

Headline	Energy-efficient buildings enabling government to save millions in electricity costs		
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Energy-efficient buildings enabling government to save millions in electricity costs

PUTRAJAYA: The government has succeeded in slashing the electricity costs at some of its buildings by more than RM10 million in the last two years, following the implementation of various initiatives to promote energy efficiency.

The use of energy-efficient measures and electrical fittings at 54 buildings at 25 ministries in Putrajaya and elsewhere in the country has seen a 5.6 per cent drop in power consumption at these buildings in 2014, and 6.8 per cent in 2015, when compared against their electricity usage in the baseline year of 2013.

The reductions translated into savings of RM5.4 million and RM6.5 million in electricity costs for 2014 and 2015 respectively, according to Energy Commission (EC) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Ahmad Fauzi Hasan.

A more substantial saving is expected this year as the government is optimistic that it can attain a 9.2 per cent reduction in energy consumption in the buildings concerned, he said.

"The 9.2 per cent reduction is attainable based on the power usage from January to May this year, provided they continue using the energy-efficient methods," he told Bernama.

Under 11 cost-cutting measures announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in December 2013 to reduce public sector expenditure, ministries, government departments and agencies were required to trim their premises' electricity costs by five per

cent.

"The EC was asked to monitor their power usage to see if they could meet the target but they (government buildings where energy-efficient measures were implemented) exceeded the target in 2014 and 2015. It did not come as a surprise as the government is serious about implementing energy-efficient initiatives," said Ahmad Fauzi.

He said the savings on electricity costs were calculated based on the average tariff of 0.465 sen for each kilowatt hour (kWh) of energy utilised.

"But if you were to just look at their (government buildings) electricity bills per se, you may think that they have not made much savings (in 2014 and 2015).

The bills are actually not a fair indicator because of the hike in power tariffs (in 2014).

"However, relatively speaking, there has been a distinct reduction in their electricity consumption. If their requirements for fuel and energy continue to go down over the long term, it will benefit our future generations," he stressed.

According to EC estimates, in 2014, power consumption at the buildings concerned reduced by 14,758,218kWh and in 2015, by 17,849,247kWh.

Ahmad Fauzi said the government was implementing its energy-efficient policy for its buildings in two ways. One, which was cost-free, required all staff to help save energy by switching off their lights, computers and other office appli-

ances after work, as well as setting the temperature in their air-conditioning units at 24 degrees Celsius during working hours.

The second method required retrofitting the buildings, including installing energy-efficient lighting systems, to reduce power consumption.

"Before making any changes to enhance energy efficiency in a government building, we must first ascertain its existing electricity usage to find out if there's any wastage, as well as evaluate all the processes and procedures being carried out (in the building) and its fittings.

"It's only after an audit is carried out that we can identify the best measures to improve the building's energy efficiency," he said.

Ahmad Fauzi said the EC expected further reductions in energy consumption not only in the public sector but the private sector as well, given the emphasis on energy efficiency programmes in the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP, 2016-2020).

He said under 11MP, grants of up to RM165.5 million would be provided to the public and private sectors, including industries, for the implementation of energy-efficient measures.

"In the public sector, grants will be provided to carry out auditing and retrofitting works, and for the installation of energy-efficient lights and fittings at government buildings. Grants will also be given to the

commercial and industrial sectors to enable operators to conduct energy efficiency auditing (of their premises)," he said.

Ahmad Fauzi also pointed out that while it had been relatively easy for the government to reduce its power consumption in the last two years, it may get increasingly difficult to improve its energy-efficiency levels with the passage of time.

"So, we may have to look for other methods to reduce electricity usage," he added.

He said under the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2016-2025, spearheaded by the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, the government hoped to cut electricity consumption in the industrial, commercial and domestic sectors by eight per cent by 2020.

"For this year alone, the government has approved grants totalling RM15 million for the implementation of auditing and retrofitting programmes. So, besides the public sector, other sectors are also set to enjoy savings in electricity in the future," he said.

Ahmad Fauzi stressed that energy efficiency was the key to ensuring sustainable energy supplies in the future and enabling the people to save on electricity costs.

"Furthermore, when there's a reduction in the demand for electricity, we don't have to build power plants, which require investments worth billions of ringgit," he added. — Bernama