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Switching to energy-efficient habits

Majority of Star Online survey respondents aim to cut down on electricity usage

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IN THIS week's Star Online survey, we asked our readers whether they would rather spend more money on energy-saving devices (light bulbs, air-conditioners, solar technology) or make the extra effort to adopt energy-efficient habits (switch off appliances when not in use)?

The survey was prompted by the impending increase in the electricity tariff on Jan 1.

The tariff in peninsular Malaysia will increase 4.99sen/kWh or 14.89% next year from 33.54 sen per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 38.53 sen/kWh.

For Sabah and Labuan, the average tariff will be up five sen/kWh from 29.52 sen/kWh to 34.52 sen/kWh.

Out of 1,509 respondents, 72% (1,085 respondents) said they would make the effort to practise energy-efficient habits such as switching off electrical appliances when not in use, while 28% (424 respondents) said they would buy energy-saving devices.

The participants came from 37 countries and other than Malaysia, most of the other respondents were from Australia, the United States and Singapore.

These are some tips that consumers can adopt to save electricity:

- Do not leave laptops, television sets and computers on standby;
- Clean the refrigerator regularly;
- Clean air-condition filters to optimise operations;
- Draw curtains to keep out heat from direct sunlight;
- Use compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent ones;
- Use gas stoves to boil water; and
- Use a bedside lamp for reading.

Some of our Facebook followers said they too would make the extra effort to

adopt energy-efficient habits.

"I would consider both points when buying new electrical appliances. Otherwise, I would start with being more mindful about conserving electricity," said one Facebook user.

Another said it was really easy to cut energy consumption in the average household by 20% without investing in new stuff.

"Use less air-conditioning and switch off appliances, which includes unplugging the wall sockets. Maybe the reduction in subsidy can be a good thing for the environment."



The better choice: If you are shopping for an air conditioner now, look out for models with the Energy Commission's five-star rating. Five-star rated appliances are the most efficient out there, and promises savings in electricity bills, as well as reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from power generation. — filepic