

PUNJAB CAN PRODUCE 3,600-5,400 MW FROM BIOMASS

Lahore : Punjab has a potential to produce 3,600 MW to 5,400 MW from the biomass available in the province, according to various studies conducted by the Punjab government, local and foreign non-governmental organizations and trade and industry.

Both entrepreneurs and the Punjab government are looking for alternative energy sources to overcome the acute power shortage in the province, according to a study.

The province has huge biomass available in the shape of municipal waste, rice husk, ginning waste, cotton waste, cotton stalks, bagasse, wheat straw, cotton cob and wood chips.

Studies by the public and private sectors revealed that some of the biomass is being used inefficiently to produce energy, but by and large, this huge resource goes waste.

An industrialist and power sector expert Mohsin Syed in his study estimated that from the 5,000 ton of daily municipal waste in Lahore, 200 MW electricity could be generated.

He estimated that if the solid municipal waster from other big cities of the province is utilised, the electricity generation process could reach 600 – 1000 MW.

Nishat Group is already using bricks of solid municipal waster produced in Lahore in its cement plant for heating purposes. The group is also considering using these energy rich bricks for power generation.

In the meantime, a feasibility study for 25 MW based solid municipal waste has already been completed for the National Industrial Park at Sheikhpura and the work on the project would start soon.

Interest in power generation through rice husk was generated when it was found that a textile mill in Indian Punjab is generating 5 MW electricity from rice husk.

All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) undertook a study to find the potential of rice husk available in the province for power generation. The study revealed that rice husk has the potential to generate 600 MW to 1,000 MW per annum.

Disposing ginning waste posed problems for hundreds of Punjab based ginners.

A leading ginner Seth Akber assisted an NGO in evaluating the potential of ginning waste. It was found out that 60-100 MW could be generated from the ginning waste.

The APTMA Punjab found that cotton waste after spinning and recycling has the potential to produce 50-75 MW.

An NGO found out that cotton stalk is being used as kitchen fuel in rural Punjab. The efficiency of use is very low, while cotton stalks available in the province could generate 100-200 MW.

The potential of bagasse a sugarcane crop waste also has huge potential to produce electricity. In fact, all the sugar mills are producing their own power from bagasse inefficiently.

A foreign NGO is making a detailed report on its potential, which is estimated at 2,000-3,000 MW.

The Punjab government found out that wheat straw could generate 50-100 MW, corn cob 200-300 MW and wood chips 100-300 MW from the resources available in the province.

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