

RCM NEWS

RCM News for May 2022

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 RCM Webinar

An innovative irrigation water reduction method at Spokane Falls Community College and approaches to complying with both the Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard and the new Seattle Performance Standard from Seattle Public Schools – these are the featured stories told in the next RCM webinar, “Reducing Water and Energy Use”, from WSU Energy Program. The free, hour-long webinar is at noon on June 22. [Click here for registration.](#)

NEW – State Project Improvement Grant Changes

Key changes have been made to the Washington State Department of Commerce’s [State Project Improvement grant](#). These changes include an increase in the maximum funding amount, a pre-application consultation upon request, and an option to submit Phase I and Phase II at the same time. Grant funds cover the additional costs of more efficient project options. **Applications are due July 31, 2022.**

ARTICLES

Air Quality

[“Managing Air Quality in the Pandemic: How K-12 Schools Addressed Air Quality in the Second Year of COVID-19”](#) by the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council and ASHRAE, published

May 2022. This report explores how schools responded to implementing pandemic-related air quality measures since a previous report published in April 2021. Among the findings are that many school districts prioritized measures such as increasing outdoor air, and that some of the biggest challenges were HVAC systems not designed to implement recommendations for improved air quality.

Heating

“[Here’s one way to burn less fossil fuel – use human energy to heat buildings instead](#)” published April 26, 2022 in *The Conversation*, the author Amin Al-Habaibeh explores the science of body heat, and how that heat can be used to warm buildings with mechanical heat exchangers or heat pumps. “Body heating systems” are being used in places such as an office building in Sweden, the Mall of America in Minnesota, and at an arts center in Glasgow, Scotland.

Northwest Electricity Utility 101

A blog post on the NW Energy Coalition website, posted by Chris Connolly, [NW Electric Utility 101: Electricity Generation and Consumption](#), provides background information on electric utility types in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho. The post includes statistics on generating resources in each state, as well as information about regulatory authorities.

Path to Carbon Neutral Case Studies

The Seattle Office of Sustainability & the Environment has published two case studies of public buildings in Seattle that feature an energy efficiency and electrification path to carbon neutral. [Stewart Manor Affordable Housing](#), dated September 2021, and [Washington State Department of Services for the Blind](#), dated February 2022, both went through major retrofits resulting in energy savings projected at 13%-35% and up to 70%, respectively.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

Decarbonizing the Northwest

Webinar series with four virtual sessions

- Decarbonization and Load Growth – Maintaining our Focus on Energy Efficiency – June 1
- Regulatory Tools to Advance Decarbonization – June 15
- Electricity Markets’ Role in Delivering Clean Energy – June 29
- Evolving Technologies Showcase – July 13

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

NW Energy Coalition

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- Energy Management Systems, Part 2 – June 2
- Commercial Refrigeration, Part 1 – June 14
- Commercial Refrigeration, Part 2 – June 16

- Adjustable Speed Drives/Variable Frequency Drives, Part 1 – June 21
- Adjustable Speed Drives/Variable Frequency Drives, Part 2 – June 23

[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.

- EV Site Assessment – June 14
- Advanced Fleet Electrification – July 12

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

U.S. DOE Federal Energy Management Program

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

NOTE: Portfolio Manager 101, 201, and 301 trainings will now be every other month, starting in July.

All are online webinars.

- Reducing Costs with Quick Water Wins – June 15
- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Oregon APEM Summer Social 2022

In person social and building tour

- June 15 in Portland

[Click here for more information](#)

Oregon Association of Professional Energy Managers

2022 CleanTech Innovation Showcase

- June 21 in Seattle and virtually

[Click here for more information](#)

CleanTech Alliance

Reducing Water and Energy Use – RCM Stories From Across Washington

No-Cost WSU Energy Program RCM Webinar

- June 22 at noon

[Click here to register](#)

WSU Energy Program

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

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.

- Sept 20 through Oct 20, 2022 via Zoom

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operators Certification

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
 - Oct 26, 2022 to Mar 30, 2023 for Washington residents via Zoom

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

- Oregon
 - Level I Summer Fasttrack 2022, open to anyone interested. Most classes are every two weeks
 - June 22 through Sept 14, 2022
 - Level II will be available in 2023

[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

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

