

Energy-efficient ideas for HVACs from Eskom

The quiet hum of HVACs - heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems - in thousands of office buildings and facilities across South Africa is proof of our heavy dependence on climate control and its significant impact on electricity demand.

Improving the energy efficiency of these systems is one of the most important steps that companies, enterprises, departments, organisations and institutions can take to help keeping the lights on during a time of energy constraints.

HVACs are subjected to more misuse than any other type of equipment and controlling how and when they are operated can save significant amounts of electricity.

Implementing the following easy guidelines - and asking staff to support this energy-efficiency intervention - can make a significant contribution towards optimising energy usage in buildings and facilities, and reducing electricity costs in business:

- Set air-conditioners' average temperature at 23°C.
- Close windows while air-conditioners are running.
- Only switch on air-conditioners in offices, rooms and sections of buildings that are occupied.
- Switch off units 30 minutes before the end of the working day.
- Adjust blinds and curtains in rooms that receive direct sunlight, which helps to keep rooms cool and postpones switching on air-conditioners.
- Conduct proper maintenance to ensure that all HVAC system components - including motors, pumps, fans, compressors, ducting and filters - are intact and work efficiently.
- Consider replacing old systems as new systems offer enhance control functionality and high levels of energy efficiency.
- Create awareness amongst employees and individuals responsible for the control of HVAC systems not controlled via a building management system.

Less is more; using less energy in buildings and facilities contributes to more reductions in operating costs.

Always consult an expert to check if HVACs under their supervision will tolerate adjustments aimed at improving energy efficiency.

Go to www.eskom.co.za/idm for more savings tips and information on Eskom's energy efficiency rebates for replacing energy-intensive technologies with energy-saving solutions in any size and type of business.

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