

# ‘Pay price for going green’

## Invest In Energy R&D: Montek To Power Firms

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**New Delhi:** Planning Commission deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia on Saturday urged power companies in India to divert a part of their profits for research on alternative energy sources. He called for government guidelines to make this mandatory. In the bargain, if there is a tariff hike, people will have to live with it, he said.

“Public sector power companies are doing abysmally in this respect. Companies may say that to go green we will need to increase the tariff. My reply is that there is a lot of room in our country for energy pricing because they are way below global rates,” Ahluwalia said while addressing the 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organized by The Earth Research Institute (TERI). He said this is the practice of energy firms in developed countries but is yet to be adopted here. Referring to the

Plan panel deputy chairman Montek Ahluwalia says if power PSUs need to increase tariff for investing in alternative energy sources, they must be allowed to do it as energy pricing in the country is way below global rates

climate change front. He called upon organizations like TERI to do as much to generate consensus on climate change policies in India as it has been doing globally. “Pro-environment groups are not doing enough in India at the domestic policy level. In the Planning Commission, that rather than global strategy against climate change, is our priority,” Ahluwalia said.

He said the decontrol of petrol prices was a baby step towards developing an integrated energy policy. Ahluwalia also highlighted the dichotomy between the theoretical position that there should be a tax on fossil fuels, which should be used