

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11005**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize a Sustainable Schools Program which mandates the installation of solar energy systems in all public elementary and secondary schools. It promotes the use of renewable energy to improve learning environments, strengthen climate resilience, and reduce electricity costs in public schools.

Many public schools continue to experience inadequate ventilation and rising indoor temperatures due to extreme heat, which adversely affect student health, concentration, and learning outcomes. At the same time, electricity costs consume a significant portion of school operating expenses, while schools in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas continue to face unreliable or limited access to electricity. The transition to renewable energy presents an opportunity to address these challenges while supporting the country's clean energy and climate commitments.

This measure institutionalizes a nationwide solarization program for public schools. It prioritizes schools with the highest heat indices, off-grid locations, and high student populations. The bill also establishes phased energy capacity targets, provides for maintenance funding and technical training, promotes net-metering for grid-connected schools, and ensures that procurement follows life-cycle cost and energy efficiency standards. These measures are intended to improve energy security, lower operating costs, and provide a more conducive environment for teaching and learning.

Investing in renewable energy for public schools is an investment in both education and sustainable development. This bill promotes quality education while advancing energy security, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ESTABLISHING THE SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled.

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Solar-Powered Schools Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the use of renewable energy in public infrastructure to ensure climate resilience and a conducive learning environment. The State recognizes that extreme heat impacts student performance and seeks to modernize public schools through sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions. Towards this end, the State shall institutionalize a nationwide school solarization program to lower electricity expenses, guarantee reliable power access, and foster a safe, modern, and conducive environment for teaching and learning.

SEC. 3. *The Sustainable Schools Program.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall implement a program to install solar energy systems in all public elementary and secondary schools.

The program shall prioritize:

- a. Schools located in areas with the highest recorded heat indices;
- b. Off-grid schools with no existing access to electricity; and
- c. Schools with the highest student population density.

SEC. 4. *Implementation and Capacity Targets.* – The solar energy systems shall be designed to power essential academic facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, and libraries, with a priority on cooling and ventilation systems.

a. Initial Phase: Within two (2) years, systems must cover at least twenty percent (20%) of the school’s average monthly utilization (AMU).

b. Expansion Phase: Within five (5) years, capacity shall be increased to cover at least fifty percent (50%) of the AMU.

SEC. 5. *Maintenance and Sustainability.* – To ensure the long-term practicality of the systems, the DOE shall provide technical training to school facility coordinators on the basic operation and maintenance of solar equipment. DepEd shall include a “Solar Maintenance Fund” in its annual budget to ensure the replacement of batteries, inverters, and other components as needed.

SEC. 6. *Net-Metering Option.* – For schools already connected to the main electrical grid, the installation of “On-Grid” or “Hybrid” systems shall be encouraged to allow for Net-Metering. Any credits or savings realized from selling excess energy back to the grid shall be retained by the school for the maintenance of the solar systems and other facilities.

SEC. 7. *Procurement.* – The procurement of solar energy systems under this Act shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 12009, otherwise known as the “New Government Procurement Act”. The DepEd, as the procuring entity, shall prioritize the Most Economically Advantageous and Responsive Bid (MEARB), taking into consideration the life-cycle costs and the long-term energy efficiency of the systems.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s available appropriations of the DepEd.

For the first two (2) years of implementation, the program shall be funded through the following sources:

a. The Basic Education Facilities (BEF) Fund of the DepEd;

b. The Renewable Energy Trust Fund (RETF) administered by the DOE;
and

c. Savings or unprogrammed funds as identified by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continued operation, maintenance, and expansion of the Solar-Powered Schools Program shall be included in the regular budget of the Department of Education in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOE, DepEd, and DPWH shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,