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Cabinet approves policy to promote solar power in capital

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THE DELHI Cabinet Monday approved the solar policy which recommends the installation of a 1 GW solar power capacity in the capital by 2020. The policy outlines a combination of regulations, mandates, incentives, and tax breaks for the growth of rooftop solar power in the capital.

It also proposed that the solar power capacity be doubled by 2025. Talking about the policy, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, “Making Delhi a solar city is one of our 70 agenda points. This policy, which is very progressive, will help in providing clean and green energy. Rooftop solar systems offer sustainable energy, environmental benefits, low gestation period and minimum transmission and distribution losses”.

The government prepared the policy in consultation with the Dialogue and Development Commission after consultations with local and interna-

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tional experts.

“Many leaders of the Indian solar industry, discoms, consultancy organisations, banks, the DERC, NGOs, research institutions, international experts, central government departments, officials and general public participated and contributed in consultations,” said a government official.

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penditure on energy through “peak shaving, strengthening its energy security, and reducing its reliance on unsustainable fossil fuels”.

“It will also reduce the burden on the existing transmission and distribution system. Hence, less expenditure will be required on their maintenance,” added Jain.

The highlights of the policy include mandatory deployment of solar installations on government and public institutions, introducing the concept of virtual net metering, group net metering, generation-based incentive for three years and amendment of building bylaws for rooftop solar installations.

The policy also entails tax breaks, benefits and subsidies. Solar systems up to 200 KW will be exempted from certification by an electrical inspector. “The policy promotes net metering for all solar plants above 1 KW based on the net metering regulations already issued by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission,” said a government official.

