

RCM News for September 2021

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

In this issue:

Announcements

Articles

- Data Centers

- Optimization for Sustainability Certification

- Selecting Energy Efficiency Products

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Resources

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

State Project Improvement Grants

Washington State Department of Commerce is now accepting grant applications through their Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings – State Project Improvement Grants program. These grants provide additional funding for state agency energy efficiency building projects already funded by the state Office of Financial Management. The grants cover additional costs for choosing more efficient option upgrades. A pre-application conference is on October 5, and grant applications are due by October 20. View the [State Project Improvement Grants webpage](#) for more information.

ARTICLES

Data Centers

Existing data centers have fewer opportunities than new data centers to implement energy efficiency measures, yet those opportunities still exist. [8 Ways Data Centers can Improve Energy Efficiency](#), written by Keith Madigan in the September 2021 issue of *Building Operating Management*, provides information on measures such as optimizing supply air temperatures and stand-alone computer room air-conditioning units, separating hot and cold air, and improving lighting efficiency.

Optimization for Sustainability Certification

Through onsite testing, systems commissioning, data collection, system upgrades, documentation, and more, a consulting firm helped an agency in Kitsap County, Washington meet the Washington State LEED certification requirements for newly constructed public buildings. [Case Study – O’Brien360, LEED v4.1 O+M](#) published by the Smart Buildings Center in Seattle, summarizes the process. Equipment borrowed from the Smart Buildings Center tool lending library was used to optimize the ventilation flow rates for certification.

Selecting Energy Efficiency Products

A new resource from U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings, [Evaluating New Energy Efficiency Products: Steps for Commercial Building Owners/Managers](#), offers guidance on how to determine the legitimacy and effectiveness of energy efficient products and technologies that are marketed to owners and building managers. Advice in the guide includes questions to ask when gathering information on the vendor and technology, and tips for researching the validity of the technology and quantifying energy savings.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- How to Avoid Common Mistakes When Benchmarking Multifamily Housing Campuses – Oct 6
- Portfolio Manager 101 – Oct 12
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Oct 19
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Oct 26
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesdays at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- Commercial HPWH: Engineering Deep Dive Part 1 – Oct 11
- Commercial HPWH: Engineering Deep Dive Part 2 – Oct 13

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

Lighting Design Lab

Virtually Proven: Technology-Based Solutions for Remote Energy Management

- Oct 14 Webinar

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Better Buildings Webinars

- Planning for the Future: New and Improved Pandemic Protocols – Oct 19
- Reimagining Carbon Costs: Finance Your Way to a Low-Carbon Future – Nov 9

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. DOE Better Buildings

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 classes
 - Oct 20, 2021 through Apr 14, 2022 via Zoom for Eastern WA and Idaho residents
 - Level II classes
 - Oct 13, 2021 through Mar 31, 2022 – via Zoom

[Click here for BOC Washington State information](#)

- Oregon
 - Level I classes
 - TBD
 - Level II classes
 - Nov 18, 2021 through May 12, 2022 via Zoom – **REGISTER NOW!**

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Oregon APEM Fall Series 2021

- Part 2: Very High Efficiency Dedicated Outdoor Air System – Oct 26
- Part 3: Utilizing Existing Equipment to Improve Efficiency, a Case Study – Nov 16

[Click here for more information](#)

Oregon Association of Professional Energy Managers

The IT/OT Nexus

Webinar covers Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) concepts and terminologies.

- Oct 27 Webinar

[Click here for more information](#)

BOC

2021 Getting to Zero Forum 2021

Event offering discussion and education on zero energy and zero carbon buildings.

- Oct 27-29, 2021 – New York City – **Virtual Attendance Now Available**

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

RESOURCES

Decarbonization

The U.S. Department of Energy's [Better Buildings Low Carbon Pilot](#) is launching a video blog series to highlight work done by Low Carbon Pilot partners. Videos showcase conversations that explore questions such as why decarbonization is important to an organization and what challenges are seen in reducing carbon emissions.

Water Savings

Join the [Better Buildings Water Savings Network](#) to help reduce your building's water use and connect with other partners to share solutions and receive technical assistance. Resources provided by U.S. Department of Energy include water management strategies, a water budget tool, and water-efficient technology opportunities.

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

