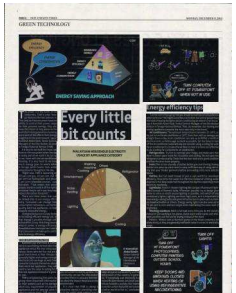


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Every little bit counts

THE power is in the hands of the consumers. That is what Tenaga Nasional Berhad believes in. "Not only do the consumers have the ability to control their power usage for their personal savings, they also have the choice to help preserve the world for future generations by being more alert of the effects their energy usage has on the environment," says Ir Kamaliah Abdul Kadir, Senior General Manager of the Distribution Division in Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB).

It is easy to overlook the impact we have on the ecosystem when the day is sunny and all we want is to curl up in our room with the air-conditioner blasting. It is also hard to see how much energy goes to waste when a storage water-heater boils water unnecessarily throughout the day.

"Right now, TNB is operating on 50 per cent gas, 40 per cent coal, 8 per cent on hydropower and about 2 per cent renewable sources," says Kamaliah. "That means that when people decide to switch off the lights whenever they're not in use, they help reduce the carbon footprint."

There are three areas that can be looked into to use energy efficiently. Consumers can change their consumption behaviours, use better quality electrical appliances, or look towards renewable energy.

Changing behaviour is a key factor in increasing efficient energy use, so that change is possible through collective effort. Every little thing counts when it comes to energy efficiency. Kamaliah shares the important habits that consumers can take up to contribute to energy efficiency.

OTHER INFLUENCING FACTORS

Kamaliah says that there is a difference in purchasing normal electrical appliances versus five-star rating appliances. Items with the five-star are a good investment as their lifespan is generally higher and savings through electrical costs are huge as well. Once consumers educate themselves about their electrical appliances, they will start to see the value in opting for a five-star appliance instead of a generic one.

TNB is empowering the public by giving them important information on their website such as the average electricity requirement of popular appliances and the average costs it takes to operate them. TNB encourages consumers to visit its website; the community can use the information provided there to educate themselves about the impact they have on the environment.

It is clear that TNB is taking a proactive stance in providing energy to the public while making sure it

keeps an eye on sustainability and the betterment of the country in general. "If everybody uses electricity in a more efficient manner, we can all contribute towards a society that leaves a smaller carbon footprint and create a better world to live in," concludes Kamaliah.

Energy efficiency tips

"Let me start off by saying that you should turn off electrical appliances when not in use. This might sound like a no-brainer, but a lot of people have this habit of leaving the lights and air-conditioning on when it is not in use," says Ir Kamaliah Abdul Kadir, Senior General Manager of the Distribution Division in Tenaga Nasional Berhad. "Also, do remember that heating and cooling appliances consume the most electricity in the home."

Air conditioners: The optimum temperature is between 22–24°C, so try not to run the air-conditioner at 16°C. Even then, with an average use of eight hours a day, an air conditioner can rack up to RM40 a month in electrical costs, so limit usage as much as possible. Set the timer to turn off the air conditioner automatically and consider using a ceiling fan with the air conditioner to circulate the air. Bear in mind it is more cost effective to use a ceiling fan compared to air conditioners.

Refrigerators: Try not to overload your fridge, and make sure that there is ample space inside for circulation and cooling. Do not open the refrigerator unnecessarily. Check that the door seals are in good condition and that the door closes properly.

Irons: Plan to iron a bundle of clothes before you start ironing. Ironing clothes on a piece-by-piece basis is a very inefficient way of using electricity. Iron your thicker garments before proceeding onto more delicate fabrics.

Kettles: Boil full loads instead of just a cup's worth for maximum efficiency. Store extra hot water in a thermos instead of utilising water dispensers that keep water hot throughout the day thus expending more electricity needlessly.

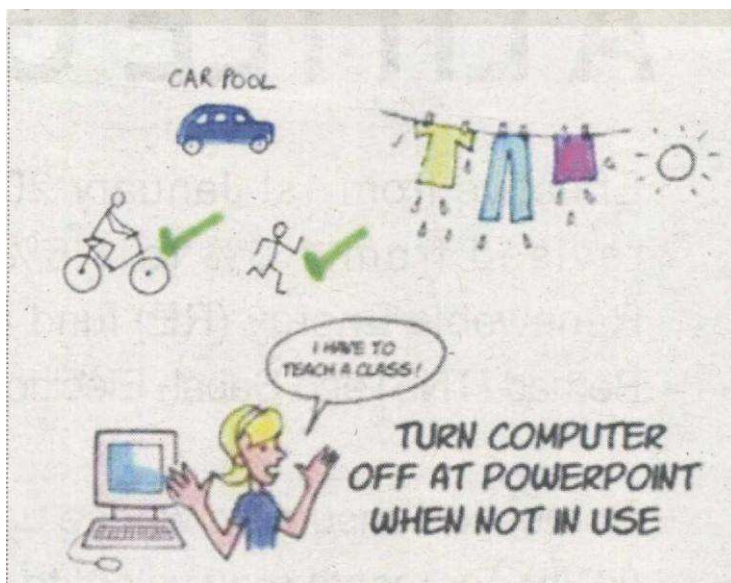
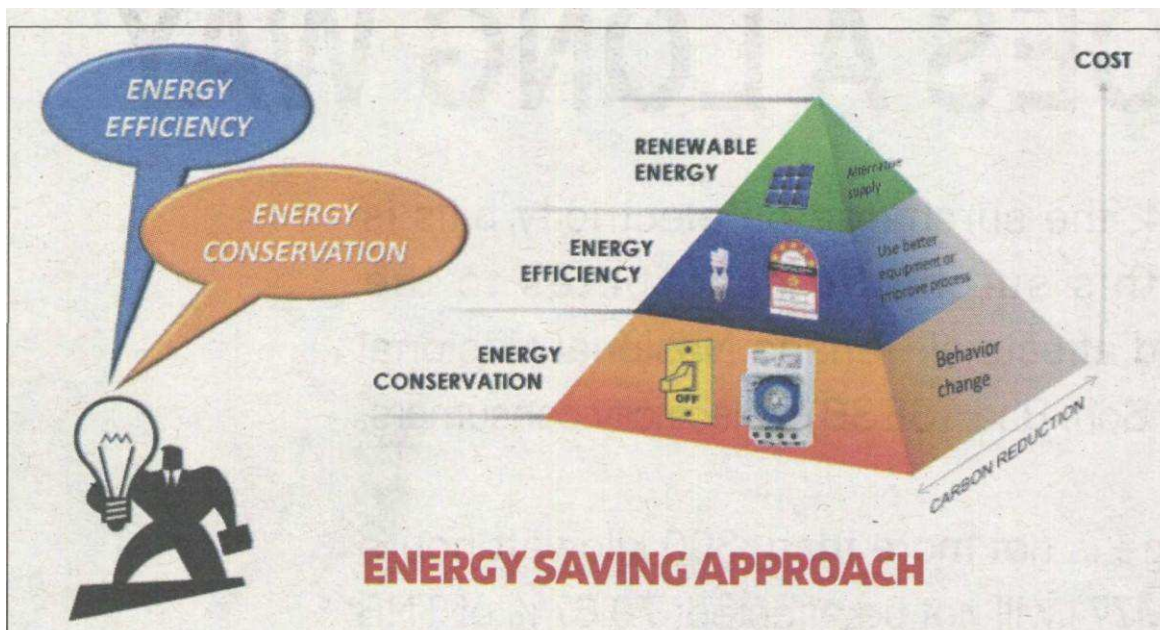
Lightbulbs: Invest in modern lighting like compact fluorescent lightbulbs instead of filament bulbs. Whenever possible, try to design your home to utilise as much natural lighting as possible, and switch off any unnecessary lights. Lighting can incur high costs, so it is important to have energy-saving bulbs and green infrastructure in place such as motion-based activation or timers. Energy saving lights can also save up to

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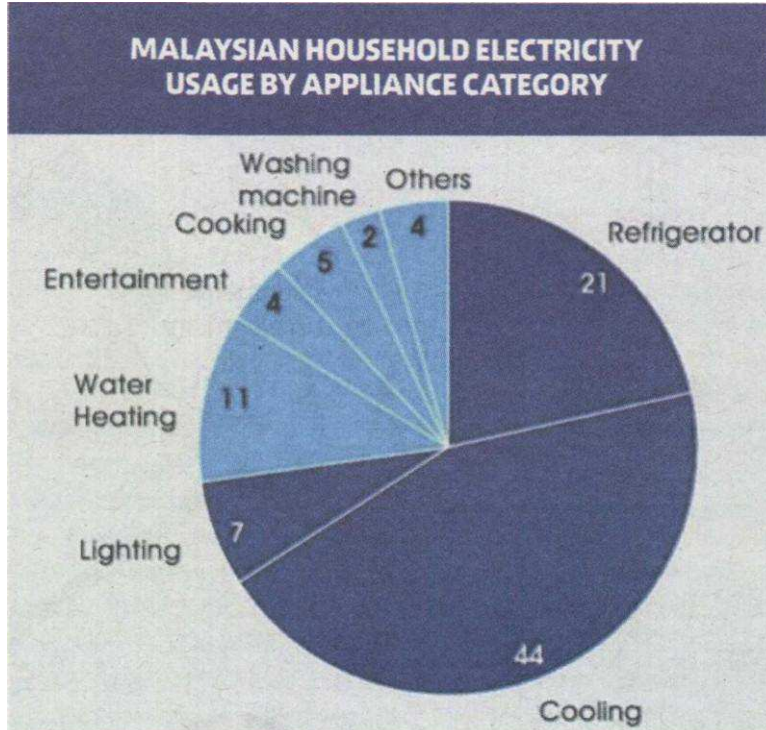
75 per cent in costs and last longer while maintaining the same level of brightness.

Washing machines: Wash a full load every time you do the laundry instead of just washing a few pieces. Avoid warm water cycles, and whenever possible, use the sun for drying instead of the dryer.

Motors: Motors such as fountain pumps in the house consume a lot of electricity as they are generally inefficient when it comes to electricity usage.



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