

# RCM NEWS

## RCM News for January 2015

A newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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### Building Systems

“[All in a Day's Work](#)”, written by Jane Alexander, Managing Editor of *Maintenance Technology* and published in the January 2015 issue, discusses how to ensure a building's electrical system remain reliable and safe. Tips are offered on the necessary qualifications of electrical workers, whether in-house or contractor, and responsibilities of the facility manager when outsourcing electrical work.

“[5 Ways to Maximize Your Economizer Efficiency](#)”, was written by Jennie Morton, and published in the January 2015 issue of *Buildings* magazine. An air-side economizer can decrease utility costs, but only if it's installed and maintained properly. It is also important to select quality components for reliability.

Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) systems may greatly increase energy efficiency, as discussed in the January 2015 *Buildings* article, “[Variables for Retrofitting with VRF](#)”, written by Chris Olson. VRF is a good HVAC retrofit solution for older buildings, and allows for both heating and cooling through indoor units. Evaluate the benefits of a VRF retrofit by identifying your building's characteristics, performing an energy analysis, and assessing lifecycle costs. Examples of VRF applications in diverse buildings are also included.

### HVAC

A four-webpage series on HVAC, written by Robert Austin in the January 2015 issue of *Building Operating Management*, emphasizes the importance of timely and consistent communication to avoid problems when performing HVAC projects in existing buildings. Nine strategies can help the projects minimize disruption to occupants, ensure the best efficiency from the project, and contribute to project completion within a realistic time frame, to name a few.

Part 1: [HVAC Projects in Existing Facilities: Strategies to Smooth the Way](#)

Part 2: [Additional Strategies to Head Off Problems with HVAC Projects](#)

Part 3: [Why HVAC Projects Go Well — or Poorly](#)

Part 4: [Problems in Specs, Performance, Can Hurt HVAC Project](#)

The January 2015 *Facility Maintenance Decisions* magazine has a three-webpage article, written by James Piper, that looks at three main ways to improve HVAC energy efficiency and minimize energy waste. Preventive maintenance catches potential problems before they occur, while HVAC system audits compare documentation with the operating equipment and identifies elements that need replacement or repair. Finally, retrocommissioning is more in-depth and aims to ensure all systems are calibrated and working as they need to be, given the building's occupancy and use.

Part 1: [Waste Watch: Improving HVAC Energy Efficiency](#)

Part 2: [HVAC System Audits Help Improve Efficiency](#)

Part 3: [Retrocommissioning Helps Identify HVAC Inefficiencies](#)

## Lighting Maintenance

Dave Lubach, Associate Editor of *Facility Maintenance Decisions* magazine, published an article in the January 2015 issue of that magazine about the success of the relamping team at Western Michigan University. A light bulb sustainability program freed up electricians and improved efficiency, for which the university received a Facility Maintenance Decisions Achievement Award for Personnel Management.

Part 1: [Western Michigan University Relamping Team Brings Efficiency to Maintenance Department](#)

Part 2: [Relamping Team Cleans up University's Lighting Clutter](#)

Part 3: [Success of Lighting Team Leads to Program Expansion](#)

Part 4: [University Takes Another Step to Improving Lighting Efficiency](#)

## Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

### ESPC 2.0: How a New Generation of Energy Savings Performance Contracting is Improving Energy Efficiency in U.S. Buildings

Learn how to take advantage of ESPC's for long-term energy savings at little cost.

- Feb. 3, 2015 online webinar

[Click here for more information](#)

*US DOE Better Buildings Challenge*

### ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Team up Now for the 2015 EPA National Building Competition – Feb. 10, 2015
- Benchmarking Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Portfolio Manager® – Feb. 12, 2015
- Portfolio Manager® Office Hours: Reporting in Portfolio Manager – Feb. 19, 2015
- Portfolio Manager® 101 – Feb. 24, 2015
- ENERGY STAR® Resources for Local Governments – Feb. 24, 2015
- Portfolio Manager® 201 – Feb. 25, 2015
- ENERGY STAR® and Green Building Rating Systems – Mar. 3, 2015

[Click here for more webinars and information](#)

*US EPA*

### BOC Live Technical Webinar Series

Skill Building 1 – Communicating with Your Boss

- Feb. 10 online

Skill Building 2 – Communicating with the Boss' Boss

- Mar. 12 online

[Click here for more information](#)

*Building Operators Certification*

### Connected Buildings, Connected People: A Look to the Future

Using real-time energy data for building efficiency.

- Feb. 11, 2015 online webinar

[Click here for more information](#)

*Energy Manager Today*

### Understanding and Maximizing Economizer Performance

- Feb. 12, 2015 online webinar

[Click here for more information](#)

*WSU Energy Program*

### Oregon APEM 2015 Spring Forum

“Decisions, Decisions, Decisions.... How to Decide When and How to Move Forward with an Energy Project” features successful tools for getting energy projects implemented.

- Feb. 13, 2015 in Vancouver, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

*Oregon APEM*

### Portland General Electric Seminars and Webinars

Portland General Electric offers online webinars and paid courses open to everyone, and seminars and workshops free of charge to its commercial and industrial customers. All classes in Oregon or online.

- Calculating Energy Costs – Feb. 26 online webinar
- Electrical Safety Awareness – Feb. 25 Seminar in Portland

[PGE Energy Education Classes](#)

*Portland General Electric, Energy Trust of Oregon, NEEA, BetterBricks*

### Building Operators Certification

BOC Level I certification is 74 hours of training and project work in building systems maintenance. Level II certification is 61 hours of training and elective coursework in equipment troubleshooting and maintenance. Classes usually meet one or two full days a month over a period of four to six months.

*All dates below are for the first class.*

- Washington State
  - Level I – April 7 in Seattle (features a combination of classroom and online learning)
  - Level I – April 22 in Tacoma
  - Level I – May 2015 in Everett
  - Level I – Sept. 23 in Renton
  - Level I – Fall 2015 in Olympia/Lacey
  - Level II – Oct. 21 in Renton

[Click for BOC Washington State information](#)

- Oregon
  - Level I – April 22 in Portland
  - Level I – TBA in Pendleton

[Click for BOC Oregon information](#)

*Building Operators Certification*

### Energy/Facilities Connections conference

The theme of the 2015 annual conference is *Staying Smarter than Your Buildings*.

- May 5-7, 2015 in Leavenworth, WA

[For more information and registration](#)

WSU Energy Program Plant Operations Support Consortium

### Energy Management Certificate

It's not too early to register for the annual "energy bootcamp" at the Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute. This is an advanced certificate program covering a wide array of energy management topics, and requires the student to implement and measure results from an energy-efficiency project.

- July 6-17, 2015 in Eugene, OR

[For more information](#)

NWEEI

### AEE (Association of Energy Engineers) Real-time Online Seminars

Webinars and live interactive courses you can take from your computer. Programs are generally two to three hours long, over a period of days. Topics include energy auditing, lighting controls, HVAC systems and much more. Visit their website for a complete list:

<http://www.aeeprograms.com/realtime/>.

## Resources for You

### Lighting Design Lab Custom Instruction

The Lighting Design Lab, based in Seattle, offers customized courses and presentations to meet your organization's needs. Class offerings include Basic Lamp Technologies, Basics of LEDs, Lighting Innovations and Trends, 2012 WA State and Seattle Energy Code – Lighting Provisions, Revisiting the Retrofit Process for Offices, and many many more. Visit their [website](#) for more topics and contact information.

### Do you have newsletters, websites and links to share? Do you have RCM questions?

RCM News is always looking for interesting information, tips and resources to share with other resource conservation managers. Our goal is to increase your success by sharing what you and your colleagues are doing – with energy efficiency measures, problem-solving, communication, data tracking, presentations, and more. In addition, WSU Energy Program can help find solutions to your RCM program's technical and programmatic questions. [Email Karen J](#) to share and ask!

### Energy Events Calendar

<http://www.energyexperts.org/TrainingEducationandEmployment/EventsCalendar.aspx>

### Washington RCM Support

The Washington State University Energy Program provides RCM support. Check out the "RCMx" website: <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/PublicFacilitiesSupport/ResourceConservation/RCMx.aspx>. We appreciate any feedback on this site and would also appreciate items to add to our resources, such as tools, examples of policies and job descriptions.

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Previous issues of RCM News may be viewed at <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/PublicationsandTools.aspx>  
(click on Resource Conservation in the right hand column).

We welcome comments or ideas for articles. Please send to Karen Janowitz - [janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu](mailto:janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu)

