



Press Release

FMs urged to make efficient HVAC top priority

Revamping HVAC equipment should be the number one priority for facilities managers looking for energy and cash savings, according to a leading sustainable technology speaker.

Presenting a keynote speech at the Energy and Environment Expo during this year's Facilities Show on June 17, Helen McHugh, head of sustainable technology at cutting-edge Chelmsford-based fan manufacturer ebm-papst UK, urged FMs to prioritise heating and ventilation ahead of other facilities areas in the quest for saving money and cutting energy consumption.

She stressed that retrofitting HVAC equipment with ebm-papst UK's speciality EC fans was an easy step and talked delegates through some of the big installations her company has presided over – potentially saving clients tens of thousands of pounds.

"Many FMs will have looked at lighting, fitting renewable energy sources etcetera but it's actually HVAC that needs to be considered first," Helen stated.

"It accounts for up to 40 per cent of energy consumed in commercial buildings, and of that fans account for up to 50 per cent of that HVAC energy."

She added: "In the typical hotel, 70 per cent of energy is consumed in heating and ventilation – even if you only reduce that by a small amount it's a significant saving that impacts directly on a company's bottom line. But we can save companies up to 60-70 per cent of the energy consumed by traditional fans."

Helen outlined many of the benefits of EC fans, compared with traditional AC driven fans, including;

- Greater efficiency as the permanent magnet motor means less energy is lost through copper windings and it is not necessary to generate a secondary magnetic field
- Integrated speed control leading to greater efficiency and ease of use
- Less noise
- Simple connectivity to BMS and a range of sensors, with the majority of fans having MODBUS systems

Case studies outlined by Helen included two retrofits of EC fans, one at Copenhagen train station and another at a global IT provider, which slashed HVAC energy consumption by 66 per cent, and an EC fan installation at the UK's synchrotron facility outside Oxford which has saved researchers £32,000 on their energy usage.

"One of the easiest ways to cut energy use in your building is simply to use more energy efficient equipment and EC fans are one great way to do that," she concluded.

"While it's not new technology – EC has been out there a while – the concept is still really new in terms of using it to upgrade existing equipment and it is easy to install."

ebm-papst UK is the domestic arm of ebm-papst Group, Europe's leading manufacturer of fans and motors and is a pacesetter for the ultra-efficient EC technology.

ebm-papst Group employs over 11,000 people at 17 production facilities (including Germany, China and the USA) and 57 sales locations worldwide. ebm-papst is represented in many industries, including ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration technology, household appliances, heating engineering, IT/telecommunications and industrial engineering.

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