



All hands to the pump

Controlling the humidity and ensuring a dry atmosphere within the pump hall was the top priority for Bristol Water when making improvements to the Blagdon Visitor Centre.

The centre, a former water pumping station, welcomes almost 25,000 visitors per year and features a set of beam engines to demonstrate how water was pumped from the River Yeo in the early part of the 20th century.

An unmanaged environment could cause problems with moisture and rusting on the pumps, so it is imperative that the humidity conditions are controlled within the building.

A Calorex DH 150 high capacity dehumidifier was specified for the project by industrial and commercial air conditioning specialists Hesflo Ltd.

Paul Lucas, director at Hesflo commented: "We selected a Calorex DH 150 dehumidifier because it fitted the bill and was at the right price for the client. The unit included a turning hood and a remote fault alarm was also fitted. Having worked with Calorex products in the past, I was confident that the unit would do the job well and it has been functioning successfully since installation."

Janice Saunders, project manager at Bristol Water said: "The dehumidifier has been a welcome addition to the building since it was fitted. The centre is only open during the summer, and consequently it used to get very cold and damp during the winter

months. The new unit has been very efficient in managing the damp conditions and I'm pleased to report that we haven't had any problems since it was installed."

Calorex, of Essex, manufacture and distribute an extensive range of dehumidifiers with units perfect, not only for preservation of old buildings, but suitable for all types of storage and work environments.

Drying by traditional heating involves continuously warming a stream of outside air on a constant 'in and out' cycle equivalent to eight times the volume of the room every hour.

Dehumidification, on the other hand, is much more sophisticated. It recirculates the same air and physically removes moisture from it. This alleviates the need to continuously reheat incoming air. Not only that, a dehumidifier will cleverly convert energy taken out of the room as moisture (latent energy), to create 'sensible energy' that can be used to heat the room, accelerating the drying process.

Typically, for every unit of energy that a Calorex dehumidifier consumes, it will convert 2.5 times this amount to usable heat. The potential energy savings are huge. In fact, compared to traditional heat and ventilation energy, cost savings of 500% are not unusual.

