Raising the roof on energy efficiency

Energy consultancy firm G-Energy Global aims to become a green builder and developer, reports JASMINE NG

TALK about taking Singapore’s love for food to a higher level.

Energy consultancy firm G-Energy Global is trying to do just that, converting rooftop spaces into farms – where vegetables and fish are grown, with fish waste fertilising the plants. Which in turn clean the water for the fish.

G-Energy has converted the bare rooftop of its office building in Kaki Bukit into a testbed. It recently harvested its first batch of tilapia fish and is growing 30cm-long lady’s fingers. According to Mr Low, the company is in the process of setting up a large-scale pilot in Malaysia.

Bearing fruit: G-Energy has converted the bare rooftop of its office building in Kaki Bukit into a testbed. It recently harvested its first batch of tilapia fish and is growing 30cm-long lady’s fingers. According to Mr Low, the company is in the process of setting up a large-scale pilot in Malaysia.

The brand of farming practised in its rooftop, a marriage of aquaponics and hydroponics, is referred to as integrated building services consultancy, helping architects and developers figure out ways to design energy-efficient buildings.

“Raising the roof on energy efficiency is complementary to that concept containing fish waste fertilising the plants, which in turn clean the water for the fish,” Mr Low said. “It’s the promise of enlarging the locally-generated promise of food.”

G-Energy’s vice-president Vincent Loh said: “We need to strike a balance; you need to harvest natural heat and glare. So we don’t just build first, we measure, then do trial and error.”

The company already has offices in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, and is expecting to treble by 2018. Its notable projects include Ocean Financial Center, Furrer Broich and Rolls-Royce Project Red Dot, which received the Platinum award, the highest Green Mark accolade.

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