

RCM NEWS

RCM News for October 2020

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington State Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants

The application period for the Washington State Energy Efficiency Grant Program opens November 2020. Applications are due in January 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](#).

COVID-19 RESOURCES

ASHRAE Guidance for Building Readiness and Reopening

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.

ARTICLES

High Performance Buildings Workforce

Highly specialized knowledge is required to optimize the performance of energy-efficient high performance buildings. Building operations and maintenance is the top essential skill identified in a new report, "[Training the Workforce for High-Performance Buildings: Enhancing Skills for Operations and Maintenance](#)", published online September 29, 2020 by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), and written by Rohini Srivastava and Jennifer Thorne Amann. Training programs and strategies to increase the number of skilled building professionals are also discussed in the report.

HVAC System Optimization

The first steps that are taken to reduce energy consumption in buildings are often referred to as low hanging fruit because they are easy to identify and change. A three part article in the October 2020 issue of *Building Operating Management* written by Jerry Y. Burin and Syed Suhail, discusses opportunities for using data analysis to optimize HVAC systems in ways that may go deeper than the normal low hanging fruit adjustments, yet are not costly and can result in substantial energy savings.

Part 1: [For HVAC Efficiency, Reach Higher Than the Low-Hanging Fruit](#)

Part 2: [For HVAC Optimization, High-Hanging Fruit Doesn't Have to Mean 'Expensive'](#)

Part 3: [Case Study Shows HVAC Optimization Success](#)

Smart Grid Building Integration

Most electricity coming from the electrical grid is used in buildings, but the flow of electricity does not have to be one-way. A three-part series of articles by Joe Zhu in the October 2020 issue of *Building Operating Management* examines how buildings today have the technology to integrate with the smart grid and transfer service back to the grid.

Part 1: [Smart Grid: How to Integrate Buildings for Maximum Benefit](#)

Part 2: [How Distributed Energy Resources \(DER\) Augment Smart Grid, Energy Savings](#)

Part 3: [Smart Grid Goes Mainstream](#)

Water Conservation

Water conservation can save commercial and institutional facilities money as water costs in many areas continue to rise. The value of performing water audits and looking at restroom and plumbing fixture upgrades as well as enhanced maintenance in facilities is discussed in a three-part article in the October 2020 issue *Facility Maintenance Decisions* written by James Piper. Piper discusses how a water conservation program should include an examination of water use, targeted upgrades, and enhanced maintenance to follow up on upgrades. The article also highlights the changes that COVID-19 is bringing to restroom upgrades, such as touchless equipment.

Part 1: [Water-Use Audits Can Help Managers Focus on Upgrades](#)

Part 2: [Understand Maintenance Requirements for Restroom Components](#)

Part 3: [What Does COVID-19 Mean for Restroom Upgrades?](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes.

- Networked Lighting Controls (NLC) Fundamentals – Nov 3 and 4
- NLC for Warehouses – Nov 17
- NLC for Schools – Dec 1

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

Lighting Design Lab

Managing Impacts from COVID19 in Meter-Based Measurement & Verification (M&V)

A webinar series to better understand and respond to the effect that COVID19 has had on M&V.

- IPMVP Application Guide on NRE/A – Nov 4
- Advanced M&V Methods – Nov 11
- IPMVP & Beyond – Nov 18

[Click here for more information](#)

Efficiency Valuation Organization

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101 – Nov 4
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Nov 10
- How to Track Waste and Materials in Portfolio Manager – Nov 12
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Nov 17
- Communicating Your Energy Plans and Achievements – Nov 18
- Achieving Water and Cost Savings in Capital Improvement Projects – Dec 2
- Lighting up Energy Savings with LED Upgrades – Dec 3
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

US EPA

Oregon APEM Fall Series 2020

- The Future of Strategic Energy Management and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Nov 12
- Business Panel on Growing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Industry – Dec 10

[Click here for more information](#)

Association of Professional Energy Managers

Life Cycle Impacts of Buildings Webinar Series

- Innovative Building Materials – Nov 12
- “Real Life” Buildings Striving to Minimize Life Cycle Impacts – Dec 3
- Intersection of Life Cycle Impacts and Circular Economy Potential – Dec 17

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Expanding Access to Energy Efficiency Financing Tools and Programs

- Nov 16 webinar

[Click here for more information](#)

NW Energy Coalition

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 – date TBD Spring 2021
 - Location/delivery TBD – Fall 2021
 - Level II classes
 - Location/delivery TBD – Fall 2021

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

- Oregon
 - Level I classes
 - Nov 4, 2020 through May 6, 2021 online – **Registration now open!**
 - TBD 2020 in NE Oregon (Pendleton/La Grande)
 - Level II classes
 - TBD 2020 in Portland

[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

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Business Alliance

Green Transportation Summit & Expo

The 10th annual summit

- May 24-26, 2021 – hopefully in person 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.

- NEW DATE! August 24-25, 2021 – hopefully in person in Seattle

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center, NEEC

2021 Getting to Zero Forum 2021

Event offering discussion and education on zero energy and zero carbon buildings.

- NEW DATE! Oct 27-29, 2021 – New York City

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

RESOURCES

BOC Bulletin

The Summer/Fall 2020 issue of the [Building Operator Certification BOC Bulletin](#) features the article “Water Conservation and Efficiency for Building Operators”, which discusses the importance of soil in order to conserve water in landscaping. Read about the energy-saving successes of BOC graduates and what a BOC instructor thinks about teaching the certification courses. The bulletin’s technology highlight explores resources available for the transition to high-efficiency smart pumps.

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.

Benchmarking Videos

Created for the Seattle Energy Benchmarking program, eight “how-to” [benchmarking videos](#) have useful information for everyone needing or wanting to perform benchmarking. Information includes an introduction to benchmarking, data collection, using utility data, and portfolio manager. All Washington State commercial buildings greater than 50,000 SF will need to benchmark for the Clean Buildings Standard – get a jump and start now!

Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard

The Washington State Energy Performance Standard for covered commercial buildings will affect Washington State commercial buildings with 50,000 or more square feet of conditioned space. The standard is scheduled to become law November 1, 2020, and 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

