

Star of Energy Efficiency Awards Nomination Summary

EcoHVAC is a web-based retail business developed by a seasoned construction engineer offering only high-efficiency commercial HVAC equipment at cost-efficient prices to encourage building owners to consider the environment when calculating building construction costs.

This is an excerpt from Energy Consumption Characteristics of Commercial Building HVAC Systems from the Office of Building Technology State and Community Programs, U.S. Department of Energy published in 2001:

Energy use for heating and air-conditioning accounts for more than 25% of the primary energy consumed in commercial buildings in the U.S. (EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 1998, Reference 1). Energy use for heating and cooling has long been a target for reduction efforts. In fact, significant efficiency improvements have been achieved over the years in these efforts. Energy use reductions have been achieved by the efforts of a wide range of players in the market, including manufacturers, contractors, specifying engineers, utilities, and government laboratories and agencies. In spite of these efforts, **energy use for space conditioning remains a very large portion of the total national energy use picture and still provides significant opportunity for energy use reduction.**

In the conclusion of this study, it was noted:

The packaged air-conditioning equipment category is the ripest for future development effort, due to the large importance of this equipment throughout the commercial sector. The low initial cost and ease of installation of systems based on packaged AC equipment make them very popular in today's HVAC market, for which first cost is perhaps the most important consideration. Development of packaged equipment with significant improvements in energy use, but with only modest cost increase and minimal size increase, have the potential to make a huge impact. Consideration of extension of seasonal rating of unitary equipment (i.e. SEER) to the commercial equipment size range would improve awareness among equipment buyers of the actual energy impact of different equipment choices, which would represent one step towards convincing end-users to make the investment to buy more efficient HVAC systems.

On average, the cost of HVAC represents 15% of a total construction budget and is therefore the first place buyers look to cut costs. Energy efficiency goes by the wayside in order to keep costs down. To help combat this, EcoHVAC provides standardized competitive pricing to encourage buyers to put the environment into the deciding factor when selecting HVAC equipment.

EcoHVAC developer/owner James DiMezza is driven to educate business and building owners to the long-term energy savings benefits that can be realized by them personally and the significant impact a collaborative effort will have on the environment. Ultimately, it is EcoHVAC's goal to have all equipment purchasers demand that only high-efficiency equipment be considered for any and all new buildings as well as replacements on existing buildings.