

MechSE WELLness

T04 Individual Thermal Control

Intent: Enhance thermal comfort and improve productivity by providing thermal zoning in each space.

ASHRAE Standard 55-2013, used by HVAC design engineers in system design, aims to satisfy minimally 80% of the regular building occupants, though it may achieve higher results. Thus theoretically, 20% or less of the occupants may be less productive due to thermal discomfort. Factors such as temperament, preferences, social and cultural norms, and seasonal variation also play a role in determining individual thermal comfort.

Impact: Meeting the thermal preferences of each individual will lead to optimal productivity.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?

1. All rooms regularly occupied by a single occupant provide the occupant the ability to adjust the temperature of the space.
2. Those who share an office with others have access upon request to personal comfort devices including fans, heaters, coolers, etc. with adjustable speeds and temperatures to maximize individual thermal comfort.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?

Every private office in LUMEB has a dedicated thermostat that controls the temperature specifically to that space during normal operating hours. To meet LEED and campus energy goals, the temperature range is allowed to float a few degrees when the room is unoccupied or in times of extreme outside heat or cold. Our Facilities Office maintains a limited inventory of individual thermal comfort devices to loan to any employee in the department. Any questions regards the HVAC system or individual space controls, please contact the Director of Facilities.

