



Upgrading Your HVAC Economizers to Digital Controls

As [explained in a previous article](#), HVAC economizers are a great way to slash your energy use by decreasing your need for mechanical air cooling. Based on sensor readings of the outside air, HVAC economizers open and close dampers that let the outside air into the ventilation system. In effect, an economizer gives your mechanical system an assist from nature.

A well-functioning HVAC economizer can reduce your A/C energy usage by 20 to 30%. The key word here is “well-functioning.”

What’s Causing Many Economizers to Function Poorly?

The reality is, many economizers perform poorly because their analog controllers are not reliable. The economizer’s controller, which is essentially its “brain,” controls the dampers that redirect air flow from outside or inside the building back into the system. A lot of the older style mechanical controllers simply do not work well. To overcome this problem, manufacturers and facilities are switching to higher-quality digital controls.

There’s also an industry-wide problem with maintenance. Most economizers are not properly maintained, and many are not operational because of this.

What are the Advantages of Digital Controls for Economizers?

Installing digital controls is like giving your economizer a bigger, better brain. Digital controls:

- **Save more energy.** In fact, Southern California Edison’s (SCE’s) research has determined that facilities can realize substantial energy savings by upgrading.
- **Are more reliable** than analog controls.
- **Operate with a high degree of precision**, and can be more finely tuned to local climates and indoor temperature preferences.
- **Create higher indoor air quality** and comfort.
- **Are easy to use.** Adjustments can be made with just a few keystrokes.
- **Offer real-time data.**

Are Digital Controls for Economizers Expensive?

The really good news here is that SCE is offering HVAC Optimization incentives that make the new digital controls available at a cost that’s comparable to analog controls. There are also rebates and incentives available to encourage proper maintenance.

Evolution Mechanical has partnered with SCE as a contractor for HVAC energy retrofits. To learn more, or to discuss an upgrade and maintenance program for your facility, give us a call at [1-855-386-6324](tel:1-855-386-6324).

About Evolution Mechanical

Evolution Mechanical is an experienced and reliable HVAC and refrigeration contractor that can design and install your HVAC system and keep it running smoothly. In addition, we’re also highly knowledgeable energy consultants offering a full range of energy management services. Give us a call for all of your HVAC and energy needs!

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