

RCM News for May 2020

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.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

ASHRAE Guidance for Building Readiness and Reopening

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has released guidelines for building readiness and reopening buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines include information on strategic planning, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and custodial measures, as well as HVAC system operations. An article titled "[ASHRAE Offers COVID-19 Building Readiness/Reopening Guidance](#)" posted on the ASHRAE website offer more details on the guidelines.

ASHRAE's [COVID-19 Preparedness Resources](#) contains links to FAQs about HVAC operation during shutdown and return to normal operation, environmental health emerging issues, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). Revisit the resource page regularly for recent updates.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources for Facilities

Find a [list of resources](#) for facilities professionals to reference when dealing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19), from facilities.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENERGY STAR Survey

Changes in building operations and energy use due to COVID-19 may be significant, and eventually be reflected in ENERGY STAR scores and metrics. Take a [short survey](#) to help ENERGY STAR assess these impacts, so that they may provide the best guidance for benchmarking your buildings and tracking energy efficiency. Please complete by June 4.

Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard

The Washington State Energy Performance Standard for covered commercial buildings will affect Washington State commercial buildings with 50,000 or more square feet of conditioned space. The standard is scheduled to become law November 1, 2020, and a voluntary efficiency incentive program will run from 2021 to 2026. The standard will be implemented as a mandatory requirement beginning in 2026.

Public input and participation is encouraged during the rule-making process for RCMs, energy managers, building owners, facility directors, and other interested parties. June 10 and June 18 are the next online workshops. Visit the [Clean Buildings website](#) for more information. WSU Energy Program is providing customer support – contact Karen Janowitz at janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu if you have questions.

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%.

ARTICLES

Airborne Virus Transmission in Buildings

Researchers at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory plan to study the risk of airborne transmission of viruses within buildings and how to mitigate those risks. The study, described in "[New Research Launched on Airborne Virus Transmission in Buildings](#)", will use Berkeley's FLEXLAB testing facility to simulate ventilation systems with a goal of providing recommendations for building operation.

Diagnostic Tools & Operational Strategies for COVID-19 Spread

An article by Britton Rife on the *Smart Buildings Center* website titled "[Utilizing Diagnostic Tools & Implementing Operational Strategies to Curb Spread of COVID-19](#)" discusses how facility operation practices can change to help ensure the best possible protection for building occupants. The article highlights how tools in the *Smart Buildings Center's Tool Lending Library* can help to monitor outdoor air concentration, assess adequate airflow and test exhaust systems.

Efficient Cooling

Since HVAC systems account for over 39% of energy use in buildings, they are a good place to start when looking for ways to save energy. A two-part article by Julia Ingersoll and Katie Repko in the May 2020 edition of *Building Operating Management* discusses strategies to use when designing HVAC systems for cooling. Part one covers designing new buildings for efficiency by taking into account the facility's climate, existing parameters and architectural design. Part two offers strategies for reducing energy use in existing buildings that involve planning, changing best practices and ensuring you have accurate data helping you make decisions

Part 1: [Five Principles of Energy-Efficient Cooling Design](#)

Part 2: [Four Strategies for Cooling Efficiency in Existing Buildings](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Benchmarking Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants in Portfolio Manager – June 2
- Portfolio Manager 101 – June 3
- Portfolio Manager 201 – June 17
- How to Develop Playbooks and Employee Guides for Energy Efficiency – June 24
- Portfolio Manager 301 – June 25
- A New Metric for Higher Education Building Energy Performance – July 15
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

US EPA

Better Buildings Webinars

- Characterizing the Performance of Color-Tunable Light Sources – June 4

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings

Better Buildings 2020 Summit: A Virtual Leadership Symposium

The Better Buildings Summit has moved its conference online. View the website for the schedule and topics.

- June 8 through 11, 2020 online

[Click here for more information](#)

DOE, EERE

Building Energy Exchange

Building Energy Exchange provides energy and lighting efficiency solutions in New York City, yet webcasts may be appropriate for all in the industry.

- Optimizing HVAC for Health and Efficiency – June 10 online webcast

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Energy Exchange

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.

- June 10 – topic: Administrative procedures workshop
- June 18 – topic: Targets, normalization and new construction

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington State Department of Commerce

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.

Contact BOC directly for information about cancellations.

All dates below are for the first class.

- Washington State
 - Level I classes
 - Sept 30, 2020 through Mar 4, 2021 in Seattle
 - TBA in 2021 in Spokane
 - Level II classes
 - 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

Electric Vehicle Development Webinar

- What To Watch For In Electric Vehicle Development – June 24

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington State University Energy Program

Green Transportation Summit & Expo

The 10th 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.

- Sept 8 in Seattle, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Business Alliance

Powerful Facility Energy Conference

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

- Rescheduled for Fall 2020 (date to be announced) in Lynnwood, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Electric League of the Pacific Northwest

RESOURCES

Energy Treasure Hunts

Energy Treasure Hunts are great tools to find quick ways to save energy. During an Energy Treasure Hunt teams of employees walk around your facility and look for quick energy saving measures. ENERGY STAR offers valuable how-to guides and treasure maps to help you conduct Energy Treasure hunts. For more information visit [ENERGY STAR Treasure Hunts](#).

Circadian-effective lighting research and design

The Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has just released the [Lighting for Healthy Living](#) website that integrates circadian-effective design research with real-world situations. A “Background” page educates about lighting and its impact on the circadian system. The “Application” page offers information on designing circadian-effective lighting in various facilities. .

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!

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

