

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3944



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pollution and the ever-increasing scarcity of non-renewable energy sources like coal, oil and gas have been a major environmental problem all throughout these years not only of our country, but of the whole world. The heavy consumption of these resources by people today poses a threat to our next generation such that in the not so far future, the latter may not be able to live in a safe, clean and rich environment anymore.

It is the mandate of the State to ensure that its people shall continuously enjoy its natural resources. In connection with this, the State is duty-bound to resort to actions and solutions that aim to save and efficiently utilize what is left of our nature.

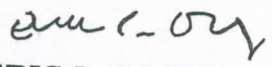
Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "*the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature*". In line with this policy, this bill seeks to utilize solar power to generate electricity and/or thermal energy in order to preserve a balanced ecology.

Solar power is the conversion of solar energy - or in other words, energy from the sun - to usable electricity. Although this step is perceived to be a costly endeavor, the long-term benefits of

it far outweighs the expenses the State will have to incur. Solar energy is a renewable resource which makes the same sustainable for energy consumption. Otherwise stated, until and unless the sun dies – if that is even a possibility – solar energy is limitless and will always be available to us. On the other hand, non-renewable resource can only be used once as it does not replace itself in the short term and there is only a finite quantity available. Another advantage is that solar energy has almost no impact on the global climate, while electricity generated by power plants which our country makes use of in the present time, produces carbon dioxide emissions that is detrimental to the environment.

By utilizing solar energy, our country will be able to preserve the non-renewable energy sources and leave some for our future generation. In this way, we will be able to meet our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Moreover, we will be able to lessen pollution that damages our natural environment and that leads to global warming.

It is only for this reason that the approval of this bill is being sought.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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AN ACT MANDATING GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND/OR ESTABLISHMENTS TO ALLOT AT LEAST THIRTY PERCENT (30%) OF THEIR ENERGY REQUIREMENTS TO SOLAR ENERGY, AND COROLLARILY, MANDATING THE SAME TO INSTALL SOLAR PANELS UNTO THEIR BUILDINGS.

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the Solar Energy Act of 2019.

Section 2. Definition of Terms. The following terms shall have the following definitions, as used in this Act, to wit:

Solar Energy - The energy the Earth receives from the sun, primarily as visible light and other forms of electromagnetic radiation.

Solar Panel - a panel designed to absorb the sun's rays as a source of energy for generating electricity or heating.

Section 3. Coverage. This Act shall cover all government departments and its attached agencies and offices including

government owned and controlled corporations and local government units in the Philippines.

Section 4. Solar Energy for Electricity and/or Thermal Energy Requirements. Government offices and government-owned establishments shall utilize solar energy for at least thirty percent (30%) of their electricity and/or thermal energy requirements/consumptions in their day-to-day operations.

Section 5. Installation of Solar Panels. The government departments, offices and establishments covered by this Act shall install solar panels unto their buildings for the efficient conversion of solar energy into the electricity that they need.

Section 6. Period to Install Solar Panels. The offices and establishment covered by this Act must, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act comply with the requirements set forth hereto.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Energy in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon their publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

Section 9. Separability Clause. – In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.