

90-Day Emergency Electricity Savings Policy

+ Effective Date

April 10, 2026

+ Issued by

National Energy Authority (NEA)



+ AUTHORITY

State of Economic Emergency (Executive Order, March 26, 2026);

Energy Act, 2025

+ APPLICABILITY

All Government Ministries, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), and Government-Subsidized Agencies

1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION



On March 26, 2026, the Cabinet approved an Executive Order declaring a State of Economic Emergency. This action responds to the expected continuous increases in global fuel prices stemming from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Given our Republic's heavy reliance on imported goods, including food, fuel, and building materials, these rising costs present a direct risk to the livelihoods of the Marshallese people.

To address this crisis, the National Energy Authority Act, 2025, and the Energy Act, 2025, certified on March 5, 2026, are under immediate enforcement. Exercising these emergency powers, the National Energy Authority (NEA) establishes this mandatory 30% reduction target for public sector energy consumption. This framework is designed to drastically reduce the government's power consumption, relieve strain on the national grid, and protect the national budget over the next 90 days.

2. DAILY OPERATIONAL MANDATES (DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT)



Immediate reduction of the daily power load is required. Implementing these physical interventions will instantly reduce total energy consumption, particularly during the peak afternoon hours when cooling demands are highest. All government offices and facilities must adhere strictly to the following operational directives:

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| One-Month 3:00 PM Facility Shutdown and Mandated Working Lunch | For an initial period of one month, all government facilities will close at 3:00 PM to avoid operating air conditioning systems during the hottest part of the afternoon. To compensate for this adjustment, lunch hours are now designated as mandatory work hours. By remaining operational through the lunch period, this closure effectively shifts one hour of the workday to a remote or work-from-home status, preserving productivity while maximizing energy savings. The NEA will advise the NDC on the findings of this measure after 30 days to determine its ongoing feasibility. |
| Mandatory End-of-Day IT Shutdown | At the 3:00 PM closure, all government computers, monitors, and printers must be completely turned off and unplugged from power outlets. Essential network servers are strictly exempt from this mandate. |
| After-Hours Security Lighting | During non-working hours, all indoor lights and air conditioning units must be turned off. Agencies requiring exterior lighting for security are restricted to operating only one or two outside LED lights. To ensure security without relying on full facility lighting, agencies must formally request after-hours patrol assistance from the Marshall Islands Police Department or the Majuro Atoll Local Government Police. |

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| Public School System (PSS) Compliance | Teachers, staff, and school administrators must ensure that all classroom lights, air conditioning units, and electronics are turned off immediately at the end of the school day prior to leaving the premises. |
| Prohibition of Personal Appliances | The use of personal high-draw appliances, including mini-fridges, electric kettles, hot plates, and coffee makers at individual desks, is strictly prohibited. Personnel must utilize centralized break rooms for these needs. |
| Temperature Limits and Supplemental Cooling | All operating air conditioning units must be set between 75 and 78 degrees. Employees are directed to use fans to circulate air, allowing for comfortable working conditions at these higher, more efficient temperature settings. |
| Natural Ventilation | When weather permits, offices should open windows to utilize natural airflow for cooling in place of air conditioning. |
| The KUNE Rule | Personnel must turn off air conditioning and unplug electronics when vacating a room or moving to another location ("KUNE ñe kwõj emmaküt"). The guiding principle is: "Ne kwõjab kõjeral, KUNE!" (If you are not using it, turn it off) . |
| Lighting | Maximize the use of natural daylight and utilize only LED lighting when artificial light is required. |

3. DECENTRALIZATION OF AIR CONDITIONING MAINTENANCE



Air conditioning constitutes the largest draw on the public power grid. The Ministry of Works, Infrastructure, and Utilities (WIU) currently lacks the capacity to service all government units. To resolve this immediately:

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| Private Sector Contracting | WIU, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, is directed to immediately transition maintenance responsibilities and facilitate the contracting of air conditioning cleaning and repair services to the private sector. |
| Entity-Level Financial Responsibility | Every government ministry, state-owned enterprise, and subsidized agency must allocate funds from their current budgets to hire private contractors for air conditioning repairs, maintenance, and cleaning. While agencies are directed to transition maintenance to the private sector, they are also encouraged to explore all available avenues—including internal staffing or collaborative partnership with other agencies—to ensure units are serviced. |
| 90-Day Compliance Deadline | Within 90 days of the Emergency Order, every agency must compile a complete inventory of their air conditioning units. They must also secure a maintenance contract and schedule to ensure filters are cleaned every 2 to 4 weeks. While physical cleaning of all units may extend beyond this 90-day window, the finalized contracts and schedules must be in place. |

4. MANDATORY ENERGY MONITORING AND BILLING (MEC MANDATE)



Accurate utility tracking is required to verify that the 30% reduction target is being met.

+ Monthly Comparative Billing

The Marshalls Energy Company (MEC) is mandated to provide detailed monthly electricity bills to every government ministry, state-owned enterprise, and subsidized agency.

+ Baseline Comparison

Every MEC bill issued during this emergency period must explicitly detail the agency's current consumption compared to the 30-day period immediately preceding the March 26 emergency declaration.

5. EXEMPTION

The Government recognizes that safeguarding public health and maintaining critical infrastructure for safety and security is paramount.

- **Security Personnel:** All security personnel across all Government Ministries, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), and subsidized agencies are fully exempt from the 3:00 PM shutdown. They are authorized to continue their services as necessary to ensure the protection of government assets and public safety.
- **Essential Medical Facilities:** Hospital wards, pharmacies, laboratories, and morgues requiring 24/7 climate control remain fully exempt.
- **Core 24/7 Operations:** To ensure the ongoing safety and well-being of the Republic, **only** personnel maintaining core 24/7 operations and essential services are exempt from the 3:00 PM early dismissal policy. This exemption applies strictly to essential workers within the Marshall Islands Police Department, Weather Service Operations, MOCIA's V7AB, the Division of Immigration, the Ports Authority, the Ministry of Health and Human Services, essential governmental utilities, and any

other individuals officially designated as vital to continuous national operations. All other non-essential employees are required to adhere to the policy and observe the 3:00 PM cut-off.

- **Non-Exempt Facilities:** These energy reduction mandates apply strictly to all other operations within these organizations. Only essential departments within these organizations are exempted; all other departments that are deemed non-essential are required to vacate their stations, turn off their ACs, computers, and all non-essential appliances not deemed necessary for official governmental functions at 3:00 PM. This includes administrative buildings, nurses' and doctors' stations (non-clinical), conference rooms, non-emergency security desks, break rooms, and hallways.

SPECIAL EXEMPTION: Public School System (PSS) and College of the Marshall Islands

While the Public School System and College of the Marshall Islands are generally required to comply with energy reduction mandates, the following specific exemptions are granted to ensure child protection, educational rights, and community welfare.

1. Residential and Essential Student Services

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| School Dormitories | Student dormitories are fully exempt from the 3:00 PM shutdown to ensure the safety and housing security of students. |
| Kitchen and Dining Facilities | School kitchens are exempt to the extent necessary for the preparation and service of student meals. |
| Emergency Maintenance | Maintenance staff are exempt when responding to after-hours safety or security-related repairs to ensure campuses remain safe for students. |

2. After-Hours School and Community Activities:

PSS and CMI are permitted to operate facilities after 3:00 PM for regular school classes and activities and specific extracurricular and community activities—including Constitution Day games, PTA meetings, and Graduation ceremonies—subject to the following strict conditions.

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| Mandatory AC Shutdown | All air conditioning units in sports facilities, gymnasiums, and classrooms used for after-hours activities must be turned off and remain off if it is not part of the regular school classes and activities and it is after 3:00 PM. |
| Natural Ventilation | Facilities must utilize natural airflow and fans to maintain comfortable conditions in place of climate control. |

6. DESIGNATION OF ENERGY MANAGERS



To ensure the successful daily execution of this policy, all Administrative Officers or the lead administrative departments within each government ministry, state-owned enterprise, and subsidized agency are hereby officially appointed as Energy Managers for their respective entities.

+ Responsibilities

Energy Managers are responsible for the direct, on-the-ground implementation of this policy. Their duties include enforcing the daily 3:00 PM shutdown and working lunch, ensuring adherence to the "KUNE" rule and IT shutdown protocols, managing the inventory and private contracting for air conditioning maintenance, and serving as the primary point of contact with the NEA regarding monthly MEC billing reviews.

7. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

Compliance with the 90-Day Emergency Electricity Savings Policy is mandatory. The National Energy Authority (NEA) will monitor the monthly MEC baseline reports to verify progress toward the 30% reduction goal.

+ Accountability and Travel Suspension

If a government ministry, state-owned enterprise, or subsidized agency fails to demonstrate significant progress toward the reduction target, the NEA will recommend to Office of the Chief Secretary and Ministry of Finance a full suspension of all travel allowances or permissions (both domestic and off-island), regardless of the source of funding for the travel. This suspension will apply to the Head of Department, the Chief Executive Officer, and all personnel within the non-compliant entity. The travel restriction will remain active until the subsequent monthly MEC bill verifies compliance and measurable energy savings.

+ Exemption for Essential Services

This travel suspension will not apply to essential personnel who must travel to neighboring islands to maintain critical infrastructures, deliver essential government services, or provide necessary medical care.