

Headline	'Majority of consumers unaffected by tax hike'		
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## ELECTRICITY BILL

# 'Majority of consumers unaffected by tax hike'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Almost 85 per cent of domestic consumers in the peninsula will not be affected by the service tax hike from six to eight per cent starting today.

The Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry said the government's taxation reforms were not applicable to a vast majority of consumers, who would not feel the pinch when paying for utilities.

"For electricity, the service tax would only apply for households which have high consumption above 600 kWh, a month.

"Thus, 6.96 million consumers, or 84.3 per cent of those in the residential category in the peninsula, will not be subjected to SST (sales and services tax).

"This service tax hike applies to approximately 15.7 per cent or 1.29 million users in the same residential category that use electricity above 600kWh.

"They may see an increase in charges of

between RM0.01 to RM45.48 per month, or 0 per cent to 1.66 per cent per month, with the two per cent increase in the SST rate," it said yesterday.

The ministry said targeted subsidy was one of the government's approaches in ensuring subsidies were given to people deserving of it.

"Consumers may refer to their monthly electricity bills to monitor their electricity consumption and the subsidies provided.

"They can also estimate their monthly electricity bills in future by using the electricity tariff calculator available via the [myelectricitybill.my](http://myelectricitybill.my) website."

The ministry also encouraged more prudence among consumers through the use of energy-efficient electrical equipment at home, in addition to other suggestions, such as conducting energy consumption audits and analysing consumption.

It suggested switching to home electrical equipment with four- or five-star energy-efficiency ratings, carrying out regular maintenance, switching off appliances when not in use, and setting the air-conditioning temperature to between 24°C and 26°C as ways to lower power usage.

Furthermore, consumers could take advantage of the government's e-rebate of up to RM400, given through its Sustainability Achieved Via Energy Efficiency (SAVE) 4.0 programme, for the purchase of energy-efficient air conditioners and refrigerators endorsed by the Energy Commission.

The ministry said initiatives such as the Net Energy Metering for Government Ministries and Entities and the NEM Net Offset Virtual Aggregation programmes would help minimise electricity costs as well.