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DID YOU KNOW?



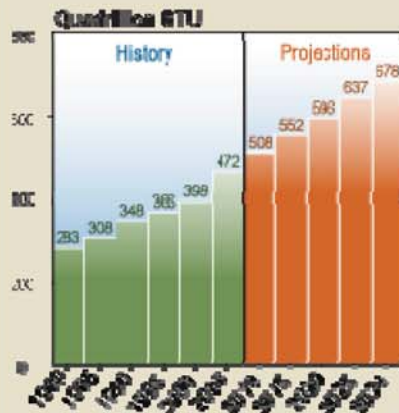
According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, commercial buildings alone account for 18 percent of total energy consumption. While that percentage has been stable over the last five years, it's up from 13 percent since 1975.

Source: [ENERGY STAR](#)

MARKET TRENDS



World Marketed Energy Consumption, 1980 - 2030



According to this chart, world energy consumption will increase from 472 quadrillion BTUs in 2006 to 552 quadrillion BTUs in 2015 and 678 quadrillion BTUs in 2030 - a total

Dear Allison,

Welcome to the April edition of *Hot Topics & Cool Solutions*! Now is the time to be thinking of the comfort of those in your building, as temperatures become warmer and system demands increase. Additionally, don't be caught off-guard by high energy bills in the coming months due to an inefficient HVAC system. [Thayer Corporation](#) can help you maximize the efficiency of your HVAC units to keep your occupants comfortable, your systems reliable, and your budget dependable - not only during the heat of the summer, but every day of the year. Contact us for more information!

VOLCANIC CLOUDS AND BIOMASS BOILERS: A MAINE CONNECTION

In conversation today it dawned on me that this volcanic cloud problem, jet airplanes and certain biomass boilers have something in common. Really!

If you're wondering why planes can't fly through volcanic clouds, it's not just a matter of vision or air quality for the pilot and crews. The risk of jet engines ingesting volcanic ash is that the abrasive, mineral rich ash turns to a glass-like substance in the heat of the engine. The material becomes obsidian. Obviously this causes immediate engine failure. This process is called sintering.

Biomass boilers that don't precisely control fuel quality and the combustion process experience the same sintering process. While these boilers don't carry hundreds of passengers and fall from the sky, the sintering fouls the boiler and creates a very expensive mess. The minerals come from contaminated fuel, gravel and dirt on the chips and in the pellets.

Wood fuel quality assurance has generated international interest as renewable energy sources become more economically feasible. Here in Maine, we considered a wood pellet labeling bill last year which would have required wood pellet manufacturers to label their product as a way to provide quality assurance for consumers. The bill would require wood pellets and other biomass heating fuel sold in Maine to be labeled, identifying whether the fuel meets state Department of Environmental Protection standards. The legislation would also require the environmental protection department to create standards for wood pellet quality, but it failed to move through the legislative process.

Perhaps interest in the bill will be renewed, since Federal officials announced funding of up to \$150

increase of 44 percent over the projection period from 2006 through 2030.

[Click here](#) to view a larger image of this graph.

SOURCE: [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#)

Q & A



QUESTION:

How large is the [Linc Service Network](#)?

ANSWER:

The Linc Service Network is an international network comprised of more than 150 independent and company-owned maintenance businesses located in North America and abroad. The Linc Network serves more than 40,000 customers with over 1,300 sales and service representatives. Currently, Linc Service Contractors hold more than 16,000 maintenance agreements for 26,000 facilities, which equals to more than one billion square feet of commercial building space that is being serviced by Linc Service Contractors.

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million dollars over the next year to boost Maine's biomass industry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Biomass Crop Assistance Program will essentially double the income of Maine loggers and aggregators who provide wood materials to facilities that turn them into energy.

Assuring quality of your biomass fuel supply and regular maintenance of your boiler and system are your best bets for avoiding sintering issues that compromise your heating system.

SPRING ALLERGIES: DO DEAD SPORES CAUSE ALLERGIES?

We've moved into prime spring allergy conditions now that the weather is warming up and we've switching our HVAC units from heating to air conditioning. We know that fungus spores cause allergy reactions, but what about dead spores?

Dr. Harriet Burge, director of aerobiology at EMLab P&K in San Bruno, CA, is the recognized expert in indoor air quality, and recently answered this question in the industry newsletter, Indoor Environment Connections.

She said that recent research indicates that spores may have to actually germinate before their allergens can be released. To germinate, spores need to be wet, and have both oxygen and nutrients. The bad news: our respiratory mucous membranes provide all the right conditions for some spores to begin germination and release their allergens, causing an allergy attack.

So the answer is no, dead fungi can't germinate, so it can't cause an allergic reaction. Some fungi germinate in nature, release allergens, and cause an attack. Some fungi germinate in us, release allergens, and cause an attack!

Not all fungi can germinate in the human respiratory tract, and allergy attacks come from other sources like pollen, cat or pet dander and dust mites.

Getting rid of spores and other allergens is the place to start in allergy control. We think the best measures for controlling allergy attacks from indoor air include:

- Reducing pet dander by keeping pets out of the bedroom, and perhaps using an anti-dander fur wipe from your vet
- Encasing pillows and mattresses to control dust mites

- Controlling mold and mildew. [The EPA has good information and action steps](#). You may need professional help with this. Call us!
- Using a HEPA filter on your vacuum and vacuuming often
- Using a whole-house or room HEPA filter on your air conditioning unit. It's a good idea to clean your air, even if you don't usually want to cool it.

CONDUCT PRE-SEASON PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE TO PREPARE YOUR BUILDING'S HVAC SYSTEM

According to a recent [International Facility Management Association](#) survey, the #1 building occupant HVAC complaint was uncomfortable facility temperatures.



Complaints such as these can increase in early Spring if proper care is not taken to protect cooling tower and chiller systems while they are idle during Winter months.

With Spring around the corner, and many areas already experiencing warmer weather, it is important to perform a pre-season maintenance check on your building's cooling systems to ensure equipment is running at optimal levels. Working with your local HVAC contractor on your systems pre-season maintenance can not only help ensure occupants' comfort levels and a healthy working or living environment, but also help reduce your energy costs. An HVAC maintenance specialist can provide recommendations on equipment that may need repaired or replaced prior to the cooling season.

[Thayer Corporation](#), your local Linc Service Contractor, is comprised of a staff of well-trained, experienced professionals, who can provide you with top-notch preventive maintenance on your equipment to guarantee it is running at peak levels for the coming season. The contractor can inspect and provide maintenance on a number of systems in your building, including cooling towers, chillers and package units, to name a few. Contact us to learn more about how they can help prepare your HVAC system for the warmer seasons.

INTERNATIONAL FACILITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION TEAMS UP WITH ENERGY STAR ON ENERGY CHALLENGE PROGRAM



*The IFMA Foundation's
"Sustainability How-to Guide"*

The [International Facility Management Association](#) has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR program for "The IFMA Energy Challenge." The "challenge" encourages facility

professionals to reduce their facilities' energy use by 15 percent. Through this program, the IFMA created a master account within the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and asks that facility professionals create their own accounts to add information about their facilities to be shared with the IFMA. The IFMA notes that by measuring each facility's performance, benchmarking energy and utility usage, and sharing and implementing efficiency measures and best practices, ENERGY STAR can help the facilities save on costs, improve their performance, and potentially qualify for tax incentives and rebates.

Facility owners who are interested in reducing their energy use and tracking their progress can download the IFMA's free ["Sustainability How-to Guide: EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager"](#) publication. The publication includes instructions and tips on how to create an account.

[Thayer Corporation](#) can assist you with your building's HVAC maintenance and equipment upgrades. This will not only help reduce your operating and energy costs, but will also help you create more environmentally-friendly buildings that could potentially assist you with achieving ENERGY STAR recognition. The ENERGY STAR award recognizes businesses and organizations that demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection through superior energy management that integrates the use of ENERGY STAR tools and resources.

GREEN INITIATIVES

ENERGY SMART

COMFORT ZONES

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