

RCM News for April 2022

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington State Clean Buildings Expansion Law

The [Washington State Clean Buildings expansion bill](#) was signed into law on March 25, 2022. The law will require commercial buildings greater than 20,000 square feet but less than 50,000 square feet in area to report on benchmarking, energy management plans, and operations and maintenance programs. Multifamily residential buildings equal to or exceeding 50,000 square feet must also comply. Note that this law is not a performance standard. In addition, the law requires the WA State Department of Commerce (Commerce) to provide a customer support program, including enhanced technical support. Rulemaking for the new law must be completed by Commerce by December 1, 2023. Commerce will hold stakeholder engagement sessions for input on rulemaking from stakeholders. More details will be available soon on [Commerce's Clean Buildings webpage](#), where you can sign up for Clean Buildings updates.

Energy Efficiency and Solar Energy Grants for Public Buildings

Applications for [energy efficiency and solar energy grants](#) for Washington State public buildings are being accepted up to 4:00 PM on May 25, through the WA State Department of Commerce. Awards will be announced in July. Applicants must be public entities in Washington State, including local governments, public higher education institutions, K-12 public school districts, state agencies, and federally-recognized Tribal governments.

ARTICLES

Fans vs Air Conditioning

A study at the University of Sydney in Australia found that using indoor fans with occasional air conditioner use can provide nearly as much comfort as only using air conditioners, while reducing energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions. "[Want to be sustainable and cool? Choose fans more and aircon less](#)", published April 8, 2022 by the University of Sydney, relates findings from five modelled scenarios showing that slightly increasing use of fans, which create indoor air movement, can result in up to 70 percent reduction in energy consumption and cost.

Retro-commissioning

As more workers return to the office, retro-commissioning to improve the efficiency of a building's equipment and systems can provide many benefits. In "[5 Commissioning Questions for Return-to-Office Energy Efficiency](#)", by Saagar Patel for the April 2022 online *Building Operating Management*, discussion includes if retro-commissioning is worth the time and expense, the importance of occupant comfort perception as well as greater employee environmental awareness, and more reasons why such a process is recommended.

Tool Lending Library

Using tools borrowed from the Smart Buildings Center Tool Lending Library, a health care engineering, planning, and design firm was able to study electricity use at eight hospitals across the country during the pandemic. "[Tool Lending Library Case Study – Mazzetti](#)" written by the Smart Buildings Center discusses potential savings and reduced carbon emissions from the study results. The borrowed tools were Fluke 1730 3-Phase Logging Power Meters.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Energy Benchmarking as a Service – May 3
- Intro to the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Building Emissions Calculator, Part 1 – May 10
- Saving Water and Costs in Restrooms with WaterSense – May 11
- Portfolio Manager 101 – May 12
- Portfolio Manager 201 – May 19
- Portfolio Manager 301 – May 24
- Intro to the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Building Emissions Calculator, Part 2 – May 24
- ENERGY STAR Higher Education Benchmarking Initiative 2.0 – May 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

- Energy & Alterations: Meeting the Alterations Requirements of the Energy Code – May 5
- Networked Lighting Controls for Healthcare – May 12
- Commercial HPWH: Hospitals and Clinical Settings – May 19
- Energy Management Systems, Part 1 – May 26
- Energy Management Systems, Part 2 – June 2

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

Lighting Design Lab

EV Champion Training Series

Continuation of a four-part training series providing skills and knowledge on electric vehicle implementation.

- EVSE Power and Utility Considerations – May 10
- EV Site Assessment – June 14
- Advanced Fleet Electrification – July 12

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

U.S. DOE Federal Energy Management Program

USGBC Smart Building Summit

First U.S. Green Building Council Smart Building Summit

- May 11-12 – virtual

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

U.S. Green Building Council

Take Control of your Building Automation System

- May 17 online (note time is Central Time)

[Click here for more information](#)

Slipstream

Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

- May 17-19 in Arlington, VA

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. DOE Better Buildings

BOC Technical Webinars

- Heat Pumps: Are They the Right Fit for Your Buildings? – May 18

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations

BOC course providing the basic principles of energy efficiency awareness and practices in commercial buildings. The course is designed for existing Washington State staff wanting a solid foundational understanding of energy efficiency or for those looking for a new career.

- 6 half-day classes from May 17 through June 23

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Smart Buildings Exchange

Preliminary agenda now available! A free hybrid conference providing the latest information from the smart buildings industry.

- Aug 22-24 virtual and in-person

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center

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
 - Sept 28, 2022 to Apr 6, 2023 for Washington residents via Zoom
 - Level II classes
 - Fall 2022 for Washington residents – location/delivery TBD

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

- Oregon
 - Check back for additional classes
- [Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Getting to Zero Forum – Save the Date

- May 10-12, **2023** in Minneapolis + virtual

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

RESOURCES

Decarbonizing School Buildings

A new guide recently published by the New Buildings Institute provides information on achieving healthy, efficient, carbon neutral school design, construction and operation. "[Decarbonization Roadmap Guide For School Building Decision Makers](#)" outlines achievable goals, examples of actions by some school districts, and links to resources and customizable templates. Additional resources include

key messages for communicating about carbon neutral schools, examples of resolutions, and a decarbonization roadmapping planner.

C-PACER Financing

Since Washington State passed legislation in 2020 allowing [Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy + Resiliency \(C-PACER\)](#) programs, Clark, King, Thurston, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties have either established programs or are in the process of developing them. C-PACER is an innovative financing mechanism for energy and water efficiency projects, renewables, energy storage, and more.

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

