

CLIMATE CZAR SUPPORTS ADAPTIVE COMFORT



Office occupants are being encouraged to dress according to the weather. Lord Adair Turner, the Chair of the UK Committee on Climate Change - our "climate czar", recommends discarding suits in favour of informal lightweight clothing when outside temperatures rise. After a turbulent few months of Climate Change fiasco, is he right?

What is being suggested by Lord Turner is that formal office clothing raises demand for air-conditioning and discourages employers from using sustainable forms of thermal comfort that help cut carbon dioxide emissions.

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Lord Turner's press release states, "We have to stop over-air-conditioning offices. In summer we should only air-condition offices to the kind of temperature where it is comfortable if you are wearing light sleeveless summer clothes".

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In a press release soon after, Andrew Wilkes is quoted as saying, "I couldn't have put it better myself. For years we have been proffering an adaptive approach to attaining thermal comfort but only our enlightened Clients understood the philosophy.

A third of the 670m tons of CO₂ generated in Britain each year comes from heating & air conditioning. We have to change our profligate ways if we are to achieve the swinging cuts promulgated in legislation: by at least 60% and possibly as much as 90% by 2050.

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Holistically designing new buildings and integrating good thermal comfort solutions using an Adaptive Comfort approach, lowers CO₂ emissions from heating and cooling in a typical 2009 office building by up to 80%. We do not need Air Conditioning in the UK but practitioners - Consultants and Contractors - have become used to taking the easy route to regulation compliance, which are only minimum guidelines, after all.

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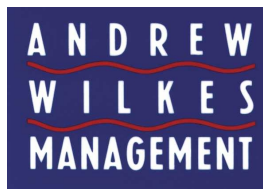
The harder route requires competent professionals who have a wider knowledge of building technologies and the manner in which people attain of their best in a variety of internal settings. This is why for the past twenty years we have differentiated ourselves from 'building services engineers' with the all-encompassing title of Workplace Engineers.

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We have already achieved remarkable capital and operating savings on a variety of projects.

See our website for examples of our success or for other Papers on Thermal Comfort and Increased Office Productivity. For more information on how to set up a CPD session on low energy, high productivity in a built environment, contact Andrew Wilkes Management:

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