

Headline	We have been too wasteful in electricity usage		
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# We have been too wasteful in electricity usage

YES, we must bite the bullet and find ways to reduce the consumption of electricity.

The country cannot afford to continue to subsidise electricity in the long run. Malaysians are always taking things for granted.

I have a couple of friends who have an electric thermopot which keeps the water temperature at a certain level all day long. The pot will automatically increase the temperature of the water once it falls below the required temperature.

It is certainly a waste of electricity as they only make a cup of tea once in a while and the pot is on for 24 hours! Can't they just boil the required amount of water whenever they require it?

I can understand it when offices use such thermopots as they have visitors regularly, but they must be

switched off after office hours.

I used to tick off my son for not setting the timer for the air-conditioner when it gets too cold in the middle of the night. Instead, he uses a blanket to keep warm.

Another wasteful habit of my son is using electricity unnecessarily. His answer for this is that electricity does not cost much.

All this is because our electricity tariff is heavily subsidised.

I also have relatives who have freezers and they are quite empty most of the time.

They are only fully utilised on certain festive periods when all their siblings come home for a couple of days.

Again, this is wasting electricity unnecessarily.

Aren't freezers meant for business people?

There are many houses which

do not install light sensors for the lights in the car porch or backyard.

These sensors can help to save electricity as they switch on the lights when it gets dark and switch off the lights when it gets bright.

I have seen houses with such lights on for days, especially when the owners go on holiday. This is wasting electricity.

I also notice that people are buying big capacity refrigerators that are most of the time under utilised.

When I asked them why, their reply is that it does not cost much in electricity and sometimes they need the extra space.

Can't they plan their cooking in a way they do not need to stock up?

When I fuss over all this, I am called a "stingy old man".

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