

# ENERGY METERING BENEFITS INDOOR CLIMATE AND CONSUMPTION

BERLINSKE TIDENDE

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THEME: SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



People do not begin to change their habits until they get information and focus on their consumption. A humidity meter reminds the residents that they need to air their rooms to ensure a good interior climate and avoid damp and mould fungus

Both public and private buildings can typically save 10-40 per cent of their energy consumption and optimise the indoor climate by installing electronic consumption meters. The meters can be read remotely and data be presented on the internet, with alerts when the indoor climate is suffering or the consumption increases disproportionately.

By Lene Hundborg Koss

Brunata's products are all about focus on the energy consumption through metering, fair allocation of the costs and protection of the indoor climate and therefore the health of the building's users. This applies to both residents of housing estates and employees in public or private companies.

- The public sector is required\* to reduce its energy consumption and our electronic set-up is a way of doing this. Depending on the chosen solution, all employees/residents will be able to access the measurements and thereby become aware of how humidity, heating and water consumption develops,

## SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH CONSUMPTION METERING

The Danish-owned cleantech company Brunata a/s contributes to more sustainable consumption through measuring of water and heating consumption and a fair allocation of the consumption costs in homes and buildings. The company has almost 100 years' experience within metering; it develops and produces water, heating and humidity meters and supplies consumption account and meter service. The meters are typically read remotely and access to meter data is provided via the internet. The company, with both development and production in Denmark, also has an international focus and nine subsidiary companies outside Denmark.

explains David Friisholm, Director of Brunata Scandinavia.

However, he warns against thinking of the consumption in a property only in terms of savings.

- If for instance some rooms are empty, the heating may be turned off to save money, but that can result in excessive atmospheric humidity if the neighbouring room is warm and eventually contribute to mould fungus, says David Friisholm, who does not believe a better interior climate is achieved through savings.

- I believe we need to adjust our behaviour, so that we do what is necessary at the right time.

This adjustment of our behaviour occurs when we become aware of the normal status, so that we can react if something unusual occurs, he says.

The classic example is a running toilet or a tap dripping litres of water into the drain without anyone really noticing because the consumption is calculated over long intervals. However, with an electronic meter solution collecting heating, water and humidity data in "real time" and at the same time enabling the user to see to the effect moments after for instance a tap is turned on, people quickly become aware if a pipe is leaking or other consumption suddenly increases.

\* EED (Energy Efficiency Directive)

Article 5 refers to public buildings as a model and requires three per cent savings annually from 1 January 2014.

## IKAST COOPERATIVE HOUSING ASSOCIATION AVOIDS OUT-OF-CONTROL CONSUMPTION AND HUMIDITY DAMAGE:

In 2014, the housing association obtained access to Brunata's humidity alert, which provides direct notification of the atmospheric humidity on the basis of daily measurements.

- Now when I no longer need to watch out or wait for the tenant to tell me about a humidity issue, I am on top of the problem, the association's works manager Erik Nielsen explains.

## WATER CONSUMPTION SAVINGS OF DKK 130,000

The home owners' association Tyreengen in Korsør with 315 freehold flats chose to replace the association's evaporation meters with Brunata's electronic water



and heating meters with access to Brunata Online, which resulted in further water savings worth approx. DKK 130,000. In addition, it has made both boiler man and residents take their consumption habits in hand. – The residents are delighted that their energy consumption is being addressed. In fact, many monitor it themselves, for of course they know how annoying it is to receive an additional bill, says Jørgen Hansen, boiler man and chairman of the home owners' association Tyreengen in Korsør. Jørgen Hansen and the residents are able to log in easily using a personal password at any computer with internet access. Brunata WebMon provides Jørgen Hansen with an overview of all the property's meters and the meter's consumption. By activating an alert, Jørgen Hansen can quickly see whether the consumption in a flat suddenly changes significantly and talk to the resident about it. Brunata Visual enables him to print out reports with graphs and tables, which make it easier to get an overview of large data volumes over long periods.