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More ways to reduce power consumption

I REFER to the letter "Steps to take to reduce electricity consumption" (*The Star*, Nov 29).

The writer deserves to be commended for encouraging electricity consumers to cut their electricity bills by reducing the use of air-conditioners (A/Cs) and switching off computers during rest days (which is energy conservation) and using energy efficient LED bulbs, which is using energy efficiently.

Efficient use of energy does not necessarily mean doing without the user convenience facilities such as cooling by A/Cs.

Energy can be saved by adjusting the A/C temperature setting, to say 25°C (instead of 22°C or lower) and using them for shorter periods, though the saving then may not be as much as the writer has achieved.

However, I wonder where he got the idea that "Changing single phase to three phase AC current will reduce power consumption by at least 40%."

He goes on to say "I hope the government will subsidise three phase power installations for every household".

This is the first time in my half century of experience in the power supply industry that I have heard such a claim.

Whether the power is supplied from a single phase or a three phase source, the energy consumption depends on the actual use of the electricity consuming appliances.

So advising consumers to go for three phase supply to "reduce power consumption by at least 40%" is a gross mistake and may confuse the technically uninformed consumers to spend money unnecessarily if they take the advice.

Genuine and valid energy saving tips are readily available from the TNB and ST documents from their websites.

A regular contributor to *The Star's Op-Ed* page, Bulbir Singh, has frequently written accurately about the simple and effective ways by which consumers can reduce their energy bills and their "carbon footprint".

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