



RCM News for February 2024

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New WSU Energy Program Webinar on Clean Buildings Requirements

Attend the upcoming WSU Energy Program webinar on March 20, 2024 for a presentation and discussion about using Energy Management Plan (EMP) and Operations & Maintenance (O&M) program templates to satisfy requirements for Washington State's Clean Buildings Performance Standard. While no-cost and open to everyone, preference is given to those working at Washington state public facilities and buildings. [Register here](#).

Save the Date!

The RCM support team at WSU Energy Program is planning an RCM Summit for April 17. The 3 or 4 hour zoom meeting will feature attendee networking in break-out rooms, and presentations on electric vehicle public agency fleet planning, follow-up discussion to the March 20 EMP and O&M webinar (see above), and possibly more. Stay tuned for more details.

Building Potential

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) has officially changed their name to [Building Potential](#). Continuing its role as a non-profit trade association, Building Potential better aligns with its

mission to “eliminate carbon emissions from building energy use through market-based thought leadership, education, and advocacy.” The Smart Buildings Center is a program within the Building Potential organization.

Clean Buildings News from the Washington State Department of Commerce

- [Clean Buildings Portal Training](#)

An overview of the Clean Buildings Portal on March 12 will cover important information to help users navigate the portal, such as requesting Building Owner Notification letters and Shared Access, and common questions about the building’s data page. [Registration](#) is required.

- [Clean Buildings Performance Standard Integrated Document](#)

The February 2024 version of the Clean Buildings Performance Standard Integrated Document includes Tier 1 and Tier 2 buildings. It is available for [download here](#). The Standard consists of ASHRAE Standard 100-2018 and state amendments to ASHRAE 100-2018, WAC 194-50.

- [Tier 2 incentive Program Revised Workshop Series](#)

Five monthly workshops are scheduled to present program details and answer questions about “Tier 2” buildings for the Clean Buildings program. The program begins July 1, 2025. More information on Tier 1 and Tier 2 buildings can be found [here](#). The program overview is presented at the first workshop on June 13.

- [Tier 2 Program Overview \(registration\)](#) – Jun 13
- [Funding Distribution \(registration\)](#) – Aug 15
- [Building Focus \(registration\)](#) – Oct 10
- [Utilities \(registration\)](#) – Nov 14
- [Finalizing the Program \(registration\)](#) – Dec 12

- [Tier 2 Participation Survey](#)

Commerce would like to hear from you about proposed Tier 2 guidelines that will be coming out soon. Access the [survey here](#).

- [Decarbonization of District Energy Systems](#)

[Find materials here](#) from the first two workshops for proposed rules for decarbonization of district energy systems for Clean Buildings (HB 1390). [Register here](#) for workshop #3 on March 7.

Clean Buildings Incentives and Accelerator Programs

Many utilities and local jurisdictions offer incentive and accelerator programs across Washington state to assist with compliance of the Clean Buildings Performance Standard. Check the program in your territory below for announcements, dates and other information. Please note that not all are free of charge.

- Accelerator Programs
 - [Avista Clean Buildings Accelerator](#)
 - [Pacific Power Washington Clean Buildings](#)
 - [Puget Sound Energy Accelerator Program](#)
 - Kick-off dates are Mar 19, Jun 11, Sep 10, and Oct 29, 2024

- [Seattle Clean Buildings Accelerator Program](#)
- Snohomish PUD
 - Coffee Chat – [Mar 6](#)
 - Next Cohort begins Mar 26, 2024
- Incentive Programs
 - [Bellevue Clean Buildings Incentive Program](#)
 - [Issaquah Clean Buildings Incentive Program](#)

Federal Funding for Smaller Cities, Counties and Tribal Governments

Smaller cities, counties, or Tribal governments that did not qualify for direct Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) allocations from the federal government may now be eligible for planning project funding from the WA State Dept. of Commerce. Projects funded include:

1. Work with consultants to develop plans and strategies for energy efficiency and conservation.
2. Energy audits performed on commercial and residential buildings.
3. Public education programs to increase public awareness of energy-saving actions

Applications are due April 1. [Click here for more information and application materials](#)

ARTICLES

Indoor Environmental Quality

Maintaining good Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) is an extremely important variable for managers of buildings. In "[Why does Indoor Environmental Quality Matter to Facility Managers?](#)", published February 5, 2024 in *Facilitiesnet.com*, Laurie Gilmer discusses how the importance of IEQ in facilities has changed due to increased awareness around PM2.5 and the COVID-19 Pandemic. By using Minimum Efficiency Reporting value (MERV) filters as a benchmark, Gilmer focuses on the impact on building occupants.

LED Advantages

As inefficient bulb types are becoming less available and even banned, switching to LEDs is becoming mainstream due to its increased efficiency and performance. In "[Emerging Legislation Drives High-Performance, Sustainable Lighting Upgrades](#)", published February 14, 2024 in *Buildings.com*, Abhinav Ajmera discusses the benefits of transitioning to LEDs. The article outlines considerations and steps to upgrade existing lighting systems.

MERV 13 Filters

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, an increase in concern over Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) has put new demand on higher rated filters. In "[The Higher the MERV the Better: With Some Exceptions](#)", published February 12, 2024 in *Facilitiesnet.com*, Dave Lubach focuses on the effects of higher Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) Filters in older HVAC systems. By increasing the MERV rating on filters for building occupants, HVAC systems will have to endure higher pressure drops among other challenges.

Sustainable Steps for Buildings

As energy prices rise, building owners are looking towards energy efficiency and conservation to reduce costs. In "[4 Steps to Help Building Systems Achieve Sustainability Goals](#)", published February 12, 2024 in *Buildings.com*, Mike Collom presents steps on decarbonizing buildings. From lighting upgrades to reducing building envelope infiltration, Collom outlines different methods building owners can take.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

Energy Management Trainings and Certifications

Upcoming Webinars

- Certified Building Commissioning Professional (CBCP®) Training Program – Mar 4-7
- Effective Energy Management Master Plan Online Training Program – Mar 4-6
- Microgrid Fundamentals Online Training Program – Mar 11-14
- Certified Energy Auditor (CEA®) Training Program – Mar 18-21
- Certified Measurement & Verification Professional (CMVP®) Training Program – Mar 18-20
- Accelerated Certified Energy Manager (CEM®) Online Training Program – Mar 18-22
- Renewable Energy Systems: Concepts & Applications Online Training Program – Mar 25-27

Upcoming in person trainings to be held in Bellevue

- Certified Measurement & Verification Professional (CMVP®) Training Program, Bellevue, Apr 29-May 2
- Certified Building Commissioning Professional (CBCP®) Training Program, Bellevue, Apr 29-May 3
- Carbon Auditing Professional (CAP™) Training Program in Bellevue, Apr 29-May 1
- Certified Business Energy Professional (BEP®) Training Program in Bellevue, Apr 29-May 3
- Certified Renewable Energy Professional (REP™) Training Program, Bellevue, Apr 29-May 2
- Energy Efficiency Practitioner (EEP™) Training Program, Bellevue, Apr 29-May 1

[Click here for more information](#)

The Association of Energy Engineers

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All online webinars

- Portfolio Manager 101 – Mar 5
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Mar 12
- Proposal to Enhance Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR Recognition Criteria – Mar 13
- Energy Benchmarking Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants in Portfolio Manager – Mar 14
- Reducing Costs with Quick Water Wins – Mar 20
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Mar 26
- Financing Energy Efficiency Projects: What to Know Before You Sign – Mar 27
- Portfolio Manager 101 – Apr 2

- Lessons Learned with Onsite and Offsite Renewable Electricity Projects – Apr 4
- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

2024 National Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations – Early Spring

BOC course providing the basic principles of energy efficiency awareness and practices in commercial buildings. Six half-day classes.

- Mar 6 through Apr 4 via Zoom – **WAITING LIST ONLY!**

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Pump Systems Matter

Virtual live instructor-led course is designed to review in detail the how pump input power is calculated based on torque and speed measurements, or the measurement of electrical input power.

- Fundamentals of Pulsation in Piping systems and Dampening – Mar 7
- Pump & System Fundamentals Course - Part 1 – Mar 12
- Pump & System Fundamentals Course - Part 2 – Mar 13
- PSAP Certification Prep Course – Mar 14
- Waterhammer Evaluation and Surge Suppression Methods – Mar 20
- Pump selection considerations for Rotodynamic and Positive Displacement Pumps – Mar 27

[Click here for more information](#)

Hydraulic Institute and Pump Systems Matter

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- Commercial Heat Pump Water Heater System Considerations in a Nut – Mar 14
- Delivering High Performance Using Very High Efficiency DOAS Systems – Mar 28

[Click here for more information](#)

Lighting Design Lab

Meeting Your Clean Buildings Requirements: EMP and O&M Program Guidance

- Mar 20

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington State University Energy Program

Building Operator Certification. Smart Buildings Center Webinars

- Refrigerants' Role in the Decarbonization Movement – Mar 20
- Driving Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Apr 17
- Realizing the Benefits of Demand Flexibility, Response & Management – May 15

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center

Q1 BCxA NW Chapter Meeting

- Mar 21 in Seattle & virtual via Zoom

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Commissioning Association Northwest Chapter

WAMOA Leadership Seminar

- Mar 21-22 in Leavenworth, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Association of Maintenance and Operation Administrators

New Buildings Institute Webinar

- Sizzling Solutions: Accelerating Heat Mitigation – Policies, Programs, and Design Dynamics! – Mar 27

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute, Cool Roof Rating Council

Building Operator Certification. BOC 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
 - Level I class
 - March 27 – August 15, 2024 **SOLD OUT**
 - June 4 – Oct 10, 2024 via Zoom
 - Sept 25, 2024 – Jan 23, 2025 in Seattle
 - Level II class
 - Oct 2, 2024 – Jan 30, 2025 via Zoom

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

- Oregon
 - Level I class
 - Jun 13 to Dec 5, 2024 via Zoom

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification, Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute

Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

- Apr 2 to Apr 4 in Washington, D.C.

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. Department of Energy, Better Buildings

AEE West: Energy Conference & Expo

- May 1-2 in Bellevue, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Association of Energy Engineers

2024 National Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations –Spring

BOC course providing the basic principles of energy efficiency awareness and practices in commercial buildings. Six half-day classes.

- May 7 through Jun 5 via Zoom

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Clean & Affordable Energy Conference

- May 7 in Boise, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Northwest Energy Coalition

EFX24: Efficiency Exchange 2024

- May 14-15 in Coeur d'Alene, ID

[Click here for more information](#)

Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Getting to Zero Forum

- May 21-23 in Charlotte, NC

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

Smart Buildings Exchange

A three day hybrid conference connecting participants to the latest information and technologies in the smart buildings industry.

- Aug 27- 29 in Seattle + virtual

[Click here for more information.](#)

Smart Buildings Center

Forth Roadmap Conference

Electric transportation conference

- Sep 24-26 in Detroit

[Click here for more information](#)

Forth

BCxA 2024

- 2024 BCxA Annual Conference – Oct 2-4 in Las Vegas, NV

[Click here for more information.](#)

Building Commissioning Association

RESOURCES

BOC Bulletin

Trends and information around building performance standards are featured in the [BOC Bulletin Winter/Spring 2024](#), published by the Building Operator Certification (BOC). Succinct articles about building performance standards, energy efficiency, and finances in facilities, are included. Read the bulletin to learn more about BOC Graduates, classes, and partnerships.

Energy Talk Cards

A set of approximately 150 cards developed by BetterBricks provides key learning points about building systems, stressing that when there is a change to one system, other systems may be impacted. Each of the [Energy Talk Cards on Commercial Energy Efficiency](#) states a question and has an answer and discussion points. Topics include building envelope, plug loads, HVAC controls, motors, and even utility bill analysis and inspection checklists. This is a great learning tool for team discussions.

Smart Pumps Resources

Learn about the efficiency and energy savings that smart pumps offer with the handy resource sheet created by the [Washington State University Integrated Design + Construction Lab](#). In addition to significant energy savings from using the most efficient motors on the market as well as advanced sensors, smart pumps are quieter, smaller, and lighter than conventional induction-type motors.

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 the RCM team](#) 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 email to RCM@energy.wsu.edu.

