

Electrifying Sarawak and Beyond

Sarawak aims to be fully electrified by 2025.

In pursuing this aspiration, the Sarawak Government announced in October 2018 an allocation of RM2.37bil to electrify 99% of Sarawak by 2020 towards full electrification by 2025.

Sarawak Energy is implementing this Accelerated Rural Electrification Masterplan with the Ministry of Utilities.



Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
Access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy is crucial to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals – from poverty eradication via advancements in health, education, water supply and industrialisation to mitigating climate change.



Villages in the interior are now lighted up via solar



Transporting the materials can be a challenge but this is done with the help of the villagers



Solar panels next to a longhouse in the interior provides 24-hour electricity to the villagers

Rural Electrification Scheme or RES

Conventional electrification approach by extending existing distribution grid lines into the interior.

Rural Power Supply Scheme or RPSS

An approach that aims to complement RES by introducing new transmission lines and substations in the rural areas. This enables existing gridlines to extend into the interior.

Grid

Rural Electrification Strategies

Off Grid

Sarawak Alternative Rural Electrification Scheme or SARES

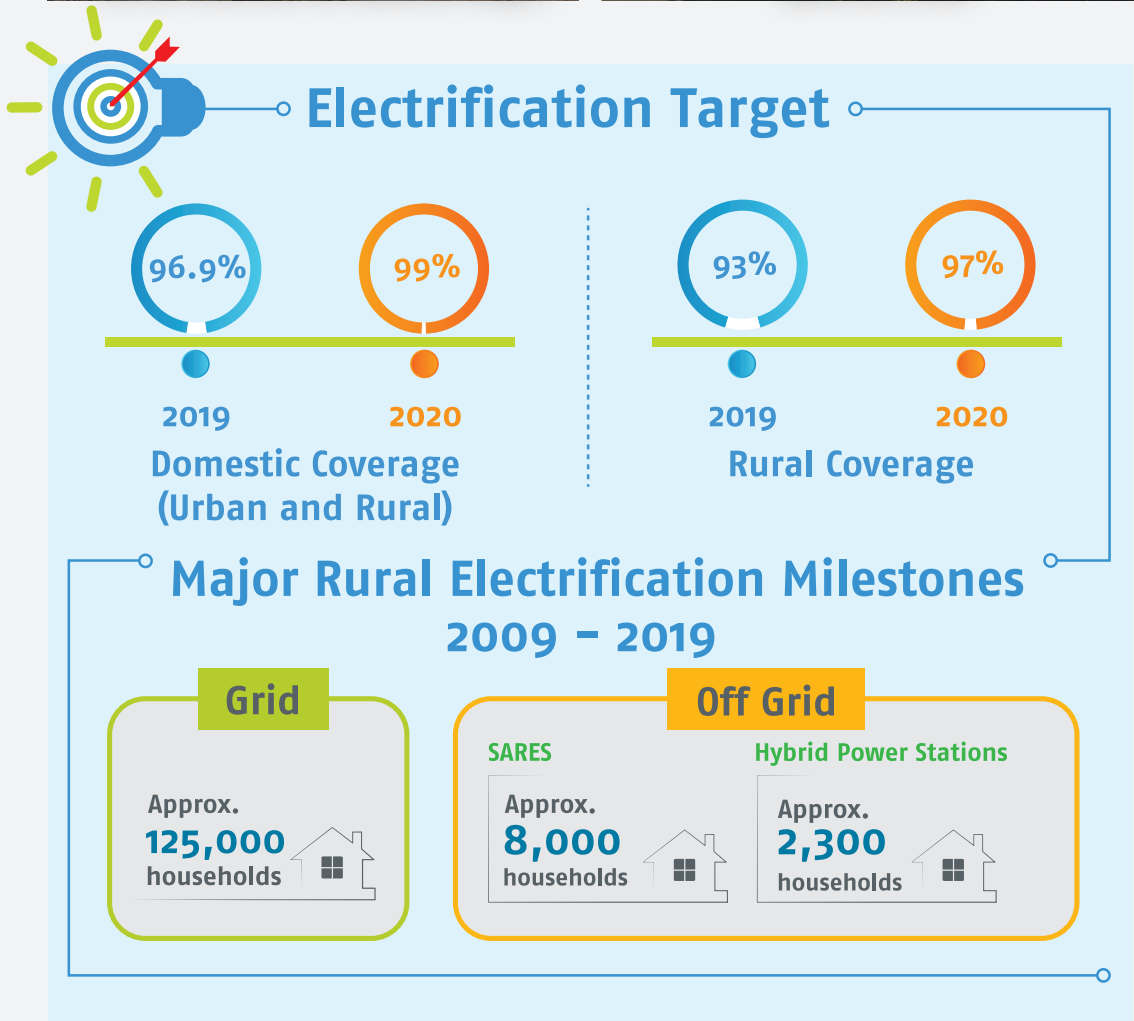
Government funded and Sarawak Energy implemented fast track solution to provide remote households with standalone solar or micro hydro systems in partnership with the community. These systems are tariff free.

Hybrid Power Stations

Refers to utility scale project where two generation sources –in this case solar or micro hydro backed by diesel to supply an off-grid network to power up a sizeable settlement. Households are charged published tariffs.

Sarawak Energy Corporate Social Responsibility

Providing standalone solar systems to longhouses e.g. upstream communities of Batang Ai Hydroelectric Plant.



It began with...

Rural electrification began receiving higher priority in 2009 when rural coverage was just 56%. Only ten years ago, almost half of rural households in villages scattered across remote highlands and rural headwaters in mainly central and northern Sarawak including Tatau, Kanowit, Pakan, Kapit and Telang Usan were still dependent on self-funded diesel generators.

Despite the challenges, rural coverage has grown by an astounding 37% in these last 10 years by incorporating various strategies made possible through advances in renewable energy technology and reduction in cost as well as improved infrastructure development such as road access into the interior. These strategies were adopted for the villages based on suitability following ground assessment, prior feasibility studies and community consultation.

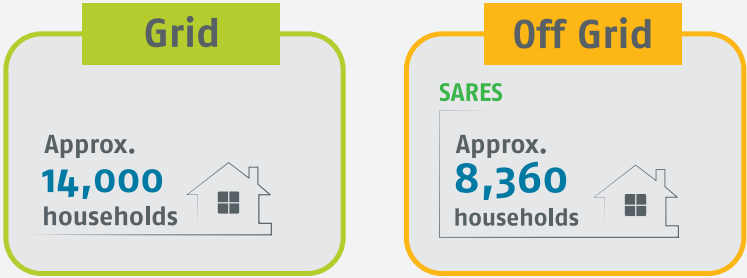
Power to Grow

The Last 7 Percent of Rural Households

Sarawak's urban population in our cities and towns are fully electrified with 100% access to affordable and renewable electricity as a result of Sarawak Energy's investment in a modern power system.

However, to achieve full electrification by 2025, around 22,360 more or 7% of rural households require access to 24-hour electricity.

Working towards this, the next phase will connect:



Challenges and Issues

- Accessibility into remote locations with rugged terrain
- Securing competent and reliable contractors for the job in rural areas
- Technical (capacity limitations) and economic constraints (high capital cost)
- Maintenance; heavy vegetation, wildlife intrusion, stray bullets from hunting activities
- Non-technical issues; wayleave, cooperation from community

Supporting Sustainable Rural Development

Full access to electricity across Sarawak will bring real benefits by offering opportunities for a better standard of living, more convenience, greater savings and enable businesses in Sarawak's rural communities to thrive and grow and bridge the rural-urban divide.

Electricity is a necessity for sustainable rural development. Cooperation is needed for the successful implementation of these projects so all Sarawakians will have access to 24hr electricity supply wherever they may be.