



National Energy Conservation Day aims at creating awareness about the importance of energy, and on how to conserve it

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# Conserving Energy

OBSERVED EVERY YEAR IN INDIA ON DECEMBER 14, NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION DAY AIMS AT CREATING AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY, AND ON HOW TO CONSERVE IT BY USING LESS OR BY AVOIDING UNNECESSARY USE OF ENERGY

Ajay Rawat

India is facing an acute energy scarcity, which is hampering its industrial growth and economic progress. Measures related to conservation of energy in domestic, commercial, agriculture and industrial sectors could lead to 20% savings in energy consumption. Detailing more on it, Professor HS Dhami, vice-chancellor, Kumaon and Pantnagar University, says, "It is essential to tackle energy crisis by judicious utilisation of the renewable energy resources. Energy conservation should be rooted in the behavior of every human being, so as to make the plans and projects of conservation more effective. Prudent use of energy by every individual can contain the rapid depletion of non-renewable resources to a large extent."

Youth can play a vital role in disseminating the philosophy of conserving energy in every walk of life. This can be done by way of encouraging and sensitizing people through workshops, interface, poster campaigns, street plays and other fruitful activities. KC Singh Baba, a green politician and youth leader, states, "Every citizen of India must contribute to the use of efficient energy for their own future safety, and must follow all the rules, regulations and policies implemented by the Government of India."

In 2001, the Bureau of Energy

Efficiency, a constitutional body which works under the Government of India, and helps in the development of policies and strategies in order to reduce energy use, enacted the Energy Conservation Act 2001. It aims to employ professionally qualified managers and auditors who have the expertise of managing and implementing energy efficient projects. At the same time, it is essential to tackle the energy crisis through judicious utilisation of abundant renewable energy resources, which



>> Solar panels

operation and execution of various schemes based on non-conventional energy resources is handled by this agency through local panchayats, voluntary organisations and district administration. The state government is committed to introduce effective energy conservation in all sectors of economy."

Uttarakhand is richly endowed with natural renewable resources. By virtue of its topographic location, the state has a number of perennial streams and the untapped poten-

annually in Uttarakhand. It holds a promising potential of generating 300 MW of electricity. Similarly, sugar, paper, chemical and other industries have an estimated potential of 200 MW that would augment the state grid."

Adding further, "At present about 1000 metric tons of municipal, urban and industrial (both solid and liquid) waste is produced in the state every day, and which with scientific processing and treatment can lead to power generation. Sufficient geo-thermal power is also available in the state for power genera-

tion. But hitherto, the state has not taken a significant stride in this direction because the business enterprises look at the rural needs purely as a profit venture, and their approach of

the government officials is target oriented."

With no accountability to the users, or a system to address their expectations there is a cynicism about the industry in the rural areas. But there is a ray of hope from voluntary organizations which has made history by establishing a registered renewable energy cooperative, the only one in India, by the name 'Uttarayan Cooperative for Renewable Energy' in Haldwani, Nainital district, and provides green energy to the villages of Kumaon.

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## Reforms

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will not only augment the energy supply but mitigate the climate change too. India depends greatly on fossil fuels for its energy needs. Most of the power is generated by burning coal, which contributes heavily to greenhouse gases.

To this, Deepak Rawat (IAS), DM, Nainital District, opines, "Uttarakhand government considers science, technology and innovation to be excellent vehicles of change and development. And in consonance with this objective, the Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (URED) has been created to encourage the use of renewable energy resources. The

tial that will be harnessed before 2020. And this will take place by way of small hydro projects, which is about 600 MW. Similarly, the state has a vast potential of solar energy and the government has already started solar based power projects. Wind power potential is also being tapped, and wind mapping is being done to assess and exploit the available power potential.

Sharing more input, Arun Sinha, chairman, Society to Create Awareness towards Life and Environment (SCALE), opines, "About 20 million metric tons of agro-residue and agro-industrial processing waste is produced

