



Saving Power at Work – *Cooling in the Tropics*

DID YOU NOTICE?

That office spaces are sometimes cooled to a temperature that is colder than necessary to maintain comfort levels? If you dress for the climate and use a fan most people find that having the thermostat set at 27-28°C is enough to remove the humidity from the room and provide productive working conditions.

DID YOU KNOW?

That air conditioning uses at least 50% of your offices power bills, and probably more?

TIPS

- Always dress appropriately for the hot and humid conditions. Wear light clothing of natural fibre
- Before turning on your air conditioning always turn on the fan and open up all the windows and doors. Breezes from the outside and from fans evaporate moisture from your skin which keeps you cool.
- Trial turning the air conditioner thermostat up 1°C at a time, and always run the fans as this will still cool you down by evaporating moisture from your skin. Every degree higher that you set your air conditioner thermostat at uses 10% less power.
- Ask your manager/management team to start turning the air conditioner on later each day, to reduce the number of hours it is run.
- When the air conditioner is on, make sure the room/s is well sealed by closing doors and windows, and fixing draught stoppers to the gaps under doors. When the air conditioner isn't used, open all doors and windows up so there is good ventilation and air circulation in the office.
- Make sure the air conditioner is completely OFF when you leave the office at night. One air conditioner left on after hours (including the weekends) will cost the organisation around **\$1800 extra** per year in electricity bills.
- Reduce air conditioning costs by planning the time that your cleaners come in. For example, arrange cleaners to start work soon after the staff have left for the evening (the temperature of your office space will not change that much one staff have left and computers have been turned off, so it will remain relatively cool inside for after-hours staff). Use a timer on the unit as well so it automatically turns OFF after the cleaning shift.
- If not using air conditioners during the dry season you can ask your management team to turn the AC off at the power board, to save on stand-by power.



WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Contact COOLmob on 8981 2532 or visit www.coolmob.org