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City to have first sunshine campus

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Aug. 31: In a first such initiative by an educational institute in the city, the Centre for Emerging Technologies at the Jain University is working on setting up a solar plant on campus to meet the energy requirements of the entire institute.

The 1 MW solar plant is expected to light up the 400 acre campus and help it save roughly two lakh units of power received from the state grid. Krishna Venkatesh, director of the Centre for Emerging Technologies, says a German partner, TUV Rheinland, is helping it establish the plant over four acres. "Besides helping us become self-sufficient in power, this will also turn our campus eco-friendly," says Mr Venkatesh.

The solar power plant project is one of the major initiatives the university has taken on the renewable energy and climate change front, he explains. The project, set to be completed in a year, will cost the university between Rs 10 and 12 crore, which is, however, looking at its long term benefits. "Our average saving on the electricity bill will be at least Rs 2 crore a year if we switch to solar energy. With coal and other natural resources depleting and



- 1 MW solar plant on 400 acre campus.
- The panels will come up on 4 acres.
- Required energy: 0.5 MW.
- Cost: Rs 10 to 12 crore.
- Savings: Rs 2.5 crore annually on bills.
- Excess power will be transferred to the state grid.
- University also looking at hybrid energy source.

increasing the price of fuel and power, finding alternate sources of energy is essential," Mr Venkatesh reasons. The university in fact expects to generate surplus power from the solar plant and hopes to sell the energy it does not need to the state grid for Rs 15 a unit.