

# RCM NEWS

## RCM News for March 2020

### A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

To all,

We hope you and yours are safe, and able to keep our energy efficiency world alive and growing.

All the best – Karen and Tanya

*In this issue:*

Announcements

Articles

COVID-19 and the Energy Efficiency Workforce

Energy Efficiency & Empty Buildings

Utility Incentives

Variable Frequency Drives

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Cancelled – 16<sup>th</sup> Annual WSU Energy/Facilities Connections Conference

The 16th Annual Energy/Facilities Connections Conference that was set for May 5-7 in Leavenworth was cancelled due to the current COVID-19 health crisis. The WSU Energy Program is working with conference sponsors and session leaders to identify next steps. Stay tuned in upcoming weeks for announcements about webinars that will feature some of the conference topics.

### RCM Clean Buildings Workshops

The video recording of the Clean Buildings Webinar for RCMs, which aired March 26, will be posted on the [WSU Energy Program RCM webpage](#) by April 7.

## Seattle Building Tune-ups and Energy Benchmarking

The Benchmarking report deadline for the City of Seattle benchmarking requirement has been extended to July 1, 2020. Due to COVID-19, all upcoming [Building Tune-Up](#) 2020 deadlines have been extended six months, and hospital and medical institutions have been extended one year. In other Tune-Up news – compliance of the largest buildings, over 200,000 SF, is 95%.

## Washington State Clean Buildings

Rulemaking workshops for Clean Buildings, the Washington state energy performance standard for covered commercial buildings, continue online through June. Visit the [Clean Buildings website](#) for more information, including workshop dates and locations. Participation is encouraged by RCMs, energy managers, building owners, facility directors, and others.

## ARTICLES

### COVID-19 and the Energy Efficiency Workforce

Steven Nadel, Executive Director of ACEEE (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy) writes about the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 on the energy efficiency sector in a March 26, 2020 blogpost – [COVID-19 is slamming efficiency workforce now, and may bring long-term changes for efficiency](#).

### Energy Efficiency & Empty Buildings

An article titled [“Efficiently Empty: Maintaining Building Efficiency in Empty Buildings”](#) by Lindsey Dickes Falasca for the *Institute for Market Transformation* discusses opportunities for facilities managers to continue efficiency measures even while many buildings are empty due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Adjusting operational schedules and set points for mechanical systems, reducing phantom lighting loads, and working on deferred maintenance projects are all opportunities to continue energy efficiency efforts while building occupancy is reduced.

### Utility Incentives

As the low hanging fruit of energy efficient measures continue to be picked clean, utilities are shifting more and more to offering complex and whole-building performance-based incentives. In a two-part article for the March 2020 issue of *Building Operating Management*, Ross Fairbanks explores the trend of tiered and custom incentives. Although focused on two East Coast utility incentive programs, tips for filling out incentive worksheets.

Part 1: [Understanding Today's Tiered Utility Incentives](#)

Part 2: [Three Tips for Completing Tiered Utility Incentive Worksheets](#)

### Variable Frequency Drives

The acceptance of variable efficiency drives (VFDs) as an important tool in managing energy use has resulted in the expansion of the technology into more equipment that serves variable loads. Using VFDs not only helps with energy efficiency, it can also prolong the life of equipment. A set of three articles in the March 2020 issue of *Building Operating Management* written by James Piper discusses the uses and advantages of VFDs, as well as different approaches for using analytics to determine HVAC usage patterns and monitor efficiency.

- Part 1: [Understanding Technology Advances in Variable Frequency Drives](#)  
Part 2: [Variable Refrigerant Flow Systems Save Energy, Reduce HVAC Failure](#)  
Part 3: [Advanced Analytics Show HVAC Data Patterns](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### New Buildings Institute Live Webinars

- Zero Net Carbon Schools – April 1
- A Call to Action for Zero Embodied Carbon – April 2

[Click here for more information](#)

*New Buildings Institute*

### Smart Building Center Technical Webinar Series

- Improving the Energy Consumption of Pumps – April 1
- Resiliency & Security in Smart Buildings – April 22
- HVAC Controls Including Demand-Control Ventilation – May 14

[Click here for more information](#)

*BOC*

### ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Efficiency and Renewables Finance for Small Business and Congregations – April 7
- Portfolio Manager 101 – April 8
- Portfolio Manager 201 – April 14
- Streamline Portfolio Manager Data Entry with Web Services – April 15
- Portfolio Manager 301 – April 21
- Discovering Energy Savings with Treasure Hunts – April 29
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

*US EPA*

### Lighting Research Center (LRC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

A new interactive webinar series on the latest research in lighting.

- Lighting: Red, White and Blue – Apr 14
- UV: Beyond Red, White, and Blue – May 12

[Click here for more information](#)

*Lighting Research Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*

## Clean Buildings Workshops

These workshops will review draft revisions to ANSI/ASHRAE/IES standard 100-2018, Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings for a new Washington State law (more information under Announcements above).

**All workshops web access only. Stay tuned in case this changes for June sessions.**

- April 15
- May 13
- June 10
- June 17

[Click here for more information](#)

*Washington State Department of Commerce*

## Better Buildings Webinars

- Finance + Resilience Initiative: Building the Financial Business Case for Resilience – April 21
- Finance + Resilience Initiative: Taking Action to Improve Resilience and Disclose Performance – April 28
- Smart Energy Analytics Campaign: Spring 2020 Award Winners – May 20

[Click here for more information](#)

*US 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.*

**Contact BOC directly for information about cancellations**

- Washington State
  - Level I classes
    - Runs April 21 through Oct 13, 2020 in Bothell
    - Runs May 6 through Oct 15, 2020 in Olympia
    - Runs June 24 through Sept 24, 2020 in Spokane
    - Runs Sept 30, 2020 through Mar 4, 2021 in Seattle
  - Level II classes
    - Runs Oct 20, 2020 through Mar 23, 2021 in Seattle

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

- Oregon
  - Level I classes
    - TBD in NE Oregon (Pendleton/La Grande)
  - Level II classes
    - TBD 2020 in Portland

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

*Building Operators Certification*

### Powerful Facility Energy Conference

A bi-annual conference offering practical energy solutions and opportunities to help create successful energy efficiency projects.

**This has not yet been officially cancelled, but stay tuned!**

- May 20 in Lynnwood, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

*Electric League of the Pacific Northwest*

### Green Transportation Summit & Expo

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual summit

- NEW DATE! Aug 24-26 in Tacoma, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

*Green Transportation*

### Smart Buildings Exchange Conference

Two-day conference and trade show with the latest information and technologies in the smart buildings industry, showcasing smart city and building projects and initiatives in the Pacific Northwest.

- Sept 2-3, 2020 in Seattle

[Click here for more information](#)

*Smart Buildings Center, NEEC*

### Go Green Conference

A regional conference offering educational opportunities on sustainability for business and public sector leaders.

- NEW DATE! Sept 8 in Seattle, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

*Washington Business Alliance*

### **Cancellations due to COVID-19**

- Lighting Design Lab classes
- WSU Energy/Facilities Connections Conference
- Efficiency Exchange
- Clean & Affordable Energy Conference

## **RESOURCES**

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources for Facilities

Find a [list of resources](#) for facilities professionals to reference when dealing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Thank you to [FacilitiesNet.net](#) for putting this together.

### Benchmarking videos

Created for the Seattle Energy Benchmarking program, eight “how-to” [benchmarking videos](#) have useful information for everyone needing or wanting to perform benchmarking. Information includes an introduction to benchmarking, data collection, using utility data, and portfolio manager. All Washington State commercial buildings greater than 50,000 SF will need to benchmark for the Clean Buildings Standard – get a jump and start now!

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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.

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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)

