

Kuwait: MEW rationalization campaign saved KD 100 million last year

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The Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) electricity and water rationalizing campaign run in 2007 and 2008 saved KD 100 million last year by decreasing electricity consumption levels. This information was announced by Dr Mish-an Al-Utaibi, the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Training, during a ceremony held at the Al-Raya Ballroom on Monday honoring those who contributed to the campaign. At the event, Al-Utaibi introduced a presentation which included details and statistics on how the campaign showed such marked improvements in efficiency levels in its second year.

The rationalization policy for both water and electricity was driven by necessity, he explained. "The power stations built every year to increase productivity levels at the cost of millions of dinars were still incapable of meeting individuals' needs. Consumption levels were unregulated, as we have to use the rationalization as a general policy to deal with this problem."

Kuwait's population is growing, he said, and urban expansion is increasing rapidly as a result. "If we have 10,000 megawatts this year, we are obliged to provide 20,000 megawatts in the year 2020 to deal with the demand for electricity. The same thing applies to water, as the demand for it is increasing every year.

The ministry is spending about KD 1.6 billion on producing electricity and JD 270 million on producing water. So the total production of electricity and water costs about KD 1.9 billion annually. The government subsidizes this cost by about KD 1.6 billion, with only KD 200 million of the cost being paid by the combined amounts paid by consumers for bills," Al-Utaibi revealed.

In order to arrive at the correct strategy, the MEW formed a committee comprising members of different ministries and other state bodies, Al-Utaibi explained. "These committee members introduced the rationalization policy in the government sector and most of the public buildings ended up saving energy. They were also checking the power loads and trying to decrease levels when they were increased, especially in the air conditioning systems.

The campaign saved a massive amount of money, he explained. "The government building saved 400 megawatts during the year 2007, and 380 megawatts in 2008, a saving of KD 100 million in direct and operational costs. In addition an indirect saving was that the ministry was saved from building new stations, along with savings on the delivery and transportation of energy.

The MEW will continue to implement a similar rationalization policy during 2009-2010, he went on. "As well as spreading awareness in Kuwaiti society, the ministry is also preparing a study about saving and rationalizing energy, focusing on public buildings and schools. It will also include new ways of operating air conditioning systems, which will save money and energy. Also some ministries are cooperating in restricting the use of equipment which wastes large quantities of the energy and also introducing the use of isolating material that will save the energy used for the AC," he concluded.

The various public authorities cooperated with the in working positively to achieve the success which saved such large amounts of energy in both 2007 and 2008. "The cooperation and participation of the different public bodies in this national campaign saved national resources and prevented them from being wasted," said Nabil Bin Salama, the Minister of Electricity and Water

and Minister of Communication.

The utilized a unified strategy for the rationalization campaign, he explained. "The campaign included different activities, meeting its desired goals by following rationalization techniques. The ministry put great efforts into making the public aware of the importance of protecting precious resources. The first step was in instilling self control and preparing a more aware generation that can deal properly with the two main sources of life, water and electricity.

Monday's ceremony, which was also attended by former electricity and water minister Mohammed Al-Olaim, saw numerous officials and employees from more than 35 public and private sector bodies being presented with awards for their contributions to the rationalization campaign.