

Hanoi load shifting

Vietnam's economic rebound and prolonged hot weather are putting pressure on the country's power grid. In the first quarter of 2024, electricity demand increased by nearly 14% compared to the same period last year according to Electricity of Vietnam (EVN).

This surge in demand has led to higher electricity costs for businesses and households. To address potential grid overload and mitigate price impacts, the power sector is encouraging businesses to participate in a load adjustment program (also known as demand response).

The program incentivizes businesses to reduce electricity consumption during peak hours and shift it to off-peak periods. This strategic shift helps reduce strain on the power system and improves grid stability.

Not only the cost but participants also experience improved power reliability, as they are prioritized during shortages. This minimizes disruptions to production. Finally, lower electricity costs can positively impact a company's bottom line, enhancing its overall competitiveness.

While a relatively new practice in Vietnam, the load adjustment program has yielded promising results. Preliminary data from EVN suggests that participating businesses have reduced total electricity use by 25-30%.

Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade recognizes the challenges associated with the rising power demand. To address these challenges and prevent supply disruptions, the ministry has directed energy providers to develop proactive strategies for electricity and fuel supply management.

While businesses can play a valuable role in optimizing energy use, load adjustment is just one piece of the puzzle. Vietnam will need to continue investing in power generation capacity, particularly from renewable sources, to sustainably meet its long-term electricity needs.

An energy conference was convened in Hanoi on August 18, co-hosted by Vietnam's Energy Efficiency Office – under the Ministry of Industry and Trade – and the National Electricity Regulatory Authority.



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