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Cost-saving, eco-friendly solution

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SOLAR POWER

Cost-saving, eco-friendly solution

Affordable solution for Malaysian households to reduce electricity bills

PHOTOVOLTAIC solar energy systems allow us to generate our own electricity, significantly reducing electricity bills — and in some cases, eliminating them.

In Malaysia, a photovoltaic solar system with a capacity of around 5 kW can produce up to 600 kWh of electricity per month, which is enough to cover 70 per cent to 100 per cent of a typical household's electricity needs.

Once seen as a luxury only accessible to the wealthy, solar panels are now gaining traction among homeowners as a modern, eco-friendly, and cost-effective solution.

For Saiful Nizam Abu Bakar, 44, the switch to solar energy began in August last year after years of paying around RM700 monthly for electricity to support a household of seven.

Saiful said he received a RM4,000 rebate through a solar incentive scheme at the time and paid only RM23,000 to install 14 solar panels on his roof.

"Although I have to pay RM300 in monthly instalments for five years (to finance the solar system), after that I no longer have to worry about electricity bills. My bill used to be RM700 a month — now it's just RM40," he said.

MORE AFFORDABLE

Beyond rebates through solar incentive schemes, financing options from local banks help ease the initial cost of installing photovoltaic systems.

Gan Yong Li, 38, said that the option to pay in instalments has made solar energy more appealing to the public.

Like Saiful, he received a RM4,000 rebate and installed 10 panels on his home.

"My electricity bill used to be nearly RM400 a month. Since installing solar panels, it has dropped to just about RM10 a month," he said.

"Sometimes it goes over RM100 when I charge the car more often, but it's usually below RM100," he said.

For Gan, one interesting aspect is that the maintenance cost of solar panels is minimal. They need to be cleaned only occasionally, and usually, the rain will wash away most of the dirt.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

Meanwhile, senior lecturer and energy manager at Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Dr Wan Khairul Muzammil Abd Rahim, described solar energy as a smart choice, capable of reducing electricity bills by more than 90 per cent.

"Financing options like solar leasing and zero upfront cost models make solar power more accessible," he said.

He said solar technology costs in Malaysia have dropped by 30 per cent to 50 per cent over the past five years, thanks to advancements and increased competition.

"Generating your own electricity also shields you from inflation. It's a proactive investment for an uncertain future," he added.

More importantly, solar energy reduces reliance on fossil fuels like coal, thereby lowering carbon emissions and improving air quality.

This shift aligns with Malaysia's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 in response to global climate change.

With rapid technological advancements, growing climate awareness, and rising living costs, solar energy is proving to be a highly worthwhile long-term investment.

Supported by government incentives, substantial cost savings, and easy, affordable maintenance, there's no reason to wait.

Visit www.tnb.com.my/solar or consult a certified solar photovoltaic system provider to take the first step toward a more sustainable energy future.



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Senior lecturer and energy manager at Universiti Malaysia Sabah,



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