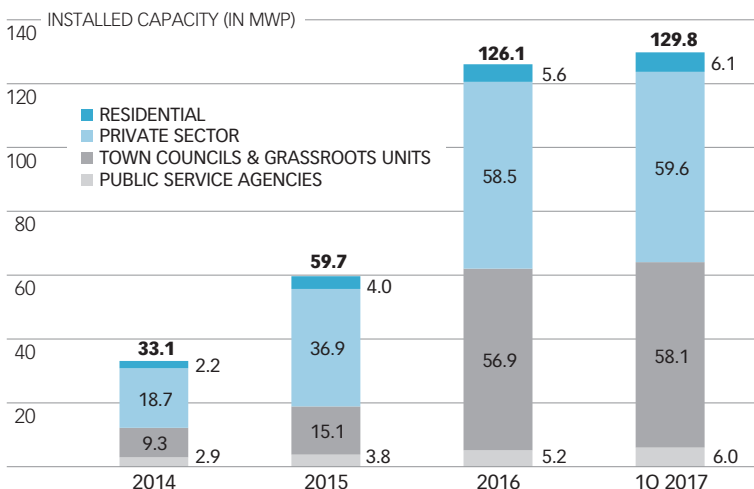


You are my sunshine

The latest energy statistics from the Energy Market Authority (EMA) show, for the first time, a breakdown of Singapore's solar usage by different user types. It also features the wholesale electricity price, which would be increasingly pertinent for many consumers with the market set to be fully liberalised next year. **BY ANDREA SOH**

Solar capacity (as at end-period), 2014 – Q1 2017

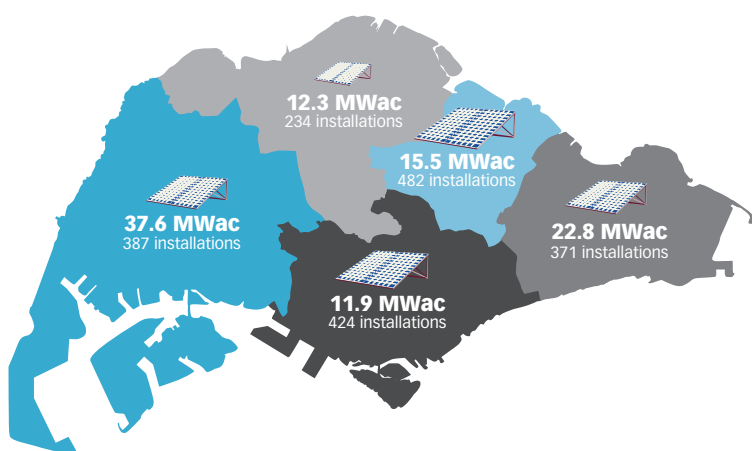


Note: "Public service agencies" refer to ministries, statutory boards, and organs of state.

Installed solar capacity in Singapore has nearly quadrupled over the past three years, spurred by demand from town councils and the private sector. Singapore had in 2014 announced plans to raise the adoption of solar power to 350 MWp by 2020, which would be about 5 per cent of the projected peak electricity demand then.

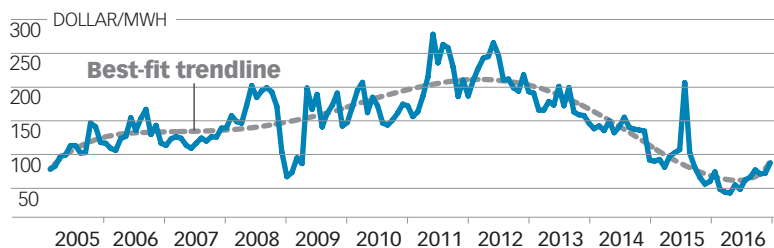
To encourage the take-up of solar energy in Singapore, the EMA has streamlined processes to make it easier for consumers with solar panels to receive payments when they sell excess solar energy into the grid. The Economic Development Board-led SolarNova initiative, which aggregates solar demand across government agencies, has also helped to spur the local solar industry.

Distribution of solar installations in Singapore, Q1 2017



The north-east region of Singapore has seen the biggest number of solar installations. But as these are mainly residential installations, the installed capacity is smaller compared to that in the west, which has the highest solar photovoltaic capacity.

Monthly average USEP



The wholesale electricity price, also known as the Uniform Singapore Energy Price (USEP), is the half-hourly energy price listed in the Singapore wholesale electricity market, and is closely linked with Singapore's economic and market conditions. This is the price paid by retailers who buy wholesale from the market and negotiate individual supply contracts with their customers. In comparison, the SP Services tariffs used by households – until full market liberalisation next year – are adjusted quarterly to reflect energy costs.

The availability of liquefied natural gas imports from 2013 brought on new generating capacity that has pressured the USEP downwards. The wholesale price reached an all-time low last year due to excess generation capacity and declining oil prices.