

## MAKE INROADS INTO YOUR COSTS

**H**ow often have you been into a building that is too hot or too cold? Or passed by a room that is empty and yet fully heated all day? Big energy savings are available to businesses at the touch of a button – yet relatively few smaller businesses are bothering to get their systems under control say consultants and inspectors energyTeam.

Air conditioning systems account for up to 40% of a commercial building's energy use and so offer huge potential for savings as businesses face ever-increasing fuel costs. The key to making those savings is to make use of modern and relatively cheap time and temperature programmers (typically under £100) to get your system under proper control, advises energyTeam, one of the South's leading energy

consultants. Prices have dropped and the electronics have become more sophisticated, so smart control is no longer the exclusive preserve of big businesses in newer buildings.

energyTeam has been visiting hundreds of firms across the region as they hurry to meet their legal obligations to have air conditioning systems inspected for energy efficiency. Based on an audit of findings over the

past year, energyTEAM's top tips are:

- set your controllers so that the system is only working while the building is occupied. Any decent controller should allow for different weekday and weekend programming.
- set the system to turn off just before you close for business for the day. A well-insulated building

will keep its heat for a while – you will soon find out how long by trial and error,

- create heating and air conditioning zones in the building with separate controllers. It's not a big or complicated job for an electrician to do this and the savings could be immediate and enormous,
- as the weather improves, consider ventilating the building by opening the windows and enjoying good, old-fashioned fresh air.
- If you have yet to arrange an energy efficiency inspection for your air conditioning system, make sure that you commission it for all the common sense changes you can make for quick returns.

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