

RCM NEWS

RCM News for July 2015

A newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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While every URL in RCM News is checked for accuracy prior to distribution, URLs may change, and servers may temporarily fail to connect to working URLs.

Building Automation

“[Retrofit Guide for Building Automation](#)”, written by Janelle Penny in the July 2015 issue of *Buildings*, offers tips and advice for purchasing a building automation system (BAS). Determine your goals and understand the skillset of staff before you develop a list of requirements for the new BAS to meet. ASHRAE has an update to “Guideline 13: Specifying Building Automation Systems” to help with selecting a system to fit your facility’s needs.

Building Resilience

The July 2015 online issue of *Building Operating Management* features three multi-part articles on the resiliency of buildings. “Reliance and Sustainability”, written by Greg Zimmerman, Executive Editor of the magazine, promotes the idea that making a building more sustainable also increases its resiliency to cope with consequences from severe weather events. Cutting energy use may mean smaller systems and less backup power needed and a tighter envelope will keep a building comfortable for a longer period of time in case of a power outage.

Part 1: [3 Ways Sustainability Complements Building Resilience](#)

Part 2: [High-Performance Issues Link Building Resilience and Sustainability](#)

“Improving Resilience”, by Ronald Kovach, Managing Editor, is the last of three articles in *Building Operating Management* to discuss resilience. This two-part article focuses foremost on planning to improve resilience to deal with possible threats, from fires to floods to severe wind. Keeping checklists handy in case of emergencies that detail how to shut down a building’s system, practicing preventive maintenance, and creating back-up plans are a few of the recommendations.

Part 1: [Using Planning, Checklists, Other Tools to Improve Resilience in Existing Buildings](#)

Part 2: [Other Building Resilience Issues Include Backup Power, Roofs, Preventive Maintenance](#)

Energy Efficiency

Although "[Prop 39 for California Schools: A+ Report Card for Districts Using Their Smarts](#)" describes what California schools can do to benefit from the proposition's funding to reduce their energy costs, the article is also relevant for school districts in the Pacific Northwest. Jim Maclay, Associate Principal of Altura Associates, writes in the July 13, 2015 online issue of *Energy Manager Today* about the need for leadership to be unbiased and not influenced by profit motives of outside vendors, the need for benchmarking baseline usage, the importance of an energy manager that has the skills to commission existing systems, and the need to create an energy expenditure plan based on the energy audit.

Energy Management Data

A three-part article in the July 2015 issue of *Building Operating Management* on "Energy Efficiency", written by Richard Lubinski, discusses data used for energy assessments, energy savings, and measurement and verification. Existing data from utility bills and submeters, along with measured data from data loggers, all provide information on how much energy is being used. It is necessary to use the appropriate data to show managers that energy measures have met or exceeded energy efficiency projects.

Part 1: [Understanding How Data Should Drive Energy Upgrades](#)

Part 2: [Obtaining Primary Data to Help Support Energy Projects](#)

Part 3: [Measuring, Verifying, and Reporting Energy Project Results](#)

Lighting Controls

"Lighting Controls" is a three-part article in the July 2015 issue of *Building Operating Management*, written by Desiree Hanford, on evaluating and improving lighting control systems. Recommissioning lighting controls for energy efficiency may be warranted if they were never commissioned when installed, or there have been changes to the space or facility needs. It's important to know the goals for the space that is to be lit, as well as the types of control systems in the case of new controls. Studies have found substantial energy savings in recommissioned systems.

Part 1: [How to Recommission and Revitalize Lighting Control Systems](#)

Part 2: [Knowing the Types of Lighting Control Systems and How Often Recommissioning Is Needed](#)

Part 3: [At Peace Institute in Washington, D.C. , Complex Lighting Controls Get an Ongoing Commissioning](#)

Thermal Comfort

From *Buildings* magazine, "[Stay Cool: 6 Tips to Maintain Thermal Comfort](#)" is a short slide show about keeping building occupants comfortable, and listening to their complaints to investigate if there are problems with building envelope leaks or HVAC.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Building Operators Certification Informational Webinar

This informational webcast provides an overview of the Building Operator Certification program, including course topics, eligibility and certification requirements, benefits of the training, and Q&A. The webcast is intended for newcomers.

- Aug 12 online

[Click here for information](#)

BOC

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101 – Aug 25
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Aug 26
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Aug 27

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

US EPA

E3T Showcase webinar

Registration not yet available

- Wednesday, Sept 9 – High performance manufactured homes
- Thursday, Sept 24 – Mogul base LEDs
- Thursday, Oct 22 – Easily commissioned lighting controls

[Check back here for registration information](#)

WSU Energy Program

Portland General Electric Seminars and Webinars

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

- Energy Monitoring Tools – Aug 12 live webinar
- Calculating Energy Costs – Aug 26 live webinar
- Intro to HVAC Systems – Sept 15 in Wilsonville
- Variable Frequency Drives – Sept 17 in Wilsonville
- The New Lighting Revolution – LEDs & Controls
 - Sept 22 in Salem
 - Sept 23 in Portland

[PGE Energy Education Classes](#)

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

APEM 2015 Fall Forum:

“Tuning, Tracking and Troubleshooting: Digital Controls for Modern Buildings” looks at what you need to know about building and lighting controls.

- Sept 18, 2015 in Wilsonville, OR

[Click here for more information](#)

APEM

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 – Sept. 23 in Renton (register now!)
 - Level II – Oct. 21 in Renton (register now!)

[Click for BOC Washington State information](#)

- Oregon
 - Level I – Sept 24, 2015 in Portland
 - Level II class coming in winter 2015/2016

[Click for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

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.aeeprogams.com/realtime/>.

Resources for You

Portfolio Manager Mid-Year Enhancements

EPA has enhanced [Portfolio Manager](#) based on user feedback. Changes include being able to create reports for multiple years on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis (though every month is still based on the previous 12 months of data); charts that compare the baseline to current data of any two time periods of your choice; comparing weather normalized source EUI with the national median; and bulk transfer of ownership. More changes will be rolled out in late 2015 and early 2016.

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