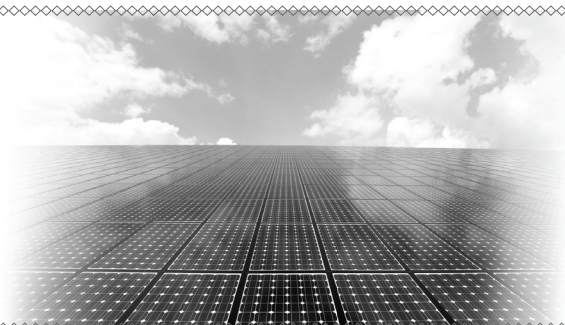


萬佛聖城太陽能電場發電超過預期

City of Ten Thousand Buddhas' Solar Farm Produces More Power than Expected



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萬佛聖城太陽能電場自2015年11月18日啟用至今，發電量為預估的110%，表現超過預期。而自2015年11月至2016年4月的用電量逾39萬千瓦，比前一年同期（2014年11月至2015年4月）增加了2.3%的用電量。

部分萬佛聖城住眾誤以為如今聖城電源全部來自再生能源，非常環保；又是自家生產，無須向外購買，用電應該不用顧慮太多。萬佛聖城太陽能小組成員張簡嘉乃指出，目前萬佛聖城太陽能電場仍在還本階段，「估計至少要七到八年，才能付清成本。」

此外，冬天陽光不足時，聖城太陽能電場發電量只有夏天的三分之一，因此不敷使用。例如2015年12月與2016年1月，萬佛聖城就得向電力公司買電。夏季日照充分時，就可賣多餘的發電量給電力公司，以此彌補冬季電費，並逐年償還投入的資金。

張簡嘉乃表示，聖城目前發電的太陽能板總計1865片，每片都附有追蹤系統，可隨時查看發電狀況。未來隨著住眾人口增加，太陽能電場還可增加安裝20%的太陽能板。另一方面，萬佛聖城內的電力輸送系統已近80年歷史，早已達使用年限，必須汰舊換新。萬佛聖城的基礎設施各種地下管線，可望在不久的將來展開換新工程。✽

The solar farm at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas has produced 110% of projected energy since its launch on November 18, 2015. The performance has exceeded expectation. The electricity usage at City of Ten Thousand Buddhas from November 2015 to April 2016 is over 390,000 kilowatt-hours, an increase of 2.3% compared with the usage in the same period last year (November 2014 to April 2015).

Some residents at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas mistakenly thought that the electricity is now completely free. It is true that since the electricity is produced by our solar farm, we don't have to buy electricity from any utility company, so there is not as much concern when it comes to electricity use. Nevertheless, Amy Chang-Chien, a member of the CTTB solar project team, said that our solar farm is still paying back the cost of installing the solar panels. "It will take seven or eight years to pay off the cost."

Except during winter time when there is not enough sunlight, the solar farm produces one third of the energy which is still not enough to cover the whole city. For instance, in December 2015 and January 2016, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas had to buy electricity from a utility company. However, during the summer, we can sell our extra electricity to the utility company to make up for the winter costs and pay back the cost on a yearly basis.

Amy Chang-Chien noted that the solar farm has a total of 1865 solar panels with a monitoring system on each solar panel so we can track its performance. When the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas' population increases in the future, the solar farm can add another 20% more solar panels. However, the almost 80-year-old power distribution system at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas has reached its maximum years and will need to be replaced soon. The underground utility infrastructure also needs to be replaced and updated in the near future. ✽