

# *Energy Conservation in Iran: Challenges and Policies*

<sup>1</sup>R. Farmand, <sup>2</sup>F. Atabi, <sup>3</sup>A. R. Karbassi

<sup>1</sup> Iranian Association for Energy Economics (IRAEE)

<sup>2</sup> Islamic Azad University, Science & Research Campus (IAU)

<sup>3</sup> Iran Energy Efficiency Organization (SABA)

## Abstract

Consumption of energy has impacted the environment and is rapidly depleting the earth's more valuable non-renewable energy deposits and particularly those of petroleum. To obtain maximum benefits from these resources as well as to protect the environment and enhance energy security, energy use and particularly the use of non-renewable energy sources need to be carefully managed. These can be achieved through energy conservation measures and greater reliance on the renewables where economically, technically and environmentally feasible. To realize the said benefits, in addition to manifestation of national will, the prevailing situation must be clearly understood and realistic policies enacted. Today Iran is among those nations with energy intensities greater than the world average and in fact greater than the average for developing nations. The reasons for this economically and environmentally unacceptable condition are many and the challenges relating to energy conservation are of different nature. In this article reasons and challenges of achieving energy conservation goals and greater use of renewable energy sources are investigated and currently practiced policies for lowering the present level of energy intensity are discussed. This article shows that to date the result of implementing such policies has been mixed, but altogether relative success in lowering energy intensity has been achieved.

**Key words :** Energy Conservation, Energy Efficiency, Energy Policy, Energy Intensity, Energy Labelling

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1. R. Farmand : E-mail : [rf\\_farmand@yahoo.com](mailto:rf_farmand@yahoo.com)

2. F. Atabi : E-mail : [far-atabi@jamejam.net](mailto:far-atabi@jamejam.net)

3. A. R. Karbassi : E-mail : [karbassi@iranenergy.org.ir](mailto:karbassi@iranenergy.org.ir)