



RCM News for September 2024

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FundHubWA Now Available

The Washington State Department of Commerce has launched their new energy grant and incentive platform, FundHubWA. The new online resource can connect individuals, businesses, nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments to federal and state opportunities promoting a cleaner, more resilient Washington. Users can find grants from organizations such as USDA, USDOE, Department of Interior, Washington Department of Ecology, and Washington Department of Commerce. The site, funded by Climate Commitment Act dollars, can simplify the grant search and application process for applicants of all kinds. Learn more and explore opportunities on FundHub.wa.gov

92% of Required Seattle Properties Benchmarked

The City of Seattle's Office of Sustainability and Environment announced that more than 92% of required property owners have achieved compliance with the City's benchmarking law for the 2023 reporting year. Congratulations! Check your building's Seattle Benchmarking Compliance on [OSE's Compliance Portal](#).

Olympia School District Recognized for First CBPS-Compliant School

Olympia School District's Capital High School has successfully filed to become the first Clean Buildings Performance Standard- compliant school in Washington State. Through a partnership with SEI, a Climate Corps fellow was assigned to assist with drafting the submission documents, including the

O&M plan and Energy Management Plan, documenting energy efficiency improvements. Read more on [Smart Buildings Center](#).

Clean Buildings News from the Washington State Department of Commerce

New Version of the Early Adopter Incentive Program Guidebook

Tier 1 Early Adopter Incentive Program Guidelines were recently updated to include an addition to the change of the incentive rate. Thanks to the passing of House Bill 1976, Commerce is offering an enhanced incentive for eligible Tier 1 building owners who demonstrate compliance with the Clean Buildings Performance Standard by meeting the energy use intensity target (EUI_t) performance metric. The incentives have been significantly improved, with owners now eligible for an incentive payment of \$2/sq. ft., along with \$0.05 per kBtu saved beyond the 15 kBtu/sf/year minimum EUI reduction. [Click here](#) for more information on the updates and to access the newest version.

Tier 2 incentive Program Revised Workshop Series

There are three more meetings scheduled to present program details and answer questions about “Tier 2” buildings for the Clean Buildings program. The program began July 1, 2025. More information on Tier 1 and Tier 2 buildings can be found [here](#).

- [Building Focus \(registration\)](#) – Oct 10
- [Utilities \(registration\)](#) – Nov 14
- [Finalizing the Program \(registration\)](#) – Dec 12

Informational Webinar for Multifamily and Nonprofit Building Owners

Register to attend the Clean Buildings team’s informational webinar for multifamily and nonprofit building owners who must comply with the Clean Buildings Standards. The Team will outline Tier 2 compliance requirements, provide information on how to prepare for compliance and share available funding opportunities. The Team will be joined by the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) who will share information about their free energy and water benchmarking services for HUD-assisted properties. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

WA Department of Commerce Clean Buildings Office Hours

A dedicated space outside of scheduled trainings and workshops to ask questions and speak with others learning compliance to the Clean Buildings Standard.

- Sep 24 10:00 AM
- Oct 22 10:00 AM
- Nov 26 10:00 AM
- Dec 24 10:00 AM

[Click here to register](#)

Clean Buildings Accelerators and Incentive 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 and the latest programs may not yet be listed.

- Accelerator Programs
 - [Avista Clean Buildings Accelerator](#)
 - [Pacific Power Washington Clean Buildings](#)
 - [Puget Sound Energy Accelerator Program](#)
 - Info sessions: Oct 15
 - Kick-off dates: Oct 29, 2024
 - [Seattle Clean Buildings Accelerator Program](#)
 - [Snohomish PUD Accelerator Program](#)
 - [Tacoma Power Clean Buildings Support](#)

The Cities of [Bellevue](#) and [Issaquah](#) are helping large buildings reduce energy use, save on costs and comply with WA State Clean Buildings Law. Free building energy services include energy benchmarking, scoping assessments, incentive navigation, and compliance reporting support.

- Incentive Programs – Bellevue & Issaquah
 - [Bellevue](#)
 - [Issaquah](#)

Renew America’s Schools Energy CLASS Program Applications Open

Apply to be a member of the Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools Program (CLASS) offered by USDOE Renew America’s Schools for 2024-2025. The program groups 50 local educational authorities and their staff “Energy Champions.” This is your designated staff person for energy projects and conservation that keeps tabs on all things energy. You’ll be working with peers from across the country to develop plans, policies, and projects that will improve building and energy management in public school facilities. Each Champion will receive one on one expert advice on strategic energy management practices, project development, and funding pathways. The application is open through Friday, October 4th on HeroX and can be found [here](#).

The CLASS program builds off of a similar effort with 25 school districts in 2023-24, and the DOE has made 35 hours of webinar trainings from this program available free of charge for any interested party. Find the 2023 training series on [Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory’s Efficient and Healthy Schools website](#).

ARTICLES

Team Approach to Energy Efficiency Boosts Boise Public Schools

Collaborative work between district sustainability staff and facilities teams across the Boise, Idaho public schools system has led to dramatic changes in operations and approaches to obtaining and maintaining efficient spaces. Seeing the opportunity to offer transformative capital improvement projects across the district following a 2017 bond effort, the district set up a sustainability committee to guide choices in modernization that would see standardized controls across district facilities, an improved LED lighting scheme that allowed for fewer fixtures, and regular communications between data analysts in the Sustainability office and building management teams to influence energy consumption and building operations. Senior Editor Dan Hounsell dives into teamwork, meeting DOE

50001 framework, training, and smart capital choices in the [September issue of Facility Maintenance Decisions](#).

Building Renewal Series: You Need a Strategic Operations and Maintenance Program

Improving your physical plant through capital projects may improve your building performance, but long-term gains in building efficiency involve a well-designed Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program to preserve assets and actively manage operations and occupants. O&M programs allow for better planned solutions to be implemented in a systematic way, as an alternative to the “putting out the fires” responses that many maintenance teams may find themselves stuck in. BetterBricks does a deep dive on Strategic Operations and Maintenance Programs, including key components, training resources, and analysis techniques as part of the Building Renewal Series. Read the article [here](#).

Electric Resistance Auxiliary Heat: Taming Cold Climate Heat Pump’s Achilles Heel

Many air source heat pumps are designed with auxiliary electric resistance heat to boost heat output in the coldest outdoor temperatures, when a heat pump alone may not be able to pull enough energy from the air to provide the needed heat. These electric resistance heaters are much less efficient and can erase many gains that would be made by a well-tuned heat pump system. Many times, electric heat can activate prematurely due to control settings or equipment set up, and in rare cases may activate while a system is in cooling mode. Author Allison A. Bailes III, PhD digs into the underlying reasons for auxiliary electric heat use in heat pumps and offers several potential solutions for both the design and operation of a heat pump to avoid unnecessary electric resistance activation. Read the full article on [GreenBuildingAdvisor](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

Better Buildings Webinar Series

All are online webinars.

- Where are They Now? Success Stories from Early Adopters of Advanced – Oct 1
- Tracking Fugitives: Inventorying Building Refrigerants and Reducing Leaks – Oct 29
- Growing Your Green Team: Engaging Residents and Staff for Successful Decarbonization Projects – Nov 12

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings

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ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101 – Oct 3
- Audits to Implementation: How Building Owners Leverage Energy Audits to Improve Portfolio Performance – Oct 7
- Portfolio Manager 201: Editing Property Details, Data Quality Checker, and sharing Property Data – Oct 8
- Verifying ENERGY STAR Certification – Oct 10
- Portfolio Manager 301: spreadsheet uploads, Setting Goals, and Creating Custom Reporting Templates – Oct 15
- Designing to Meet Building Performance and Decarbonization Goals using ENERGY STAR® Tools – Oct 17
- Go Boldly: Decarbonization Strategies for Commercial & Industrial Operations – Oct 22
- Manage What You Measure: Using Portfolio Manager® to Understand Water Use Intensity – Oct 23
- Portfolio Manager 101 en Español: Navegando Portfolio Manager, Agregando una Propiedad Nueva y Metiendo Detalles de Uso – Oct 29
- How to Apply for ENERGY STAR Certification – Oct 23
- Using Advanced Metering Infrastructure to Reduce Facility Water Use – Nov 20
- Class is in Session: How Schools Use EUI Data and Staff Engagement – Nov 21
- Making Data Actionable: When and How Data Can Trigger Decisions – Dec 5
- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

In-person or free online class

- Net Zero with Mike Dieterich – Oct 10
- Powering Your Building: The Role of Electrification in Optimizing Building Operations – Oct 17

[Click here for more information](#)

Lighting Design Lab

Smart Buildings Center Technical Webinar Series

- Water Efficiency Strategies for Resiliency – Oct 16

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center

Building Operator 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 II class
 - Oct 2, 2024 – Jan 30, 2025 via Zoom

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

Oregon

- Level I class
 - Sept 12, 2024 to Mar 6, 2025 via Zoom

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification, Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute

BCxA 2024 Annual Conference

- Oct 2-4 in Las Vegas, NV

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Commissioning Association

WAMOA 2024

- Fall Conference – Oct 2-4 in Yakima

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Association of Maintenance and Operation Administrators

IFMA World Workplace 2024

- Oct 9-11 in San Antonio, TX

[Click here for more information](#)

International Facility Management Association

National Facilities Management and Technology Conference and Expo – Save the Date

- Mar 25-27, 2025 in Baltimore, MD

[Click here for more information](#)

National Facilities Management & Technology

Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit – Save the Date

- Apr 30 to May 2, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. Department of Energy, Better Buildings

RESOURCES

Smart Buildings Exchange 2024 Session Recordings

If you missed part or all of the fourth annual [Smart Buildings Exchange](#), you can now view the session recordings online. The conference featured three days of sessions on topics such as the Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings, Indoor Environmental Quality, Planning & Implementing Campus-Scale Decarbonization, and Making Buildings Smarter. Visit the [Conference YouTube Channel](#) for access to all sessions.

Clean Buildings Performance Standard Document Library

The Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS) has a webpage listing guides, flowcharts, and tools to facilitate accurate interpretation of the CBPS. These documents are now available on the [Clean Building Performance Standard Document Library](#) page. New to the Library this Spring are two guidance documents: 025 [Initial Access to the Clean Buildings Portal](#), which provides instructions on how to gain initial access to the Clean Buildings Portal; and 026 [Granting Shared Access](#), which provides instructions on how to grant shared access to authorized users.

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.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Energy Program

www.energy.wsu.edu