

RCM News for February 2021

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

In this issue:

Announcements

Articles

Advanced Lighting and Health

Boilers and Hot Water

HVAC Upgrades

Preventative Maintenance

Retrocommissioning

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Resources

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

Webinars on Clean Buildings Standards O&M

WSU Energy Program is offering a series of four webinars focusing on Operations & Maintenance and Energy Management Plans in relation to the Washington State Clean Buildings Standards. These are geared toward RCMs and energy managers, but are open to all. The first webinar is March 30, dates and times are listed below under events. Registration is not yet open, so be sure to save the dates in your calendar.

Controls Apprenticeship Program

The [Washington State Controls Specialist Apprenticeship Program](#) helps participants develop skills in the application, programming, and management of building control and automation systems. Two Washington state registered apprenticeship programs, one of which is for youth age 16 and older, provide on-the-job training in an industry that is facing a shortage of skilled employees. Please share this information, especially at school districts.

Updated COVID-19 Building Guidance from ASHRAE

The ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force has updated its building reopening guidance for HVAC systems to help mitigate the transmission of SARS-CoV-2. The updated [Building Readiness Guide](#) includes information on flushing HVAC systems, heating season guidance, and other adjustments that are needed to align with the previous core recommendations.

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, and 15-30% off the material cost depending on the manufacturer. To see if your building qualifies for the field test or to learn more, email Jordan Pratt from Energy 350 at jpratt@energy350.com.

Seattle City Light “Energy Efficiency as a Service” Project Solicitation

Seattle City Light’s Energy Efficiency as a Service (EEaS) pilot program is accepting project proposals for a competitive solicitation for the next ten available spots. All proposals are due by April 30, 2021. Commercial, non-residential existing or new construction projects are eligible. [Click here for more information](#).

ARTICLES

Advanced Lighting and Health

Advanced lighting technologies such as tuneable LED lighting can help building occupants be happier and healthier as they go through their work day. An article in the Winter/Spring 2021 of the *BOC Bulletin* (pages 8 and 9) discusses how lighting can affect the circadian rhythm in the human body and have an impact on mood as well as overall mental and physical health. [The Physiological and Psychological Benefits of Advanced Lighting Design](#) also has information about the NXT Level training curriculum that can help lighting designers learn more about advanced lighting techniques.

Boilers and Hot Water

The pandemic has stressed the importance of adequate outside air in a building and sufficient hot water. A three-part article in the February 2021 *Facility Maintenance Decisions*, written by Orion Morrissey, provides information for evaluating existing boilers by reviewing the air handler coil capacity, pipe size, and boiler size. The increase of hand hygiene and frequent cleaning may impact the capacity of a building’s domestic hot water system. Evaluating actual water consumption can help determine if a replacement water heater is warranted.

Part 1 – [Pandemic Creates Challenges for Boilers, Water Heaters](#)

Part 2 – [Steps for Successful Boiler Selection](#)

Part 3 – [Pandemic Challenge: How to Select the Right Water Heater for Your Facility](#)

HVAC Upgrades

As enrollment at the campuses of Collin College in Texas increased, along with energy usage, the college’s facilities team decided to invest in HVAC system, lighting, and plumbing upgrades. [HVAC Upgrades: Growing with the Changes](#), written by Dan Hounsell in the February 2021 issues of *Facility Maintenance Decisions*, discusses the aging or inefficient HVAC equipment that was replaced or upgraded. Much of the project occurred during the beginning of 2020, and ran into many challenges due to COVID and the difficulty of scheduling around classes.

Preventative Maintenance

Building maintenance is an important part of building operations, but it can sometimes become reactive rather than planned. While choosing preventative maintenance may seem costly and time consuming in the short term, it can actually result in long term savings and increase occupant satisfaction and comfort. The article [Why You Should Care about Preventative Maintenance](#) in the Winter/Spring 2021 issue of *the BOC Bulletin* (page 6) examines the benefits of having a preventative maintenance plan for your facility and offers ideas for training programs that can help your staff create the maintenance plan.

Retrocommissioning

Performing operational audits and retrocommissioning provides the quality assurance needed to make sure building systems operate with intended efficiency. These tasks are important to be able to occupy buildings after challenges such as the pandemic and earthquakes. In [Pandemic Highlights Need to Revisit Operational Basics](#), in the February 2021 issue of *Building Operating Management*, Carlos Santamaria stresses the importance of good organization of documents, supplies, procedures, and other sound operational practices in order to quickly get back to business.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- Networked Lighting Controls Fundamentals – March 2 & 3
- The Networked Lighting Controls Value Proposition – March 16
- Networked Lighting Controls for Warehouses – April 6
- Networked Lighting Controls for Healthcare – April 20
- Networked Lighting Controls for Schools – May 11

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

Lighting Design Lab

Better Buildings Webinars

- Smart Tools for Smart Labs – March 2
- Leveling the Slope: Helping State and Local Governments Reach Their Energy Goals – March 16
- You Have a Data Center – Now What? Stories from the Field – April 6

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101 – March 4
- Tracking GHG Emissions in Portfolio Manager – March 9
- Portfolio Manager 201 – March 10
- ENERGY STAR and Green Building Rating Systems – March 16
- Benchmarking Wastewater Treatment Plants & Drinking Water Treatment Systems – March 18
- Portfolio Manager 301 – March 23

- A Beginner's Guide to Using Portfolio Manager for Benchmarking Law Compliance – April 21
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

US EPA ENERGY STAR

Federal Energy Management Program Courses

- Evaluating Your Utility Rate Options – March 23
- ESPC Comprehensive Training – April 6-8

[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.

- Webinar – March 11 & 23

[Click here for more information](#)

US Dept of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Getting to Zero Webinar Series

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

- Getting to Zero: Buildings Case Study Jam – March 25

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

Smart Building Center Technical Webinar Series

- Advanced Lighting Technologies – March 24
- Achieving Water, Energy and Cost Savings Through Conservation – April 28
- Innovation in Building Envelope and Window Technologies – May 26

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center

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.

- Data Center: Generalist – March 16
- Data Center: HVAC Specialist – March 17-18
- Data Center: Generalist & HVAC Specialist – March 16-18
- Data Center: IT Specialist – March 19

[Click here for more information](#)

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, FEMP

O&M for Clean Buildings and Beyond

A series of four different webinars focusing on operations & maintenance and energy management plans for the Clean Buildings Standards, as well as a brief overview of the Standards, tune-ups, and more. Each webinar is 1 ½ hours long. Registration information to come.

- March 30 – 12:00 pm
- April 21 – 11:30 am
- May 19 – 11:30 am
- June 9 – 11:30 am

Registration info will be sent to RCM listserv. Contact janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu for information.

Washington State University Energy Program

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. Part 1 and 2 have concluded; see Resources below to access recording. Please promote these webinars to commercial building owners and managers.

- 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

GoGreen Conference

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

- April 6 – virtually

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Business Alliance

Clean Buildings – Equity and Inclusive Incentive Reservation Webinar

Discussion about issues of equity and access for the limited pool of incentive money in the Early Adopter Incentive Program for the Washington Energy Performance Standards for Commercial Buildings.

- April 28 – virtually

[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
 - 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

- No classes currently scheduled. Contact BOC Oregon if you are interested in a Level I or II class.

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

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

Efficiency Exchange

A networking and learning conference for energy efficiency professionals from across the Northwest.

- May 25-27 – virtually

[Click here for more information](#)

NEEA, Bonneville Power Administration

Green Transportation Summit & Expo

The 10th annual summit: “Reflecting & Refocusing on a Resilient Future”.

- 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

Northwest Facilities Expo

A broad based facilities event with an emphasis on green buildings that features the latest products and services in the industry.

- September 1-2, 2021 – Portland, OR

[Click here for more information](#)

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

Winter/Spring 2021 BOC Bulletin

The [current issue](#) of the *Building Operator Certification (BOC) Bulletin* is now available. In addition to the lead article on COVID-19 and IAQ in buildings, you can read about preventative maintenance, advanced lighting design, learn about continuing education and how to complete your BOC credential maintenance, and hear how BOC graduates are using the skills they learned in the program.

Portfolio Manager and Building Benchmarking for Ordinance Compliance

The first two of three webinars on the basics of building benchmarking for ordinance compliance are now available from ENERGY STAR. “Beginner’s Guide to Using Portfolio Manager for Benchmarking Law Compliance” from Jan 26, and “Using Benchmarking Results to Understand your Building’s Performance” which ran Feb 24 are available for on-demand viewing. Information on the last webinar in the series, occurring late March, are in the events section of this newsletter. Access the video-recording by clicking on “View Event Recordings” at the top right of [ENERGY STAR events page](#). Please note that the recording is on Webex and may need an extension added to your browser. For a copy of the PDF of the slides, please contact Karen at janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu.

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.

Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standards

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.

RCM News is prepared by the Washington State University Energy Program

This activity is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program. Funds provided through the Washington Department of Commerce Energy Division.

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

