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Real benefits in embracing solar power

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AS a recent adopter of solar energy, I was absolutely delighted to read the insightful articles "Time to switch to solar" (*The Star*, May 31) and the *StarBiz7* report, "Solar panels: Are they worth it?" (June 1).

These articles perfectly echo my own journey and decision to embrace solar power. Beyond the significant financial benefits, I am proud to be a responsible Malaysian citizen, actively supporting our government's ambitious goals of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and a 70% renewable energy mix by 2030. Every kilowatt-hour generated from my rooftop contributes to a greener, more sustainable future for our nation.

For any residential homeowner contemplating the switch, my advice is simple: do not hesitate. You will not regret it. I recently had 14 solar panels installed, boasting an 8.68kWh capacity. In just two weeks, I have already generated close to 500kWh!

As my average monthly electricity bill hovers around RM500, I am highly confident of reaching a breakeven point within three to four years on my initial investment of RM24,000. This calculation is further sweetened by a generous RM4,000 rebate from the Solar For Rakyat Incentive Scheme (Solaris), making the financial case even more compelling.

One of the most empowering aspects of my solar system is the



accompanying real-time monitoring app. This allows me to track my daily yield, see exactly how much energy my panels are generating, and even view the precise environmental impact.

In just two weeks, I've already contributed to a 490kg CO₂ reduction, saved 195kg of standard coal, and made a contribution of 0.27 equivalent planting. These tangible figures truly bring home the positive difference each solar homeowner can make.

The aforementioned articles rightly highlight how solar energy, once perceived as a luxury, is

now a practical and affordable upgrade for landed homeowners. The improved access, lower entry costs, and supportive government initiatives like the Net Energy Metering (NEM) scheme have truly democratised solar power.

The NEM 3.0 scheme, particularly NEM Rakyat, is a game changer. As the articles explain, any excess electricity my solar panels generate is exported to the grid, earning me credits that effectively offset my usage from Tenaga Nasional Berhad. It's a brilliant mechanism that allows us to become both producers and

consumers of clean energy.

I was also pleased to read about the government's foresight in increasing the domestic quota for the NEM Rakyat programme to 600MW, a testament to the overwhelming public interest. This commitment, reaffirmed by the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry, underscores Malaysia's dedication to expanding rooftop solar initiatives as a key pillar in achieving our national energy transition aspirations.

Let's not forget a key advantage we have in Malaysia: we are blessed with sunshine all year round! So, for those still on the fence, I encourage you to get a professional assessment of your roof's solar potential. Compare offers from certified solar panel providers and thoroughly understand the NEM application process, and the incentives you qualify for.

The resources available through the Energy Commission and the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (Seda) websites are invaluable.

Switching to solar power has been one of the best decisions I've made for my home and for our planet. It's time for more Malaysians to join this green revolution and experience the truly rewarding benefits of solar energy.

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