



Why Origin Energy recommends Gas Powered Air Conditioning

Origin Energy is an active supporter of Gas Powered Air Conditioning (GPAC) with the recent installation of the product at its Milton office.

Origin is the main tenant at the John Oxley Centre, owned by Mirvac, where the system provides air conditioning to six conference rooms within the building.

Origin GPAC Manager Harvey Hicks said that the feedback has been positive and they looked forward to installing further GPAC systems in customer sites throughout Brisbane and Australia.

“We are championing this product in Australia as it uses proven technology that can provide substantial benefits to our customers and the environment,” he said.

“These are reverse cycle air conditioning systems, with the compressor operated by a gas engine rather than the usual electric motor.”

By using gas rather than electricity, there is also a major benefit for the environment as greenhouse gas emissions are reduced significantly.

“The system at our Milton office produces 31 per cent less greenhouse gases than the new electric system that was originally going to be installed,” says Mr Hicks.

“Major infrastructure savings can also be achieved by the significant reduction in power requirement that arises from using gas powered air conditioning. These units use only around 10 per cent of the electricity required by the equivalent electric system and can operate on single phase power.”

Origin Energy commenced trialling GPAC in Fiji just over two years ago and has been promoting the equipment in the Pacific Region over the last 12 months.

They are now the Australian distributors of Yanmar GPAC's. Yanmar has been manufacturing GPAC's for 20 years and is one of the market leaders in Japanese GPAC sales, holding around a 35 per cent share of that market.

Fast facts on GPAC:

- There are approximately 750,000 GPAC systems operating in Japan.
- A single GPAC unit can air condition an area as small as five offices, while multiple units can service high rise buildings.
- By using gas rather than electricity in a 56 KW system, Greenhouse Gas emissions are reduced by approximately 40 per cent in Victoria, 30 per cent in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia and by 25 per cent in Western Australia.
- GPAC outdoor units are quieter than similar electric air conditioners.
- Maintenance costs are similar to that of electric units. The gas engine only needs a service every 10,000 hours.
- APA can provide piping solutions for building infrastructure of all sizes.