UP to set up rooftop solar projects in industry zones

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Lucknow: The UP state industrial development authority (UPSIDA) has chalked out a plan to expand its use of green energy in industrial areas. The agency has carried out a joint survey of 53 possible sites in collaboration with UP new and renewable energy development agency (UPNEDA) and will soon set up rooftop solar projects on public facilities within industrial zones, such as administrative buildings, civic centres, common facility centres, transit hostels, common effluent treatment plants and regional managers' offices.

UPSIDA has already set up a solar rooftop project at its Kanpur headquarters building, which has saved the authority Rs 27.35 lakh in electricity bills over the past few months. UPSIDA has estimated that this initiative will give it a net saving of approximately Rs 11.04 crore over the next 23 years.

UPSIDA chief executive officer Mayur Maheshwari said that the project would be in line with the solar energy policy 2022 of the govts of India and UP.

Representational Picture

UPSIDA also plans to develop solar pathways along the green belts in these industrial areas

"UPSIDA installed a 150 kW solar rooftop plant at its Kanpur headquarters in Jan to reduce carbon emissions and promote renewable energy. The project, completed under the CAPEX model with assistance from the UPNEDA, cost Rs 82.98 lakh," said an official. This helped the authority save 35% in energy bills in Jan and Feb, 32.42% in Mar, 56.92% in Apr and May and 34.95% in Jun and Jul. This has already covered about 33% of the total project cost.

The authority expects to recover the full price within two years, while the lifespan of these solar panels is approximately 25 years.

At the 53 locations surveyed for rooftop solar, the total electrical load is approximately 2,000 kW. These locations include MG road in Hapur, Begrajpur in Secunderabad, Surajpur Site-B in Gautambuddhnagar, Site 5 Kasna in Surajpur, Secunderabad in Bulandshahr, EPIP Kasna, TDS City in Bagpat, Foundry Nagar in Agra, Kosi Kotwan in Mathura, Bhogaon in Agra, Chinhat in Lucknow, Rae Bareli, Sandila in Hardoi, Kursi road in Barabanki, Jainpur in Kanpur Dehat, Malwan in Fatehpur, Naini in Prayagraj, Karkhiyav in Varanasi, Bargarh in Chitrakoot, Unnao, Banthar, Parsakheda in Bareilly, Gajraula-2 in JP Nagar and Shahjahanpur.

UPSIDA also plans to develop solar pathways along the green belts in these industrial areas. This, said the official, would be ideal for parks, playgrounds and surrounding paths, where the solar pathways would contribute to both environmental sustainability and the beautification of industrial areas.

UPSIDA is actively encouraging entrepreneurs in industrial areas to adopt solar rooftops for their factories, said Maheshwari.