

# RCM NEWS

## RCM News for February 2023

### A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Built Environment Workforce Survey

A survey to better understand the experiences and demographics of people working in the built environment in the U.S. has been launched by the National Institute of Building Sciences, along with other organizations and associations. By [taking the survey](#), you will not only help with its intention, but you will also have the opportunity to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$150 gift card.

### Solar plus Storage Grants

Washington State Department of Commerce is accepting grant applications for the [2023 Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities](#) program to fund solar and battery back-up power so community buildings can provide essential services when the power goes out. Two separate tracks provide planning and pre-development grants and installation grants. Applications are due by March 23. Pre-application conferences are available on February 7 and 15. Additional information on the website includes Q&A.

### Electrification Infrastructure Grants

Washington State Department of Commerce is accepting grant applications from local governments and federally recognized Tribal governments for the procurement, installation, and integration of electric vehicle supply infrastructure in rural communities. Phase one applications for the [Clean Energy](#)

[Fun – Electrification of Transportation Systems Grants program](#) will be accepted until March 6, 2023. Phase two will open on April 3, with applications due May 15, 2023.

## ARTICLES

### Building Commissioning

ASHRAE Guideline O, The Commissioning Process, defines commissioning as “a quality-oriented process for achieving, verifying, and documenting that the performance of facilities, systems and assemblies meets defined objectives and criteria”. In her article “[Commissioning and the Building Operator](#)”, published in the winter/spring 2023 BOC Bulletin, Melissa Sokolowsky focuses on commissioning in existing buildings that have never been commissioned or those in which systems are not properly operating. The emphasis is to reduce power consumption and energy costs, along with favorable payback years..

### Pump Assessments

A periodic pump system assessment is the primary way to optimize a pumping system in a commercial building and to identify problematic areas that, when corrected, improve energy efficiency, increase reliability, and reduce downtime and maintenance costs. The pump system assessment process and the importance of such assessments in commercial buildings is the focus of Michael Michaud’s article, “[Why Assessing Pump Systems Matter](#)”, published in January 2023 issue of *Building Operating Management*.

### Sustainability Certifications

For those looking to find their niche and/or expand their knowledge and skill sets, Trish Kenlon’s article, “[Which of these 40 Sustainability Certifications is Right for You?](#)” published on the GreenBiz website January 3, 2023, lists the many certifications that outline the landscape of professional certification in the field of sustainability. The focus is on certifications that demonstrate specific skills or knowledge sets. Kenlon organizes the certifications into 5 main topic areas: General Sustainability and Climate Change, Sustainability and ESG reporting, Green Building Certifications, Certifications Related to Operating the Built Environment, and Issue- and industry-Specific Certifications.

### Well-Ventilated and Energy Efficient Buildings

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased pressures for companies to ensure workspaces are better ventilated. But eco-friendly design guidelines call for ensuring that energy heating or cooling such spaces is not wasted. Are healthy and green building principles in conflict? They don’t have to be. Several actions, such as regular building tune-ups, filters, air-quality monitoring, and electrification, can lead to progress on one front without diminishing it on the other. Suggestions to optimize both health and climate are outlined in Joseph G. Allen’s article, [Designing Buildings that Are Both Well-Ventilated and Green](#), published in the January 2023 issue of the *Harvard Business Review*.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

## Better Building Webinars

- Selecting and Connecting EV Chargers to Commercial Buildings – Mar 1
- It's Electric! Electrified Alternatives to Industrial Fossil Fuel Systems – Mar 7
- From Measuring to Managing: Submetering Strategies for Plug and Process Loads in Healthcare Facilities – Mar 14

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

*U.S. DOE Better Buildings*

## Fluke ii910 Precision Acoustic Imager

The latest addition to the Smart Buildings Center Tool Lending Library is the Fluke ii910 Precision Acoustic Imager, which can quickly pinpoint and measure leaks in compressed air, gas, steam, and vacuum systems, even in noisy environments.

- Get Pro tips and hands-on learning – Mar 9 in Seattle

[Click here for more information](#)

*Smart Buildings Center*

## ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Financing Energy Efficiency in Buildings: What to Know Before you Sign – Mar 1
- Portfolio Manager 101 – Mar 2
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Mar 7
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Mar 9
- Part 1: A Beginner's Guide to Using Portfolio Manager for Benchmarking Law Compliance – Mar 14
- Energy Benchmarking Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants in Portfolio Manager – Mar 16
- Reducing Costs with Quick Water Wins – Mar 22
- Part 2: Using Benchmarking Results to Understand Your Building's Performance – Mar 28
- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday

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

*U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR*

## Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign Webinar Series Track 1: Energy Efficiency Plus Health

Three-part live webinar series for school district staff. Please note that all three sessions must be attended.

- Building Assessment Tools for School Energy Retrofits – Mar 14

[Click here for more information](#)

*New Buildings Institute*

## Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign Webinar Series Track 2: Emissions Reduction and Resilience

Three-part live webinar series for school district staff. Please note that all three sessions must be attended.

- Take Action on Climate! Planning for Climate Vulnerability and Resiliency in Schools – Mar 28

[Click here for more information](#)

*New Buildings Institute*

### National Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations

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

- Mar 7 through Apr 5, 2023 via Zoom

[Click here for more information](#)

*Building Operators Certification*

### Powerful Facility Energy Conference

Energizing Our Future

- Mar 16, 2023 in Lynnwood, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

*Electric League of the Pacific Northwest*

### Clean Buildings General Q&A Session

- Mar 23, 2023

[Click here for more information](#)

*WA State Department of Commerce*

### Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

- Apr 11-13, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

[Click here for more information](#)

*U.S. DOE Better Buildings*

### 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 19, 2023 to Feb 27, 2024 in Seattle
  - Level II class
    - Oct 25, 2023 to Feb 29, 2024 via Zoom

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

- Oregon
  - Level I class
    - May 4, 2023 to Nov 2, 2023

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

*Building Operators Certification, Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute*

## National Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations

BOC course providing the basic principles of energy efficiency awareness and practices in commercial buildings. Six half-day classes. Register by Apr 25.

- May 9 through Jun 8, 2023 via Zoom

[Click here for more information](#)

*Building Operators Certification*

## Getting to Zero Forum

- May 10-12, 2023 in Minneapolis + virtual

[Click here for more information](#)

*New Buildings Institute*

## Roadmap Conference

Electric transportation conference

- May 15-17, 2023 in Portland

[Click here for more information](#)

*Forth*

## Smart Buildings Exchange

- Aug 15- 17, 2023 in Seattle + virtual

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center

## RESOURCES

### BOC Bulletin

The term “commission” is used in a number of different scenarios to ensure a building is operating optimally is the feature article in the [Winter/Spring 2023 BOC Bulletin](#), published by Building Operator Certification. This issue also includes a Q&A with a BOC instructor, News of BOC Grads, Partner Highlight focus on the San Diego Building Engineers Association, Technical Highlight on the Non-Energy Benefits of Very High Efficiency Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems, and Upcoming trainings and conferences.

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### 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](mailto:janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu)

