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Lights out for a brighter earth

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March 24: Its not just about generating electricity, the new age mantra is shifting towards “electricity conservation.” And with Earth Day approaching energy experts feel this is the right time to inculcate the sense of energy conservation into the minds of citizens and policy makers. The new initiation is not just aim towards filling the gap of demand and supply of electricity but also emit less carbon by switching over the energy efficient devices. Even if successive government fail to regularize use of electricity and type of devices the citizens themselves start using low carbon emitting devices and help the world fight against global warming. Last year the city civic agency BBMP saved over Rs 20,000 in month’s electricity bill after several park lights were replaced with LED bulbs. Similarly several roads in city including the stretch of NH 7 between Hebbal Flyover and Bengaluru International Airport will now boast LED bulbs in a bid to cut energy consumption.

“Citizen participation is most crucial in brining down energy consumption in city who can contribute by bringing in little changes in lighting and heating. For instance numbers of offices are now going for LED and CFL bulbs instead of higher watt tube lights and bulbs. This has helped reduce energy consumption to the greater extent,” says Dr T.V. Ramachandra, from the Energy and Wetland Research Group of Indian Institute of Science.

The energy department and similar agencies working in electricity production and conservation such as Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Corporation are now joining hands with other government departments to replace several hundreds of street lights to LED based lights. This will not only help the agencies save on their electricity bill, but also emit less carbon into the atmosphere.

Mahesh Nuge, a energy expert feel the incentive based programmes which are started by the various state governments to popularise using solar heating systems are not a hit. “The incentive amount is small (Rs 40 reduction in electricity bill every month) and the government must increase. In the same time the prices of solar water systems must come down so that more people can afford it.

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