



Electricity Consumption Increases by 10% Annually- Specialists Talk about the Upcoming Crisis

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Does Georgia need big hydro power plants? Supporters are talking about energy independence and economic impacts, opponents focus on environmental damage and potential threats. The issue was discussed in the air of the radio Commersant.

Davit Chipashvili, *representative* of the NGO *Green Alternative*, says that the reasons for the construction of hydro power plants in Georgia are not justified. He speaks about the necessity of developing an energy efficient plan.

"Georgia is the only country that has no law on energy efficiency, when we are moving towards the EU. One of the EU main directions is energy efficiency and its increase to 27%." We have not analyzed how to balance the growth of consumption or its decrease. For instance, in Denmark reduction of energy consumption did not have any impact on economic growth due to the planned efficiency measures, technological retooling of enterprises", - says David Chipashvili.

According to David Chipashvili, construction of large hydropower plants is a long-term process. The Green Alternative activist believes that the construction of hydro power plants will not solve the current challenges.

"For example, the construction of the Nenskra HPP can last at best for 10 years. If energy consumption increases, what are we doing during these ten years? How can the big HPP be a way out of the current challenges when it will start generating electricity in years," Davit Chipashvili

Nika Oboladze, member of the political center Girchy, believes that Georgia needs renewable energy sources, as electricity consumption in the country is growing annually.

"Georgia will inevitably see an increase in electricity consumption. Every year energy consumption grows by about 10% annually, we use less than 8 times less electricity per capita than in Europe, but we are a small country with a small economy. I want to say that Georgia will require more electricity not to consume it inefficiently but because compared to the developed countries, we already consume small amount of electricity, " - Nika Oboladze explains.

Energy expert Vakhtang Zarkua told Commerzant that there is no need for construction of hydroelectric power stations at this stage.

In Nika Oboladze's words, the market should be regulated, where different companies will compete with each other. It is necessary to clarify property right and investors to establish communication with the population.