

Residential sector warming up to rooftop solar panels

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Rooftop solar installations in the residential sector are gaining currency with companies like Tata Power Solar helping them with turnkey solutions. For instance, a few households in Bhanu Enclave near Yaprul have installed solar panels on their rooftops.

With net metering in place, households are paid a price corresponding to the number of power units fed into the grid. In other words, the households have turned into power producers and sell the same to the State.

"We wanted to shift to solar to reduce the carbon footprint," says V Karthik, a resident of Bhanu Enclave, walking us around the new installation, which includes solar panels and a meter to keep a tab on the power generated. There is no storage device and the power generated is not used directly in the house. "The effective savings for us will be clearer after a few successive bill cycles," he said. His family



ADDING TO POWER: Grid-connected solar rooftop has the potential to emerge as a significant energy producer by using vacant roof of the house or even a car shed, according to Tata Power Solar.

spent about Rs 5 lakh for the solar installation. They are getting Rs 3 per unit fed into the grid. "We are seeing more roof top installations happening within our

colony," points out Karthik. "Grid-connected solar rooftop has the potential to emerge as a significant energy producer by using vacant roof of the house or

even a car shed. We have incorporated do-it-yourself kits that enable customers to set up solar panels in their homes from the ground up. A shadow-free area of 120

sqft is needed per KWp," says Ashish Khanna, MD & CEO, Tata Power Solar. Installation of a solar PV system of 5kWp capacity in Telangana costs about Rs 3.4

lakh. Discounting shadows and varying radiation levels, the payback period is five to seven years.

Such projects are small and, therefore, can be executed fast with assured savings to the consumers. Most residents are inclined at 5 kwh to 10 kwh panels on their roofs. "Solar PV installation is a one-time investment and can serve up to 25 years requiring little or no maintenance. With right-sized solar power system, consumers can produce enough electricity to match their electricity requirements for the entire year," he says.

The installed base of rooftop solar in Telangana could be around 90 MW, of which the share of the residential sector now is negligible, according to market research body Bridge to India data. "Tata Power Solar has recently done a rooftop solar campaign for the residential segment to build consumer awareness in Hyderabad. We will gradually expand into other key cities of the State," he says.