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Poll shows global warming is a major concern

PETALING JAYA: Global warming is the top concern among Malaysians, according to the finding of a regional poll.

The GE Energy-commissioned poll showed 70% of the 350 Malaysians interviewed were worried about the issue. GE in a statement said “violence in society” and “air pollution” were rated second and third on the level of concern among Malaysians.

It said nine in 10 polled stated that renewable energy (RE) was necessary if we care about the environment. The poll, conducted during the second half of last year, also showed that awareness of solar energy as a source of RE was highest with 58%, followed by wind, hydro and biomass.

“Nearly three-quarters of respondents believed that RE would be costly to implement, although more than half understood that the maintenance of RE would be cost effective in the long run,” said GE Energy.

RE has resurfaced as a viable energy alternative after the Government announced an average 7.12% electricity tariff hike on Monday.

The Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia has suggested ways to help the manufacturing sector to reduce operating costs.

“One way is to extend the electricity off-peak hours to a full day on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Factories can also schedule their rest day to be on a weekday.”