

Ceiling fans cut office aircon loads

Ceiling fans in office environments can reduce reliance on air-conditioning and considerably reduce energy consumption, according to Cairns-based engineering firm MGF Consultants.



With a range of comfort, environmental and financial benefits, ceiling fans are making a comeback in commercial offices.

‘Having ceiling fans on medium all day allows us to run our air-conditioning at a temperature of 25.5 degrees rather than the typical 23.5 degrees most office environments would favour,’ says Mr Carl Gray, the company’s lighting and sustainability consultant.

Mr Gray adds that ceiling fans are becoming popular in ‘green’ buildings, which often have higher ceilings to allow more natural light.

‘The sustainability message is really getting through and we are returning to many design concepts that can be traced back to the 1930s, with higher ceilings, more natural light and less fluorescent lighting,’ he says.

Mr Philip Allen, Managing Director at Hunter Pacific, an Australian fan and light designer, says ceiling fans reduce energy costs and improve comfort levels.

‘Ceiling fans act to de-stratify the air in a room and break up hot and cold pockets of air that form in corners and along ceilings and floors,’ he says. ‘As a result, air-conditioner thermostats can be set at a level requiring less cooling or heating, so less energy is used.’

‘Ceiling fans are invaluable in winter also. When combined with heating, they keep the warm air circulating throughout the room rather than accumulating on the ceiling, resulting in lower energy consumption.’

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