

Headline	Electricity tariff changes to affect 1.2m households		
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# Electricity tariff changes to affect 1.2m households

➤ Prudent usage, energy saving appliances and solar panels could help reduce costs: Consumer group ex-chief

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**PETALING JAYA:** Some 1.2 million households will be impacted by the electricity tariff adjustments that took effect in Peninsular Malaysia on Jan 1 under the Imbalance Cost Pass-Through (ICPT) mechanism.

The Energy Commission said the adjustments, which will be applicable until June 30, will not affect users in the industrial and commercial categories, in which a surcharge of 17 sen/kWh will remain.

Households that pay between RM220 to RM737 a month in electricity bills will experience a hike ranging from 4.2% to 6%. This will translate to a potential monthly rise of RM12 to RM32.

The government's decision to remove subsidies for those using between 601kWh and 1,500kWh monthly reflects a shift to targeted subsidies that aim to ensure financial support is directed where it is needed most.

Based on this, the government has allocated RM1.9 billion in subsidies to users

in the domestic category.

The commission said the financial injection is designed to alleviate the burden of the ICPT surcharge on the identified categories of users throughout the stipulated implementation period.

In response to the changes, Negeri Sembilan Consumers Association former president Bulbir Singh said consumers must use electricity efficiently, especially by understanding how electrical appliances work.

"Consumers have to ensure the appliances they are about to buy or use should have a 5-star rating as they are designed to consume less energy, and thus contribute to overall power savings.

"The most important part of reducing electricity is switching off the power when it is not in use. This is a habit that is often overlooked but can significantly contribute to energy conservation," he said.

In addition to these basic practices, Bulbir recommended the installation of solar panels, especially for those with electricity bills exceeding RM200.

He said solar energy, harnessed through photovoltaic panels or mirrors concentrating solar energy, presents a sustainable alternative to traditional power generation and consumption.

"The energy generated from solar sources can either be used directly or stored in batteries for later use. They offer a solution for those seeking to reduce reliance on conventional power sources."

Bulbir said consumers play a critical role in reducing electricity costs through responsible practices, adding that by using energy-efficient appliances, being mindful of usage patterns and exploring renewable energy options, consumers could contribute to a more sustainable and cost-effective energy landscape.

"Consumers must embrace energy-efficient practices and explore sustainable alternatives. This will ultimately contribute to a more resilient and responsible approach to power consumption."

He added that as the government aims to strike a balance between financial responsibility and consumer welfare, individual efforts to use power judiciously become paramount in navigating these changes.

"Without consumers themselves using power efficiently, household electricity expenses will not be reduced."