

# RCM NEWS

## RCM News for March 2016

A newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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### Benchmarking

“Green Building Report” is a five-part article in the March 2016 *Building Operating Management*, written by Jenny Carney. There are an increasing number of benchmarking ordinances across the country, each with the goal to measure and improve energy efficiency performance of buildings. The number of new tools being developed to help facility managers make the most of benchmarking are increasing also. Benchmarking has been around long enough to see some progress in reducing building energy consumption, as evidenced by a couple of reports, including an Energy Star Portfolio Manager Data Trends report.

Part 1: [What You Need To Know About Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure Ordinances](#)

Part 2: [Benchmarking: Opportunities for Finding Energy Efficiency](#)

Part 3: [SIDEBAR: Benchmarking Ordinance Results](#)

Part 4: [SIDEBAR \(Exclusive online only\): Benchmarking Tips and Resources](#)

Part 5: [USGBC Perspective: Top 10 States for LEED](#)

### Building Envelope

“[The Energy Impact of Your Envelope](#)”, written by Janelle Penny for the February 26, 2016 online issue of *Buildings*, discusses air leakage in buildings, including tips for how to look for leakage. Infrared cameras can detect spots of high or low temperatures as well as moving air. Cracks in the envelope, moisture on windows, and a chalky substance on bricks can also indicate a compromised envelope.

## Composting

A Florida county's pilot composting project is the subject of "[County Departments Reduce Costs with Cocomposting](#)", written by Beth Schinella and Bruce Clark for the March/April 2016 edition of *BioCycle*. The partnership of the Hillsborough County Public Utilities and Public Works Departments successfully created a marketable compost end product, as well as proved the Public Works Department's ability to manage the program internally. The success of the pilot led to an expanded composting facility expected to save approximately \$1.5 million in transportation and disposal costs over the next five years.

## Communication

"[Energy Managers: Reach Out to the Finance Department](#)", written by Carl Weinschenk in the March 30, 2016 issue of *Energy Manager Today*, gives tips about how to communicate with the financial department and other non-facility managers to get projects funded. These tips include creating friendly relationships with colleagues from the financial side of the agency, using language that they will understand, and customizing presentations.

## Retrofits

"Deep Energy Retrofits" is a three-part article written by Ronald Kovach, Managing Editor, for the March 2016 issue of *Building Operating Management*. Deep energy retrofits can reduce energy and water costs by up to 50% by taking an integrated approach that involves all building systems. They are often multiyear projects, and the timing and sequencing of the retrofits do make a difference in overall cost savings. These projects tend to be more cost-effective for larger buildings, especially for those in need of some capital improvements.

Part 1: [Innovative FMs Look To Save 40-50 Percent on Energy With Deep Energy Retrofits](#)

Part 2: [Real-World Examples Show Value of Deep Energy Retrofits](#)

Part 3: [SIDEBAR: Two Financing Options for Deep Energy Retrofits](#)

## Windows

"[Smart Windows are a Smart Idea](#)", written by Carl Weinschenk and appearing in the February 12, 2016 online issue of *Energy Manager Today*, points out that smart glass windows, while complex and expensive to install, may be considered in order to increase daylighting while still meeting energy efficiency regulations. The two major types of smart glass windows are electrically activated, or active windows, and environmentally activated, or passive windows. The latter react to sunlight and do not require electricity to function.

## Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

### Strategies for Controlling Energy and Water Use in Leased Spaces

- April 5 online

[Click here for information](#)

*U.S. DOE Better Buildings*

### Data Center Energy Efficiency Best Practices

A "First Thursday Seminar" offered by EERE's Federal Energy Management Program.

- April 7 online

[Click here for information](#)

*U.S. DOE Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy*

### 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 – May 23, 2016 in Silverdale
  - Level I – Sept 28, 2016 in Renton
  - Level I – Fall 2016 in Moses Lake
  - Level II – Fall 2016 in Tacoma

[Click for BOC Washington State information](#)
- Oregon
  - Level I – April 7, 2016 in Portland

[Click for BOC Oregon information](#)

*Building Operators Certification*

### Northwest Facilities Expo

Expo and conference featuring the latest facility solutions such as energy efficient technologies.

- April 13 & 14 in Tacoma

[Click here for more information](#)

*Too many sponsors to list, including WSU Energy Program Plant Operations Support Consortium*

### Lighting Design Lab Classes

Lighting Design Lab offers a morning class and afternoon class at different locations.

Morning class: 2015 Washington Energy Code Update – Electrical & Lighting Systems

Afternoon class: The Q&As of QPLs (Qualified Products Lists)

- April 13 in Everett
- April 19 in Bellevue
- May 4 in Tacoma
- May 10 in Seattle

[Click here for information](#)

*Lighting Design Lab*

### E3T Showcase Webinars

These are a series of free, lunch-hour webinars bringing you information about energy efficient emerging technologies and strategies, sponsored by BPA and provided by WSU Energy Program.

- Grocery Refrigeration: Finding Savings – April 19 online
- Emerging Technologies in the 7<sup>th</sup> Power Plan – May 12 online

[Click here for information](#) (registration not yet available)

*WSU Energy Program, BPA*

### ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101 – Apr 19
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Apr 20
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Apr 21
- Tackling WaterSense – Mechanical Systems – May 10

- Ask the Expert – an open Q&A session every Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

*US EPA*

### Building Operators Certification Technical Webinars

- Building Tool Diagnostics #3: Occupancy and Lighting Data Loggers – April 26
- Building Tool Diagnostics #4: Infrared Cameras – May 18

[Click here for more information](#)

*Building Operator Certification*

### Energy Facilities Connections Conference

Registration for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual conference is now open! Spend 2 ½ days in hands-on workshops, classroom presentations, and networking.

- May 3-5, 2016 in Leavenworth, WA

[Click here for information](#)

*WSU Energy Program Plant Operations Support Consortium*

### Building Envelope 101

Requested by the majority of those on the WSU Energy Program RCM Listserv, this one-hour free webinar will examine leaks and heat loss in the building envelope, along with thermographic camera diagnostics.

- May 25 – 12:00 PM online webinar

**Save the date!** Stay tuned for registration information.

*WSU Energy Program*

### Energy Management Certificate

Registration is now open for the annual “energy bootcamp” offered by the Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute. This advanced certificate program covering a wide array of energy management topics is not to be missed.

- July 11-22, 2016 in Eugene, OR

[For more information](#)

*NWEEI*

### Resources for You

#### Energy Efficiency Meets Realty TV

Promoting energy efficiency improvements in commercial and industrial buildings has just been made more exciting through the U.S. Department of Energy’s innovative [Better Buildings Challenge SWAP](#). Filmed in reality show fashion, season one pits Whole Foods versus the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco. Watch teams from each company walk through the other’s facility looking for energy savings opportunities in HVAC, kitchen refrigeration, cooling towers, and lighting. Read some of their [recommendations here](#). Who would believe there is a reality show you could watch at work?

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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](#) to share and ask!

### 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.

### RCM News is prepared by the Washington State University Energy Program

This activity is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program. Funds provided through the Washington Department of Commerce Energy Division.

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)

