavy cleantech investment are among other important benefits. The business case for green energy proliferation in Kuwait is strengthened by widespread availability of solar and wind resources and tumbling costs of alternative energy systems.

Is there biomass energy in Kuwait?

In fact, Kuwait already has an existing 2.4MW Salmi Mini-windfarm, completed in 2013, which mainly serves telecommunication towers in remote areas and the fire brigade station in Salmi. As far as biomass energy is concerned, it has very limited scope in Kuwait due to arid climate and lack of water resources.

Will Kuwait produce 15 percent of its power from solar and wind?

Ali: The late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah announced at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Climate Change that Kuwait will strive to produce 15 percent of its power from solar and wind by 2030, a goal that has since been reaffirmed in the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

What is the potential of wind energy in Kuwait?

Wind energy also has good potential in the country as the average wind speed is relatively good at around 5m/s in regions like Al-Wafra and Al-Taweel. In fact, Kuwait already has an existing 2.4MW Salmi Mini-windfarm, completed in 2013, which mainly serves telecommunication towers in remote areas and the fire brigade station in Salmi.

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Kuwait has "good solar resources" as well as wind, and could reduce emissions with a better focus on renewables 20-year strategy announced; Targeting 22GW of renewables "Chronic problems" exist; Kuwait still has a way to go on its energy transition, industry experts say, despite the announcement of a 20-year renewables strategy.

The Shagaya Renewable Energy Park was created as part of Kuwait's ambitious plan to generate 15% of its energy by using renewable sources by 2030. Phase 1 of the plan was developed by KISR and consists of a 50 MW CSP plant, 10 MW PV, and 10 MW Wind.

Solar energy is used in Kuwait in a few places, including private houses. Kuwait Times interviewed Dr Abrar Al-Ali, Astronomy Specialist at Al-Ojairi Scientific Center and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (UK), for more information on the uses of solar energy in Kuwait, its benefits, the challenges facing its use and other issues.

The main player in Kuwait pushing for solar projects and for electricity generation in general is the Ministry of Electricity & Water & Renewable Energy. The second key player is the Kuwait Petroleum Company, KPC, and its upstream and downstream subsidiaries, KOC and KNPC.

The solar panels can collectively generate 10 MW, which is used to power the 29 electric pumps in the Umm-Gudair oilfield in western Kuwait, in a first for the domestic oil business. "KOC currently has plans to embrace renewable energy," Jamal Jaafar, CEO of KOC, told OBG.

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