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KUALA LUMPUR (April 2): Malaysia plans to commission 18 waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities by 2040 as part of efforts to accelerate the country's transition towards green energy.

The initiative is expected to generate up to 600MW of renewable energy, said Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming. It is also aligned with the National Energy Transition Roadmap target of 70% renewable energy capacity by 2050, he said.

The facilities could reduce up to 85% of solid waste currently being sent to landfills, with the remaining 15% repurposed through circular economy practices.

They are also expected to cut more than 259,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually — equivalent to emissions from 56,000 vehicles.

“This reflects the government's strong commitment to transforming the country's solid waste management towards a more sustainable, modern, and green technology-based approach,” Nga said in a statement.

Earlier, Nga officiated the groundbreaking ceremony of a WtE plant in Sungai Udang, Melaka, together with Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ab Rauf Yusoh.

The RM660 million plant, expected to be fully operational by 2029, will process up to 1,000 tonnes of solid waste daily and generate up to 22 megawatts of electricity under a 34-year concession.

The project is being developed under a private financing initiative model, with Malakoff Corporation Bhd (KL:MALAKOF) as the key strategic investor, strengthening public-private collaboration in waste management.

While the plant is under construction, the National Solid Waste Management Department is building a new disposal cell at the Sungai Udang solid waste disposal site at a cost of RM48.5 million to ensure continued and orderly waste management in Melaka.