

RCM NEWS

RCM News for December 2020

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

We wish you the very best for the new year!

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commercial Window Upgrade Opportunity

For a limited time, commercial buildings that upgrade their low-performing single or double pane windows with secondary windows can receive an incentive by participating in a field test run by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), in partnership with local utilities. In addition to an incentive from NEEA, projects will receive special pricing from the six participating manufacturers, 15-30% off the material cost depending on the manufacturer. If you're looking to improve your envelope, increase occupant comfort, and reduce outside noise and air infiltration, this is a great opportunity to leverage technical support and product discounts, while the building is empty or partially empty.

To see if your building qualifies for the field test or to learn more, email Jordan Pratt from Energy 350 at jpratt@energy350.com.

Washington State Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants

The application period for the Washington State Energy Efficiency Grant Program is now open. Applications are due by January 29, 2021. Eligible applicants include Washington State local agencies, public higher education institutions, public school districts, state agencies, and federally recognized tribal governments. Priority for awards will be given to projects that leverage a higher percentage of

non-state funds, projects with higher energy savings, and first-time applicants. More information may be found at the Washington State Department of Commerce [Energy Efficiency Grant Program website](#).

Seattle City Light Energy Efficiency as a Service (EEaS) Project Solicitation

Phase 2 of Seattle City Light's EEaS pilot program project seeks ten additional solicitations beginning in January 2021. Commercial, non-residential existing or new construction projects are eligible. More information is on the [Northwest Energy Efficiency Council](#) website. Contact Colm Otten, Senior Program Manager, Customer Care and Energy Solutions, at colm.otten@seattle.gov or (206) 727-3576 with questions.

ARTICLES

Building Resilience

Resilience is the measure of how a building responds and recovers from shock such as from a natural disaster. A three part article by Evan Reis and Randy Collins in the December 2020 issue of *Building Operating Management*, discusses how building energy efficiency retrofit projects present the opportunity to make improvements that also improve resiliency, how rating systems can provide guidance on which improvements to make and important considerations for earthquake hazard resiliency.

Part 1: [With Greening Buildings, Be Sure to Consider Resilience](#)

Part 2: [Resilience Rating Systems Give Guidance](#)

Part 3: [Considerations for Retrofitting for Seismic Resilience](#)

Energy Efficiency and Building Height

New high-rise buildings are often considered energy efficient compared to shorter buildings. However, a recent study concludes that the most energy efficient buildings per square foot may be only four stories tall. In "[Getting Building Height Right for the Climate](#)", published November 30, 2020 in *gtm*, Ingrid Lobet reviews research results which show that buildings ten stories and higher are much more energy intensive per square foot than buildings five stories and under. Elevator use and increased window coverage contribute to the findings.

Renewable Energy Trends

Trends show that the use of renewable energy in the form of solar is increasing in commercial facilities due to cost and ease of installation. In a series of articles in the December 2020 issue of *Building Operating Management*, Naomi Millán discusses factors to consider when installing solar, including costs and payback, options for using solar to achieve green energy goals and the insights that the Portfolio Manager database provides on the adoption of solar in commercial buildings.

Part 1: [It's Renewable Energy's Time to Shine](#)

Part 2: [How Renewable Energy Contributes to Organization's Green Goals](#)

Part 3: [What Does Portfolio Manager Data Say About the Rise of Renewables?](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Better Buildings Webinars

- Beyond Energy Savings: Quantifying the Additional Benefits from Energy Efficiency – Jan 12
- David & Goliath: Financing Energy Retrofits from the Tiny to the Giant – Jan 19
- Risk Assessments: Evaluating Buildings Sites for Portfolio Resilience – Feb 2

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- How to Apply for the ENERGY STAR for U.S. Buildings – Jan 12
- Portfolio Manager 101 – Jan 13
- Streamline Portfolio Manager Data Entry with Web Services – Jan 14
- Updated 1-100 ENERGY STAR Score for Hospitals – Jan 19
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Jan 20
- Verifying the ENERGY STAR® Application – Jan 21
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Jan 27
- How to Track Waste and Materials in Portfolio Manager – Jan 28
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

US EPA ENERGY STAR

Clean Buildings Incentives Webinar

Information and discussion about continued development of the Early Adopter Incentive Program for the Washington Energy Performance Standard for Commercial Buildings.

- Incentive Guidelines and Development Webinar – Jan 13

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington State Department of Commerce

Federal Energy Management Program Courses

- Developing & Prioritizing Resilience Solutions within the Technical Resilience Navigator – Jan 13
- Taking Advantage Of Demand Response and Time-Variable Pricing Offerings – Jan 14
- Advanced EV Site Assessment and Operations – Jan 20

[Click here for more information](#)

US Dept of Energy, FEMP

eProject Builder Introductory Webinars

eProject Builder is a web-based data management platform to preserve, track, and report information for energy projects.

- Identical Webinars are held Jan 14, Jan 26, and Feb 11

[Click here for more information](#)

US Dept of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes.

- Cost Effective Code Compliance: HVAC – Jan 19
- Cost Effective Code Compliance: Building Envelope – Jan 26
- Cost Effective Code Compliance: Lighting – Feb 2
- Cost Effective Code Compliance: Water Heating – Feb 9

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

Lighting Design Lab

Basics of Building Benchmarking for Ordinance Compliance

ENERGY STAR is offering a three-part webinar series on the basics of Portfolio Manager, as guidance for building owners to comply with building benchmarking ordinances. Please promote these webinars to commercial building owners and managers.

Click on each webinar for information and registration:

- Jan 26 – [Part 1: A Beginner's Guide to Using Portfolio Manager for Benchmarking Law Compliance](#)
- Feb 24 – [Part 2: Using Benchmarking Results to Understand your Building's Performance](#)
- Mar 30 – [Part 3: To Efficiency and Beyond! How to Benefit from Benchmarking Compliance with Strategies for Improving your Energy Performance](#)

US EPA ENERGY STAR

Data Center Energy Practitioner (DCEP) Training

The DCEP training program certifies energy practitioners qualified to evaluate the energy status and efficiency opportunities in data centers. Course curriculum teaches proven best practices as well as new tools and techniques in IT equipment, air management, cooling systems, and electrical systems.

February trainings are listed below. Click on the link to see March trainings.

As a certified program, these are not inexpensive.

- Data Center: Generalist – Feb 15
- Data Center: HVAC Specialist – Feb 18-19
- Data Center: Generalist & HVAC Specialist – Feb 15, 18-19
- Data Center: IT Specialist – Feb 22

[Click here for more information](#)

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, FEMP

Getting to Zero Webinar Series

A webinar series to share knowledge on achieving the highest level of efficiency in buildings.

- Getting to Zero: Carbon Neutral Codes – Jan 28

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

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
 - Virtual – May 4, 2021 through September 15, 2021
 - Location/delivery TBD – Fall 2021
 - Level II classes
 - Virtual – date TBD Spring 2021
 - Location/delivery TBD – Fall 2021

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

- Oregon
 - Level I classes
 - February 10, 2021 through August 12, 2021 online

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

GoGreen Conference

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

- April 6, 2021 virtually

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Business Alliance

Green Transportation Summit & Expo

The 10th annual summit

- Aug 16-18, 2021 – 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.

- Aug 24-25, 2021 – in Seattle

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center, NEEC

Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

This event provides opportunities to explore emerging technologies and share innovative strategies in energy and water efficiency.

- May 17-20, 2021

[Click here for more information](#)

US Dept of Energy Better Buildings

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

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

RESOURCES

BetterBricks and CRE Hub

One of the best repositories of resources and tools for RCMs and others working toward energy efficient commercial buildings is [CRE Hub](#), from BetterBricks, a project of Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. Find solutions to problems such as with sensors or chillers, learn about lighting controls, or gather information on non-energy benefits to influence management decisions on energy projects. Use the Building Lifecycle tool to narrow results for a particular type of building and activity, such as maintenance or tune-up.

COVID-19 Resources

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) offers guidance, links, and resources for buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The [commercial buildings page](#) includes recommendations on current operations, taking a holistic view of buildings, developing a preparedness plan, and specific guidance on many HVAC specifics. A separate page contains information on [building readiness](#). Links to these and other useful pages are accessible through an [infographic](#) from the ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force.

Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard

The Washington State Energy Performance Standard for covered commercial buildings became law in November 2020 and will affect Washington State commercial buildings with 50,000 or more square feet of conditioned space. A voluntary efficiency incentive program will run from 2021 to 2026. Visit the [Clean Buildings website](#) for more information.

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

