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Hidden Energy Costs In Hotels = Opportunities For Savings

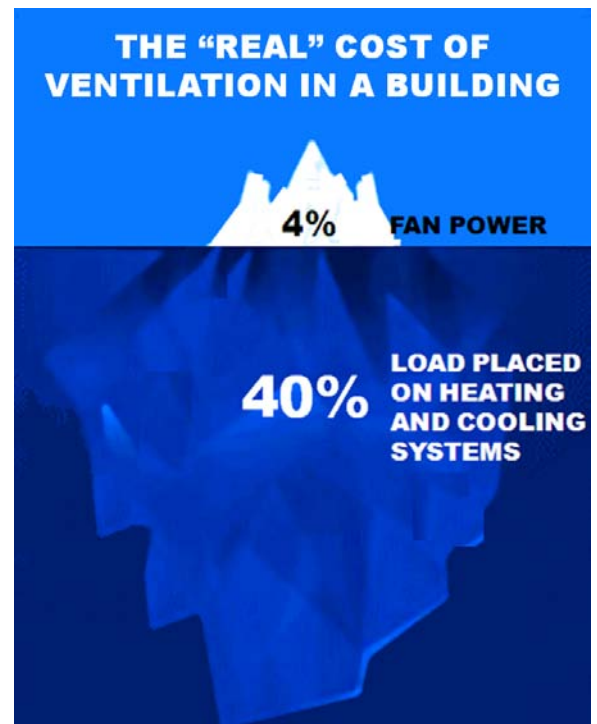
The top hotel chains are implementing highly effective strategies to save energy at existing properties by installing devices that automatically regulate ventilation systems to save energy and provide good indoor air quality.

Many energy experts have reported the cost of ventilation systems in hotels as 4%, but the often overlooked real cost of ventilation is the load it places on heating and cooling systems. Energy saving programs often address the effects of energy waste rather than the cause. These tactics often focus on less consumption by improving the efficiency of the HVAC equipment and using more efficient fan motors. But too few of the energy saving projects manage to address one of the biggest culprits of energy waste in hotels, which is uncontrolled ventilation.

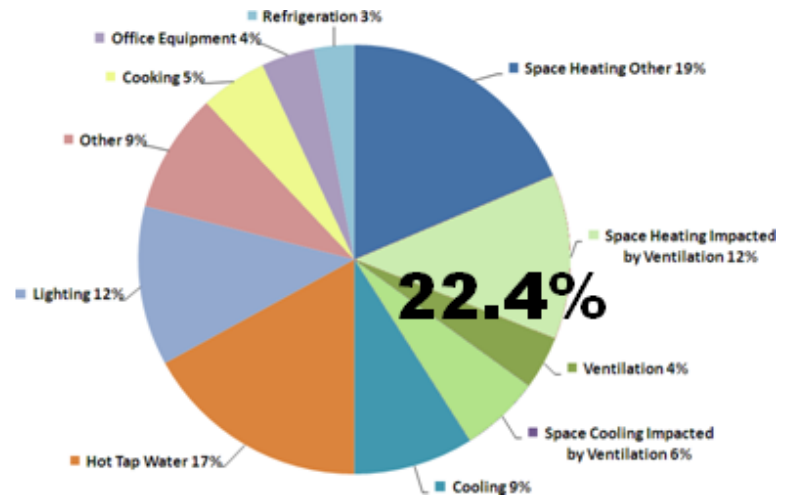
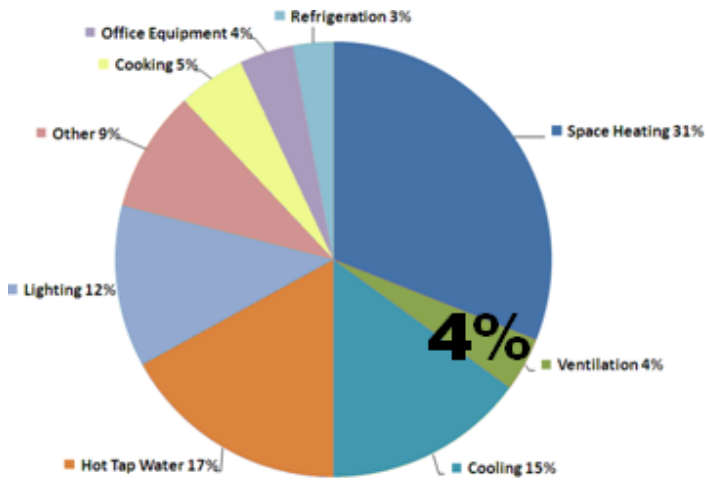
Up until recently the norm was to install manual balancing dampers in exhaust and supply registers and the airflow was manually balanced to the airflow rate at that moment. Even if the testing and balancing of the damper was done perfectly (which is rarely the case), this method is ineffective for maintaining a constant airflow under varying conditions such as stack effect, wind, grille/duct clogging, duct leakage, occupant interaction, and unintentional adjustments during cleaning.

Now there are automatic Constant Airflow Regulators "CAR's" that resolve these issues for typically about half the cost of traditional test & balance. CAR's are pressure independent and automatically self adjusting, so accurate airflow is provided at all times.

The first step to a successful energy saving strategy in hotels should include automatic regulation of stale air removed from and fresh air introduced into each space. While most experts recognize it is important to seal spaces tight to prevent outside air infiltration, it is equally important to ensure the volume of mechanical ventilation airflow is controlled accurately and automatically.



Ventilation costs are often overlooked in energy saving projects because real costs are severely underestimated. The total impact of ventilation can be over 40% of the load on the heating and cooling systems.



Many energy reports show ventilation costs as 4% because they are only considering the fan motor power consumption, but when the true impact on the heating and cooling systems is taken into consideration the impact is over 22% of the total energy consumption in a typical hotel.



In the past few years most of the building codes have lowered the mandatory ventilation rates in response to rising energy costs. The new lower ventilation rates make it more important than ever to automatically maintain precise airflows to achieve an ideal balance of energy savings with good indoor air quality. The new lower airflow rates provide the opportunity to lower energy costs and provide a very quick ROI for this advanced ventilation strategy.

For more information on American ALDES please visit www.americanaldes.com or email info@americanaldes.com.

About ALDES Group:

ALDES was formed in 1925 and is one of the leading manufacturers of innovative ventilation products in the world, with offices in 17 countries. American ALDES Ventilation Corporation has had their North American Headquarters in the Tampa Bay area of Florida for over 27 years.