

Massive Energy Savings at the IC

22/12/2010

Good news at the Information Commons. The Environmental Controls project has significantly improved the performance and energy efficiency of the IC's heating and cooling systems. This is already saving money and carbon: In September 2010, the IC used 35% less energy than September 2009- saving £8,000 and around 50 tonnes of CO₂. In October, it used 27% less energy.

As a result, the University could **save around £80,000 and 480 tonnes of CO₂ a year** from this project alone. This means a saving of around 1% of the University's CO₂ emissions and utility bill from this single measure - vital at a time when budgets and the environment are both under pressure.

The even better news is that thanks to ongoing Environmental Controls work on 38 buildings, there is much more to come- including yet more improvements in the Information Commons. In October, the IC was fitted with a **free cooling unit***, a system which is much more environmentally sound than traditional cooling as it takes advantage of cool fresh air to help regulate building temperature.

Improvements to the system's performances and increased use of fresh air will also make for a more comfortable experience for everyone in the IC- maybe you have already noticed the difference?



*Due to its 24-hour occupancy and high volume of people and computers, the IC often needs cooling even in Winter. Thanks to the new free cooling system, this process using fresh air will now use a lot less energy. We'll report back in the new year with figures on how much money and carbon has been saved.

For more on the Environmental Controls project:

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/mediacentre/2010/1594.html>

For information on how you can get involved with making the University more sustainable:

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/environment/degreescooler>