Greetings!

Why you should consider Solar Power in your operations.

Solar energy refers to energy derived from the sun’s radiation. The sun is a powerful energy source, and this energy source can be harnessed by installing solar panels, stored and used to meet the energy needs in a facility. Having access to stable power is a core part of running any facility, but the use of energy sources such as: fuel wood, hydroelectric power, petrol and diesel for has led to increased energy costs and impacts on the environment. Therefore, solar has become an alternative power source worth consideration in various establishments such as: schools, hospitals, homes, office buildings, retail markets and tourism accommodation facilities among others.

While going solar means stepping away from an existing power infrastructure, in the recent years more facilities have been looking to reduce their carbon emissions -which have caused global warming leading to climate change by installing solar power. Solar energy offers a wide range of benefits that should make it worth considering by tourism accommodation facilities as highlighted below.
1. **Renewable energy source**

Solar energy is a renewable energy source since it can be harnessed in all areas of the world and is available every day. We cannot run out of solar energy! Unlike fossil fuels such as petrol and diesel. Solar energy will be accessible as long as we have the sun. The picture below depicts how a solar system harnesses the energy from the sun.

![Solar system harnessing energy from the sun](https://agcatt.com)

(Source:https://agcatt.com)

2. **Reduces electricity bills**

A tourism accommodation facility that has installed solar panels for its operation is likely to experience a drop in electricity bills, since it will be meeting some of the energy needs with electricity that its solar system has generated. How much you save on your bill will be dependent on the size of the solar system and your electricity or heat usage. You will not only be saving on electricity bills, but also if you are able to generate more electricity than you use, the excess can be sold to other users.

3. **Low maintenance costs**

Solar energy systems generally do not need a lot of maintenance. You only need to keep them relatively clean, so cleaning them a couple of times in a year will be adequate to ensure smooth operation of the system. However, cleaning will require that you seek services of a specialized company to undertake the task. Most solar systems have no moving parts and therefore there is no wear and tear. Usually it is the inverter that needs to be changed after a couple of years because it is continuously working to convert solar energy into electricity and heat. The cables also require maintenance to ensure your solar
power system runs at maximum efficiency. Basically, after covering the initial cost of the solar system installation, you can expect very little spending on maintenance and repair work.

4. **Diverse applications**

Solar energy can be used for diverse purposes which include provision of electricity and heat. For accommodation facilities located in areas without access to the national electricity grid, solar energy can be of great benefit since it can be used in: heating water, cooking, and general lighting of the facility. The picture below depicts a solar system used by one of the eco-rated facilities to provide energy for use in its operations.

![Solar System Image](image.png)

**Getting Started**

To go solar you will need to make an initial investment for panels, racks and transfer equipment with costs varying according to panel efficiency, project scale and location. Once you have purchased the solar panels the good news is that they can be installed in many places across your facility! Solar is not only limited to roofs but also open spaces, where unused land is abundant, can be covered with solar panels. If onsite space is not available, you may be able to install solar farm offsite and transfer the power to your facility. However, this will depend on availability of land for such installation.
Implementing this system just like any other development will also require that you apply for regulatory approvals.

Solar energy use has been criticized for being expensive to install for already established businesses and also for not being very efficient, making it unpopular. Despite the unpopularity of solar energy, there are accommodation facilities that are currently using this resource. From their own experience its use is extremely beneficial compared to the traditional sources - not only for the environment but also financially speaking. Therefore, we would like to encourage other facilities also to embrace and utilize this resource as a way of promoting best practices in energy use and management and upholding the principles of ecotourism.