

Number of electricity consumers rises by 19%

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The growing interest in alternative energy sources is a big step forward that should be supported by the introduction of relevant legislations, said Dr Abdullah Al Amiri, Chairman of the Emirates Energy Award Committee, an offshoot of the Dubai Quality Group. "We should take all necessary measures to protect the environment and forestall further deterioration of the earth resulting from the detrimental effects of global warming," he added.

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has recently announced signing on six mega projects, worth a total of Dh12 billion, in the areas of power generation and water desalination. Some of the projects, signed with leading national and international companies, will be finished in 2009, while the rest will be completed by 2010. Dr Al Amiri also mentioned that Dubai is making a concerted effort to do just this, through implementing initiatives such as the current waste recycling projects, which are aimed at turning waste into usable energy resources. "The emirate is moving in the right direction to secure the necessary clean energy resources. There is a genuine tendency in Dubai to ensure hygienic conditions in the society that conform to normal energy consumption patterns and strike a balance between ecological integrity and economic development requirements," he said.

A statistical study recently released by the Federal Electricity and Water Authority (FEWA) has revealed that 588.72 million gallons of water and 756.24 Gigawatts of power were consumed in 2007. A previous study highlighted the sharp rise in the number of electricity consumers last year, put at 331,518, compared to 279,246 in 2006.

The FEWA has already approved a draft law now submitted to the UAE National Council, adding an amendment to article 23 thereof whereby private investors shall be permitted to establish power and water plants in areas supervised by the FEWA, with the water and power tariffs to be overseen by the FEWA. The amendment has, however, triggered some reservations, for it is likely to lead to further power and water price hikes.