

## Kuwait city first solar

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: In a significant move towards bolstering its renewable energy portfolio, Kuwait has unveiled plans for a monumental solar energy project, marking a pivotal step in its energy diversification strategy. Reliable sources disclosed to Al-Rai that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been inked between the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) to spearhead the implementation of a groundbreaking initiative aimed at generating 1 gigawatt of electricity through solar power.

The MoU, subject to potential escalation, outlines the framework for a global operator model, wherein a tender process is being meticulously prepared to engage suitable entities for the project's execution. Under this arrangement, the selected company will procure the energy through a contractual agreement spanning 25 to 30 years.

Detailing the technical intricacies of the venture, sources elucidated that the MoU empowers Kuwait Oil to delineate requisite specifications, interconnection points, load distribution, and other pertinent technical aspects essential for the tendering process.

This ambitious endeavor signifies the inaugural foray of the oil sector into emission reduction initiatives and energy diversification endeavors. It aligns with Kuwait's overarching objective of sourcing 15% of its electricity from renewable sources. Forecasts suggest project completion before 2030, dovetailing with Kuwait Oil's overarching energy transformation strategy for 2050, championed by His Highness Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad.

In a bid to ensure optimal cost-efficiency and technical compatibility, priority will be accorded to tenders offering the most competitive rates. Prospective bidders from diverse regions, including China, the Gulf, the United States, and Europe, are being evaluated for their experience in renewable energy ventures. While intermediaries may not be necessary, local partnerships are envisaged to facilitate administrative processes.

Simultaneously, insiders hinted at the oil sector's broader ambition to roll out similar projects in the forthcoming phases, with plans underway to augment clean energy production to 3.7 gigawatts by 2030/2031. This monumental leap underscores the oil sector's commitment to assuming a pivotal role in Kuwait's energy landscape, with projections indicating a complete transition to renewable energy sources.

Underscoring the collaborative ethos driving Kuwait's energy transition, the Ministry of Electricity and Water is collaborating closely with the oil sector to synergize efforts and expedite the integration of renewable energy into the national grid. A reconstituted energy committee, comprising representatives from both entities, has been tasked with orchestrating seamless collaboration and charting a sustainable energy future for Kuwait.



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Kuwait expands renewable energy ambitions: 1 gigawatt solar project underway

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