

Experts in Energy Saving Lighting and Heating

University of Manchester

At the University of Manchester, Chalmor did a trial installation of TouchStat [heating controllers](#) within the university...

Following the successful application of the controllers, the University of Manchester has implemented an additional phase of heating control to optimise energy consumption in its residential accommodation.

Chalmor's TouchStat controllers are being used to fine tune the heating control across many areas of the University. The university already takes advantage of the control capabilities of a building management system (BMS), but was looking to further improve heating control in the intermittently used hotel bedrooms without compromising comfort.

In order to enhance control of the heating, many of the rooms have now been fitted with a TouchStat controller, interfaced between the BMS and the electric room heaters in each room. The BMS maintains control over the heating's on/off periods but with the TouchStat fine-tuning the heat supply via a two stage-heating programme.

With many of the conferences hosted by the University scheduled for an early start, the BMS has been tailored, through custom programmes to work in a way that is most convenient for the University.

The electric heating is switched on in time to provide full heat (around 21°C) to the rooms between 6:00 - 7:00 a.m., after which heating is available throughout the day at a setback temperature of around 13°C. At 4:00 pm the room temperature is once again boosted to full heat for one hour during which delegates can be expected to return to their rooms, reverting to setback until the heating is switched off in the early hours.

The system Chalmor implemented has proved to be easy to use and full guidance is provided in the guest literature in each room. Just as importantly, it provides guests with control of their own room temperature while providing efficient control of energy.

With the Manchester installation, Chalmor is proving the benefits of blending manual and automatic control in intermittently used rooms. "The standard approach in such areas is to install an occupancy sensor that raises the heating level from setback to full heat when it detects that the room is occupied," said Steven Henry, Managing Director of Chalmor Limited. "At the University of Manchester we have applied a valuable lesson learned from our lighting controls and incorporated it within their heating programme".

Following the success of the first phase of the TouchStat programme, the University is now rolling the same principle out to other accommodation in the conference complex and for student accommodation.