

RCM NEWS

RCM News for February 2012

A newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

In this issue:

Kudos
2012 Energy/Facilities Connections Conference
Audits
Data Centers
Energy Management
Green Cleaning
Greening the Campus
Lighting
Recycling
Solar
Water
Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities
Resources for You

Kudos to local Energy Star Leaders

Ten school districts in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska are being recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as Energy Star Leaders for building efficiency. Congratulations to Washington State Energy Star leaders Bethel SD in Spanaway, Evergreen SD in Vancouver, Ferndale SD, and Lake Stevens SD, and to Beaverton SD and Gresham-Barlow SD No. 10 in Oregon. They have either improved building efficiency of all buildings by at least 10 percent, or had buildings that consistently ranked in the top 25 percent for efficient energy use. [Click here](#) for more information and to view the other winners.

2012 Energy/Facilities Connection Conference

The [2012 Energy-Facilities Connections Conference](#) is fast approaching, occurring May 9-11, 2012 at the Enzian Inn in Leavenworth, Washington. The rewards are tangible as many schools, colleges, municipalities, state and provincial agencies, hospitals, tribes, non-profits and utilities come together in a focused environment to share best practices, learn innovative technologies and proven practices, and hear nationally-renowned speakers. Hosted by Washington State University Energy Program. Contact 360-956-2055, or e-mail plantops@energy.wsu.edu for questions.

Audits

"[Saving Before You Start](#)," by Paul Hull, is a three-Web page article published in the November-December 2011 issue of *Distributed Energy*. This provides the basic information needed to understand the value of an audit, to take advantage of new financing opportunities, and to choose among efficiency strategies to get the best fit for the facility and the pocketbook. Included are examples of how several companies used the information gained from their audits in different ways to achieve optimal energy and cost savings.

Data Centers

"[Reducing Data Center Loads for a Large-Scale, Net Zero Office Building](#)" is a six-Web-page, December 2011, brochure from FEMP (Federal Energy Management Program). It is a case study of NREL's new Research Support Facility data center, located in Golden, Colorado.

Energy Management

"Energy Management: Finding Your Best Energy Opportunity" was written by Lindsay Audin, CEM, LEED AP, CEP, and Contributing Editor, *Building Operating Management*; it appeared as a four-part article in the December 2011 issue of that journal. Three major investments to save energy dollars confront the facilities manager: energy efficiencies, renewables, and energy procurement. The author advises the facilities manager to secure an energy assessment first; then, based on what is uncovered in the assessment, what to do and in what order can be decided.

Part 1 – [Careful Assessment of Energy Options Can Show What Steps to Take](#)

Part 2 – [Energy Procurement Options Provide Opportunities, But Also Have Pitfalls](#)

Part 3 – [Energy Procurement Choices Affect Renewable Energy Decisions](#)

Part 4 – [Energy Procurement Choices Affect Energy Efficiency Paybacks](#)

Green Cleaning

"The Greener Cleaners: How to Select Green Cleaning Vendors " was written by Stephen Ashkin, President, Ashkin Group, LLC; it was published in the December 2011 issue of *Building Operating Management*. This four-part article discusses how to determine the expertise of vendors of green cleaning products and the quality of their products:

Part 1 – [Top 10 Questions to Ask](#)

Part 2 – [Ask about Range of Services, Knowledge of Standards](#)

Part 3 – [Ask for Certifications, Procedures](#)

Part 4 – [Ask about Sustainability, Communication](#)

Greening the Campus

"[Green Flash](#)," by Jennifer Grayson, is a four-Web-page article that appeared in the December 13, 2011, issue of *Campus Technology*. While the author supports large-scale green projects, she reminds us of the importance of attending to small, inexpensive efforts to green a school or other institution. She suggests five including recycling small e-waste, switching default fonts to those using less ink when printed, replacing desktops with thin clients, accepting digital instead of paper contracts, and posting all syllabi online.

Lighting

The following two articles were published in the December 2011 issue of *Building Operating Management*:

1. "Lighting Control Narrative a Powerful Tool for More Efficient, Effective Systems" was authored by Karen Kroll, Contributing Editor, *Building Operating Management*. A reference tool for the building designer, contractor, and manager is explained. The lighting control narrative (LCN) makes it possible to understand how a complex lighting system with controls was meant to function. This can bring and maintain the efficiency of the system to the intended level. The article is in four parts:

[Part 1](#) discusses how an LCN aids with the selection and installation of a lighting system.

[Part 2](#) shows the connection between an LCN and the general project goals and more specific design consideration.

[Part 3](#) provides discussion and a step-by-step instruction of how to develop an LCN.

[Part 4](#) features LCN-related products.

2. "Outside Light: Use Best, Not Brightest" was written by Desiree J. Hanford, Contributing Editor, *Building Operating Management*. The author emphasizes that while there is some overlap, there are differences between lighting for safety and lighting for security in outside areas. Those differences have to be taken into consideration in the lighting design. Then, the environmental considerations can be addressed. They are listed as sky glow, light trespass, glare, and wasted energy. This is a four-part article:

[Part 1](#) covers safety and security.

[Part 2](#) is about avoiding over-lighting.

[Part 3](#) shows the advantages of lighting controls.

[Part 4](#) is a case study of an LED installation.

Recycling

"[Campaign Aims to Improve U of Georgia's Recycling Rate](#)," by Lee Shearer, was carried in the November 15, 2011, issue of *Online Athens (Athens Banner-Herald)*. The university and the town of Athens are using single-stream recycling and are accepting more types of plastics and other materials than in the past. Their recycling rates had been low, and their hope is that these changes will increase those rates.

Solar

"[Going Solar in a Big Way](#)," by Bridget McCrea, was published in the November 15, 2011 issue of *Campus Technology*. It is a three-Web-page interview about the new 5.3 MW solar facility at Colorado State University with a campus energy engineer. It explains how the project was financed, reports on the unexpected change that more than doubled the size of the plant as originally designed, and describes plans to incorporate other forms of clean energy in the future.

Water

"[Rainwater Harvesting System Design](#)," by staff, appeared in the November 2011 issue of *Consulting-Specifying Engineer*. Rainwater is ubiquitous, but not easily captured when health safety and dollar costs are considered. This is a detailed and valuable discussion, with illustrative tables, of how to proceed with a rainwater harvesting project and realize a modest return on the investment.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Symposium

- March 6, 2012 in Seattle

Open to Northwest municipalities and utilities, this symposium focuses on solid state municipal streetlights and educates regional municipal and utility streetlight decision makers about new LED streetlight advances. The symposium coincides with a visual streetlight test taking place in Seattle.

[Registration and more information](#)

NEEA

Energy Star (and Energy Star Portfolio Manager) Training

Free online training to help you improve energy performance. Live web conference schedule:

- Energy Start Tools for Performance Contracting & Financial Eval. – Mar. 6, 2012
- Benchmarking Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Portfolio Manager – Mar. 15, 2012

<https://energystar.webex.com/mw0306ld/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=energystar>

Building Operator Certification (BOC) Technical Webinar Series

The 2012 BOC live technical webinars series focuses on high performance HVAC equipment. Open to all, BOC graduates receive continuing education credits.

- Ground Source Heat Pumps – Mar. 14, 2012

<http://www.theboc.info/m-live-webinars.html>

AEE (Association of Energy Engineers) Realtime Online Seminars

Live interactive courses you can take from your computer. Programs are generally two to three hours long, over a period of days. Dates following course names below are start dates.

Below is a sampling of courses – refer to website for complete list.

- Advanced Technologies in Outdoor Lighting – Mar. 19, 2012
- Commercial HVAC Fundamentals – Mar. 26, 2012
- Mechanical Engineering Fundamentals for Non-Mechanical Engineers – Mar. 26, 2012
- Electrical Engineering Fundamentals for Non-Electrical Engineers – Apr. 2, 2012
- Energy Auditing Fundamentals – Apr. 2, 2012
- Life Cycle Costing for Energy Professionals – Apr. 3, 2012
- Motors: Operation, Efficiency & Economics – Apr. 10, 2012
- Fundamentals of Lighting Efficiency – Apr. 11, 2012
- Interior Lighting: LED vs. Traditional – Apr. 19, 2012

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

Portland General Electric Seminars and Webinars

Portland General Electric offers educational seminars and webinars free of charge to its commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Similar customers of other utilities are welcome to attend for a small fee. Topics include energy management, lighting, commercial and industrial systems, as well as special topics such as water, smart grid, and leased space issues.

- Webinar – Intro to Ammonia Refrigeration – Mar. 20, 2012
- Webinar – Intro to Energy Monitoring for Energy Savings – Mar. 22, 2012
- Webinar – Intro to Solar Thermal & Photovoltaic Systems – Apr. 3, 2012
- Improve EE in your Building – HVAC, Tune-Up, & Commissioning – Mar. 8, 2012 in Wilsonville
- Fundamentals of Efficient Lighting & Controls – Mar. 14 in Portland
- Energy Monitoring for Energy Savings – Apr. 10, 2012 in Portland

See website for more events.

Portland General Electric, Energy Trust of Oregon, NEEA, Better Bricks

http://portlandgeneral.com/business/news_classes/classes/docs/class_schedule.pdf

Adjustable Speed Drive Applications and Energy Efficiency

Use, choices, and energy cost savings of adjustable speed drives with electric motors are explored in this full day course.

- March 28, 2012 in Everett, WA

[Click for more information](#)

NEAA

First Thursday Seminars – FEMP trainings

No cost monthly training by U.S. Dept. of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program.

- Selecting and Evaluating New and Underused Energy Technologies – April 5, 2012

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/femp/training/first_thursday_seminars.cfm

Building Operator's Certification

- Washington State

- Level I – April 19, 2012 through Oct. 11, 2012 in Everett, WA
- Level I – May 1, 2012 through Oct. 30, 2012 in Lacey, WA
- Level II – tentatively scheduled starting fall 2012 in Renton

<http://www.theboc.info/wa/wa-schedule.html>

- Oregon

- Level I – April 10, 2012 through Sept. 2012 in Medford, OR
- Level I – April 2012 through Sept. 2012 in Portland, OR
- Level II – April 2012 through Sept 2012 in Portland, OR

http://www.nweei.org/images/pdf_files/current_master_oregon_sched.doc

2012 Energy/Facilities Connections Conference

- May 9-11, 2012 in Leavenworth, WA

Registration now open for this invaluable annual conference that brings together experts and colleagues for workshops, hands-on training, networking, and useful information related to facilities and energy.

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/PublicFacilitiesSupport/PlantOperations.aspx>

West Coast Energy Management Congress

- May 23-24, 2012 in Seattle, WA

Energy conference and technology expo.

<http://www.energyevent.com/>

GovEnergy

- Aug. 19-22, 2012 in St. Louis, MO

Registration is now open for this annual event training for federal energy management community.

<http://www.govenergy.com/>

Resources for You

March to Savings

March to Savings is a call to action to encourage all Washington state employees to save energy during March 2012. Yet it's so much more than that – it's useful for all employees and managers everywhere, and for longer than just March. Designed and implemented by WSU Energy Program, in partnership with the Department of Enterprise Services, the program features the [March to Savings website](#) providing myriad resources such as fact sheets to save energy at work, links for saving energy at home, interesting how-to videos, tips on changing work habits, examples of energy-saving success stories, and plenty of resources for more information.

Earth Day 2012

April 22 marks the 32nd Earth Day

Energy Experts eNews

You can now get energy-related news from EnergyExperts.org and other energy-related organizations on Facebook and Twitter. <http://www.energyexperts.org/NewsFeeds.aspx>

Energy Events Calendar

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

Washington RCM Support

Washington State University Energy Program RCM Support

Check out the “RCMx”. 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.

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/PublicFacilitiesSupport/ResourceConservation/RCMx.aspx>

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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

