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Go solar, as nature intended

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Jane Schäfer



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With load shedding now an everyday reality solar power is the way to go. Foto:

After the announcement last week that Eskom can guarantee only some level of stability in the load-shedding saga by March 2025, depending of course on the outcome of current investigations into the fraud and corruption of high ranking officials and affiliated companies accused of leeching coal supplies and funding. But who can afford to sit around any longer waiting for sanity to be restored to our national energy supply?

There's only one thing to do and that is to go solar, as nature intended. And collectively, you will be doing South Africa and the world a favour.

But are you ready to move into the future at short

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individual householders.

Government has promised solar panels in all new RDP housing from now on, but don't hold your breath on that one. Looking back, top-end "green" lifestyle villages and "eco" estates had already incorporated solar panels for empowering various household functions more than three decades ago in South Africa, and half a century ago in some European countries. But where does that leave you and me?



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of government's offer before close of business on Monday 15 May to the National Treasury's tax policy depository at 2022AnnexCProp@treasury.gov.za and SARS at acollins@sars.gov.za

Then, if you're as fed-up as most of us are with the national energy supplier's inconsistent supply, and want to take immediate action this year towards installing solar panels, you need to make sure you are reliably informed of all your options before taking that step towards a more supportive household existence and greener, more climate-friendly future.

South Africa on average gets more than 2 500 hours of sunlight a year, which is double the solar radiation of Europe. This, based on the national averages from 209 countries, places it in lead position of solar power potential.

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more or less everything in your house when the lights go out. That is apart from the geyser and the stove. But with a 12 000 W (15 kVA) hybrid system, using more panels and storage batteries, you should be able to run everything in the average household, including heavier-draw appliances such as the washing machine, hot-water geyser, heaters, air conditioner, fridge and oven, and your electric kettle which surprisingly uses the exorbitant amount of 200 watts per second.

Cost-wise, a panel can be around R3 000, but between 5 and 10 panels may be needed, depending on the requirements of the household and whether your installation is intended just as a booster, to bridge load shedding, or for broad usage. And then there's the cost of the inverter and the batteries. But this is where your conversation with a reliable solar panel supplier begins. Solar panels

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