

WHY INSULATE?



WHY IS INSULATION IMPORTANT TO THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT?

Governments all over the world are beginning to realise the importance of reducing dependence on energy imports as fuel reserves becomes scarcer and supplies are concentrated on a few politically unstable countries.

In the Malaysian context, the energy imports are expected to equal exports by 2014 as energy demand is expected to triple by 2020, as predicted by NIRAS in their Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Component, Energy Outlook report.

All this points to the obvious question: What does it mean to the Malaysian government?

Firstly, energy efficiency measures must top the agenda of ministries and agencies directly responsible for energy conservation efforts in Malaysia. It will no longer be enough to talk about energy saving plans; immediate steps must be taken to make energy efficiency requirements as part of the country's by-law implementation.

The building sector is probably the most effective and easiest way to start reducing energy consumption.

Reduction in energy demand can be most effective when big energy guzzlers such as commercial buildings are dealt with. As the LEO (Low Energy Office) building of MEWC (Ministry of Energy, Water & Communications) has shown, up to 50% of energy costs can be saved when energy efficient measures are put in place. Another example is the new ZEO (Zero Energy Office) headquarters of PTM (Pusat Tenaga Malaysia) completed in 2007; setting standards for future energy requirements in buildings.

BUILDINGS, THE MOST EFFECTIVE & EASIEST WAY TO SAVE ENERGY

Lowering energy usage does not only prolong fuel supply but also lessen the government's subsidy burden. The high energy subsidy funded by the government meant that its citizens continue to enjoy relatively low energy costs. This financial subsidy cannot continue indefinitely as the funds could be better directed to other beneficial economic and social developments for the country. Energy efficiency can help cushion the effects of the actual energy costs on the users and help the government to reduce energy subsidy in the long term. Furthermore, energy savings can also be the means for Malaysia to reduce expansive investments in power production expansions.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE ENERGY SUBSIDY

In recent years there were many wake-up calls for the country and the government on the condition of our environment. Floods, droughts, haze and landslides were just some of the 'natural disasters' that costs Malaysia millions of Ringgits and its people untold miseries. Although global warming is a worldwide effect caused by carbon dioxide emissions, Malaysia cannot ignore its responsibility to help save the environment. Fossil fuel, a major contributor of greenhouse gases, can be minimised by reducing the use of energy in buildings and practising other energy efficiency measures. This in turn will have a positive impact in reducing carbon dioxide emissions and air pollution.

The potential for profitable energy savings is enormous and remains largely untapped. The technologies for energy efficiency solutions such as the use of insulation in building envelopes are now readily accessible, affordable and well proven. Insulation provides the opportunity for energy savings that is sustainable in the long term, with lasting economic and environmental impact. Ultimately, this is why insulation is so important to the Malaysian government.

"INSULATION IS IMPORTANT FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, FIRE SAFETY AND ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE."



The Low Energy Office building of Ministry of Energy, Water & Communications in Putrajaya, proving that it is possible to build energy efficient buildings without incurring prohibitive costs.