

PRACTICAL

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Andrew's renewable, energy efficient water heating for the University of Plymouth

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Winter Wonderment for Facility Managers

The cold winter weather is now on its way. Hail stones and snow has been forecasted, so you may think that air conditioning may be the last thing on Facility Managers mind. Yet, air conditioning and ventilation is still vital during the busy Christmas season. Office parties, concentrated areas and a steady flow of visitors' means that climate control can be difficult this time of year.

DX Cooling, the low carbon air conditioning specialists give some suggestions on how not to get hot under the collar and save money and energy this winter.

Most air conditioning units now have a reversible heat pump. This means that systems provide both cold and warm air. Government incentives and energy savings make this the best solution for temperature control all year round. Maintaining regularly both chillers and air conditioning units will reduce the risk of your system breaking down during busy periods. Plus it will increase the energy efficiency.

Timers –it's so easy to forget to turn off the air conditioning. You can normally set a timer on cooling systems and is likely to save you money.

As well as air conditioning try and remember natural ventilation. Natural ventilation is much cheaper than



running air conditioning full time, particularly in confined areas.

Inverter driven A/C systems use less energy and provide a much better environment for customers. Minimum temperatures – cooling systems shouldn't be set lower than 20C and not run at any lower than 22C if running full time. If your area still isn't cold enough then you may require more units for the allocated space. Or if air flow is not enough then increase the fan speed instead of lowering the temperature. Decreasing temperature uses more energy, produces condensate and thermal shock to the customers.

New Year's resolutions and regulations that Building and Facility Managers need to be aware of.

Did you know that older air conditioning units containing R22 gas will be banned as from 2009 and that A/C systems inspection will be mandatory?

F Gas Legislation and maintaining your system – If you have a unit that has over 2.5kg of refrigerant, new legislation means that your system will now legally require a yearly maintenance service. It is recommended to have your system maintained at least twice yearly and more regularly for units that are used more frequently.

Next year all A/C systems over 250kw (and 12kw by 2011) will need to be inspected and

given an energy performance certificate by a competent person and approved.

There are government incentives for businesses that purchase low carbon products, you could claim up to 100% back through the ECA scheme. Look out for the energy level rating when purchasing cooling or heating equipment (anything lower than a B is classed as not economically viable long term.)

You can download our free F Gas fact sheet from our website. Just log onto www.dxcolling.net. Visit the news and information page for downloads, special offers and latest information on legislation.

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