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City turning to solar power

By Nidheesh M K - KOCHI | Published: 28th September 2013 01:14 PM
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The corporation, civil station and GCDA will soon commission solar plants to cut energy bills | File photo

Ignoring the controversies surrounding solar energy, the three main civic bodies in the city, the Kochi Corporation, the civil station and the Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) will soon commission solar plants to save their energy bills.

"The solar panels of the GCDA will be inaugurated on October 7 by Electricity Minister Aryadan Muhammad," said GCDA chairman N Venugopal. In the first phase, the 60-KW solar power station will light up the third and fourth floors of the GCDA headquarters at Kadavanthra. It will be set up using Rs 70 lakh. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has provided 30 per cent of the amount towards the project and the authority has spent Rs 45 lakh. The GCDA plans to save an average of Rs 60,000 each month from its Rs 1.4 lakh energy bills a month.

District Collector P I Sheik Pareeth said the construction of civil station's Rs 1.5-crore hybrid inverter system using solar panels will begin in few days.

The Rs 1.5-crore project, implemented in association with the MNRE, is estimated to generate 100 KW and aims to save around Rs 1.45 lakh a month in electricity bills. The panels are supposed to meet the total electricity requirements of the civil station which consists of almost 72 offices of various government departments.

Once it come into existence, the district collectorate will become the first one in the state to go solar way to meet its electricity requirements. The officials with the Kochi Corporation said that off late the Solar City project of the Corporation has got a wake up call. The Kochi Corporation has signed an agreement with International Council for Local Environmental (ICLE) this week for implementing the two-year pending project.

The project plans to light up its offices, street lights and other constructions using solar power and thus bring down its energy bills almost by half. A committee under Mayor Tony Chammany had gone through the details of the project earlier and the DPR prepared by the ICLE was approved by the Corporation Council.

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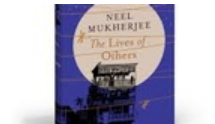
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