

Concept Paper
Webinar on "How Users Can Save on Their Electricity Bills".

Background:

With the linear rate of rise of human population for the last 50 years and more recent rapid increase in rate of urbanisation, the demand of electricity is expected to continue to rise exponentially. Large investments – which are difficult to manage for developing economies – are required to continually upgrade electrical networks to meet the growing demand. Therefore, conservation of electricity and its efficient usage are crucial to offset investments in the power sector as they are the most cost-effective methods to meet increasing electrical load. Major share of electricity today is produced using fossil fuels. Therefore, by encouraging efficient use of electricity and promoting electricity conservation dependence on fossil fuels can be reduced while also mitigating their adverse effects on the environment.

Given the critical importance of electricity, its affordability plays a vital role in the economic development of any country. For South Asian countries, in particular, the cost of electricity is an important factor in ensuring economic prosperity of the public in general. As SAARC Member States are facing challenges to meet the growing demand, there is a need to make the consumers realise their responsibility in ensuring energy conservation. The establishment of government bodies such as Bureau of Energy Efficiency India; National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority Pakistan; Sustainable Energy Authority Sri Lanka are examples of actions taken by respective governments to spread awareness about energy efficiency and conservation.

Introduction:

SEC, under its thematic area of “Programme to Minimise Oil Imports through Improvements in Energy Efficiency and Fuel Substitution” (PROMO), proposes a webinar on “How Users can Save on Their Electricity Bills”. The proposed webinar will be a 2 hours long activity and will consist of presentations from various experts from the SAARC region while effort will be made to invite an external expert to share their experience on energy conservation outside SAARC region.

In this webinar experts will disseminate useful information on benefits of energy conservation and efficient usage of electricity; cost effective ways to improve efficiency and minimise wastage for different types of consumers – domestic, commercial or industrial. The webinar will share initiatives taken by electric utilities to promote energy conservation. The motive is to educate participants on reduction of electricity cost through best practices.

Objectives:

The objective of the webinar is to spread awareness about Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation to the participants and sensitize them on the importance of their role in minimising energy wastage.

Major Aspects /Topics to be covered during the Webinar:

The following aspects shall be covered in the webinar:

1. Benefits of Energy Conservation and Efficient Use of Electricity
2. Cost Effective Ways to Save on Electricity Bills for Domestic, Commercial and Industrial Consumers
3. Initiatives Taken by Electric Utilities to improve Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Relevance, Coherence and Sustainability:

The proposed webinar is relevant to the primary objective of SEC to be a catalyst for economic growth of the region while ensuring sustainability. SEC, in the past, had organised a webinar on “Promotion of Energy Conservation in Municipalities of SAARC”. Through this webinar, SEC shall enhance knowledge of participants on the concept of energy efficiency and conservation. This will in turn give multiple benefits i.e., create awareness among the participants on the financial benefits arising from energy conservation and its efficient usage. The webinar will also cover the discussion on current initiatives for energy conservation and future programmes to promote energy efficiency.

Potential Professional Resource:

The experts/speakers having experience in electrical power distribution from the region shall be engaged during the webinar. They shall deliver their presentations during the webinar and respond to questions by the participants. Efforts will be made to engage experts on energy conservation from outside the region to share their experiences. SEC Program Coordinator will finalize the event program in close coordination with the speakers.

Venue of the Webinar:

The Webinar shall be broadcasted from the office of SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad on 28th July, 2020.