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The Electricity and Water Authority and the Information and E-Governments Authority launch the Net Metering System service

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Within the framework of joint cooperation and efforts aimed at accelerating the pace of digital transformation in the Kingdom, the Electricity and Water Authority, in cooperation with the Information and E-Governments Authority, through visual communication technology, launched a net service available through the (Benayat) platform, which allows individuals and institutions to request to install solar energy systems on their homes and facilities. At their expense, and energy produced to meet part of their need for electricity consumption, this comes in light of the government's tendency to benefit from natural energy resources, including solar energy.

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The virtual inauguration ceremony was attended by HE Mr. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, HE Sheikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, CEO of the Electricity and Water Authority, HE Mr. Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, CEO of the Information and E-Government Authority and a number of officials from both sides.

The service (Net Metering Service) aims to enable the competent authorities to ensure the integrity of the design of the solar energy system and the electrical system on homes and facilities for which applications are submitted through the Benayat platform, as well as verifying the license related to the installation of a net meter, as well as the benefits resulting from installing systems Solar energy, represented in the possibility of pumping the surplus from solar energy production to the government electric grid, which enables them to obtain a discount in return for that.

On this occasion, His Excellency the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, stressed that the development of the net metering system service available through the (Benayat) platform comes within the framework of achieving the economic vision of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2030, and achieving the directions of the government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince The Prime Minister, may God protect him, to make the Kingdom of Bahrain a developed model in the field of using clean energy, as part of Ministerial Resolution No. 2 of 2017 regulating the connection of electricity production units from renewable energy to the electricity distribution system at the Electricity and Water Authority and the inclusion of net metering system procedures in the Benayat system for the issuance of building permits.

His Excellency the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs added that the authority aims to adopt best practices in the field of net metering service and provide innovative and smart solutions to reach the highest levels of excellence to encourage individuals and institutions to benefit from renewable energy and reach the national goal to increase the proportion of renewable energy from the total energy mix. 5% by 2025 and 10% by 2035.

The Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs also noted the continuous cooperation between the Electricity and Water Authority and the Information and e-Government Authority in this field, which supports the unification of government efforts to raise the level of its services in line with future developments in the field of electricity and water, and the adoption of the best technological practices that are compatible with international specifications and requirements.

In the same context, His Excellency Sheikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, CEO of the Electricity and Water Authority said that the authority has taken the initiative to develop an integrated plan for the development of the net metering service, as the authority has provided an integrated guide through the Benayat platform and has qualified and approved 45 licensed contractors in solar energy projects. And the adoption of leading international companies in the manufacture of materials used in these projects, such as solar panels and inverter devices. The authority also undertakes the tasks of reviewing the designs of the solar energy system and the electrical system on homes and facilities to ensure their safety before operating them.

His Excellency the CEO added that the demand for the net metering program is expected to increase, especially after implementing the digital transformation in this field, thanks to the fruitful cooperation with the Information and e-Government Authority, which will contribute to reducing the necessary procedures from three steps to two steps through the (Benayat) platform, which will positively impact on Reducing the time for reviewing applications related to the installation of a net meter and accelerating the process of communicating with contractors and consultants to operate solar energy projects and linking them to the distribution network.

Regarding the service, users wishing to benefit from it can first start by contracting with one of the licensed contractors in the electricity sector, and then the request is required to be reviewed by a licensed engineering office. This procedure is followed by submitting the request through the Benayat platform, and through the system and electronically, the possibility of connecting to the network will be verified.

In this regard, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, CEO of the Information and Authority, stressed the importance of the electricity and water sector as one of the most in supporting the developmental wheel in the Kingdom, noting that the existing cooperation between the Ministry and the Authority is based on partnership and sustainability, which was reflected in Through the speed of digital transformation and the provision of electricity and water services electronically through a number of different electronic channels.

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Al-Qaed stressed that the government's tendency to encourage the use of renewable energy sources such as solar energy comes in line with the government's keen approach based on diversifying and investing energy sources in order to serve society, and also reflects its commitment to achieving the seventh goal of the sustainable development goals, which is to provide clean energy at reasonable prices, which made it among the ranks of the Developed countries to achieve the United Nations sustainable development goals in the field of energy.

The Leader praised the keenness of the Electricity and Water Authority and its cooperation with the authority to enhance the national trend to achieve digital transformation in various sectors, stressing the continuation of cooperation between the two sides in order to provide more electronic services in the future, and strive to develop them for citizens and residents, in a way that shortens time and saves effort for customers on both sides service and its beneficiaries.

The Information and eGovernment Authority also provides channels to inquire about the new service through the National Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul) available at bahrain.bh, or through the (Tawasul) application available at bahrain.bh/apps, or through the Government Services Call Center 80008001.

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