

RCM News for September 2023

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

Clean Buildings Incentive Program

The Clean Buildings Team will host a workshop series to develop guidelines for the Tier 2 Incentive program that will launch July 1, 2025. The deadline for comments on proposed rule changes is September 29th. Please sign up notifications about the Tier 2 Incentive program workshops. [Click here](#) to sign up. For more information, please email: [Clean Buildings Incentive Program](#).

Department of Commerce RFI Extension

The Washington State Department of Commerce is asking for ideas and suggestions through an RFI (Request for information) from Conservation Managers and Facility Managers to help shape their clean energy grant programs. The deadline for submission is October 4. [Click here](#) for more information and a link to the RFI.

Public Workshop on Clean Energy Transformation Act Impacts

The Washington State Department of Commerce will hold a public workshop on its interim assessment of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) on October 9. The public may attend in

person in Seattle, virtually, or may dial-in. To learn more about CETA and the public workshop, [click here](#).

SnoPUD Clean Buildings Accelerator

Snohomish PUD is recruiting for a new Clean Buildings Accelerator cohort launching on October 3rd. Join an online info session on October 3 to learn more about how this free program helps commercial businesses save energy, money, and comply with the WA Clean Buildings requirements. [Click here](#) for more information or email cleanbuildings@snohud.com.

Puget Sound Energy Clean Buildings Accelerator

Commercial building owners, or their partners, in Puget Sound Energy (PSE) territory can sign up for [PSE's Clean Buildings Accelerator program](#) for guidance, tailored coaching, and more in order to comply with Washington's Clean Buildings Law. Register for a virtual orientation October 12, November 14 or December 12; or, enroll in an upcoming Accelerator program. Upcoming Accelerator kickoff dates are November 9, 2023 and January 23, 2024.

ARTICLES

Artificial Intelligence in Building Management

Artificial intelligence (AI) in facility management offers several benefits. In "[8 Benefits of Artificial Intelligence in Facility Management](#)" an article in *FacilitiesNet*, published September 18th, 2023, author Shawn Black, a facility influencer, discusses data-driven insights for resource allocation and maintenance decisions such as enabling proactive management by predicting equipment failures and reducing downtime. Other benefits include integration with IoT (Internet of Things) devices for real-time data interpretation, optimizing workspace efficiency, and improving safety protocols and response times during emergencies.

Heat Pump Capabilities

A recent study by Oxford University and the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) reveals that heat pumps can be two to three times more efficient than oil and gas-based heating systems in cold and sub-zero temperatures. On *GreenBiz*, the article "['Cost-effective': New study confirms heat pump efficiency in freezing temperatures](#)" by Journalist Amber Rolt, shows how the study draws data from field studies across North America, Asia, and Europe, challenging the notion that heat pumps struggle in low temperatures. The article, published on September 12th, 2023, concludes that properly installed heat pumps perform significantly better than fossil-fuel-based systems, even in extremely cold conditions.

HVAC Design Variations

In the article "[Cooling Load Variation With Changing Temperatures](#)", Allison A. Bailes III, PhD, explores how cooling loads in buildings are influenced by outdoor and indoor temperature fluctuations, with a focus on humidity's role in HVAC design and equipment selection. Published on September 14th, 2023, in *Building Science - Green Building Advisor*, the article reveals that even slight temperature changes have a significant impact on cooling load, with a 10°F increase in outdoor temperature leading to a 27% increase in cooling load. Bailes also discusses the effects of indoor temperature adjustments,

highlighting the importance of precise load calculations for HVAC design and equipment selection. The article underscores the need for thorough consideration of various factors when assessing cooling load.

Water and Wastewater Pinch Valves

The article in the journal *Pumps and Systems*, "[Pinch Valves in Industrial & Municipal Water & Wastewater Applications](#)" published on September 22nd, 2023, by Todd Loudin, President of North American operations at Flowrox, highlights the increasing adoption of pinch valves in water and wastewater applications due to their durability, precise flow control, and low maintenance requirements. Pinch valves outperform alternatives like plug valves, sluice gates, and knife gates, particularly in terms of longevity and minimal maintenance. The article notes the trend of packaged pump systems or skids, offering plug-and-play solutions with essential auxiliaries for efficient water and wastewater operations.

Water Conservation Infrastructure

Amidst growing water scarcity concerns, local governments are playing a pivotal role in water conservation, especially in municipal facilities. Published online through *Governing.com* on September 20th, 2023 and written by Schneider Electric, the article "[Transforming Community Infrastructure for Water Conservation](#)" explains how local governments are adopting innovative methods to save both water and finances. Parks and recreation facilities are embracing water-efficient landscape design and smart irrigation controllers, which can reduce water usage by 26%. Retrofitting plumbing in city buildings with high-efficiency fixtures could potentially lead to water savings of up to 60%. Additionally, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) is helping cities monitor water use in real-time, with potential savings of up to 20% by promptly detecting leaks.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101 – Oct 3
- How to Apply for ENERGY STAR Certification – Oct 4
- Service and Product Provider Recognition: Applying for Partner of the Year + Gaining Visibility – Oct 5
- Achieving Mutual Success with Tenants through Engagement Programs and Data Sharing – Oct 9
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Oct 10
- Next Level Resident Engagement – Spurring Action through Consistent Messaging and Understanding Resident Values – Oct 11
- Verifying ENERGY STAR Certification – Oct 12
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Oct 17
- Minimizing Water Use in Mechanical/HVAC Systems – Oct 25
- How to Apply for Tenant Space Recognition – Nov 1

- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Better Buildings Webinar Series

All online webinars

- The Grass is Always Greener: Best Practices for Water-Efficient Landscaping – Oct 3
- Charging Ahead: Accelerating Electric Vehicle Adoption – Oct 17
- The Power of Partnership in Emissions Reduction Planning with Local Governments – Oct 31
- Enhancing Energy Management: Using 50001 Ready to Achieve Decarbonization Goals – Nov 14
- Coining a Cleaner Future: How to Finance your Emissions Reduction Plan – Nov 28
- Turning Insights into Action: Bridging Building Data Analytics and Work Order Systems – Dec 5

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings

BCxA Events

- BCxA Annual Conference – Oct 4 in Orlando, FL
- New Construction and Existing Building workshop and the one-day Building Enclosure Workshops – Nov 13 in Austin, TX

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Commissioning Association

WAMOA Fall Conference

- Oct 4-6 in Yakima

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Association of Maintenance and Operation Administrators

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- Design for Off™ – Oct 5
- The Inflation Reduction Act: One Year Later – Oct 19

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

Lighting Design Lab

Energy Management Trainings and Certifications

- Energy Auditing Fundamentals Online Training Program – Oct 11-13
- International Annual Update for Certified Energy Managers (CEM®) Training Program 2023 – Oct 17-18
- US Annual Update for Certified Energy Managers (CEM®) Training Program 2023 – Oct 17-18

- Renewable Energy Hot Topics Online Training Program – Oct 18-19
- Certified Business Energy Professional (BEP®) Training Program – Oct 23-27
- Certified Building Commissioning Professional (CBCP®) Training Program – Oct 23-27
- Certified Energy Auditor (CEA®) Training Program – Oct 23-27
- Certified Measurement & Verification Professional (CMVP®) Training Program – Oct 23-26
- Certified Renewable Energy Professional (REP™) Training Program – Oct 23-26
- Certified Energy Procurement Professional (CEP®) Training Program – Oct 23-25
- Carbon Auditing Professional (CAP™) Training Program – Oct 23-25
- Certified Water Efficiency Professional (CWEP™) Training Program – Oct 23-25
- Energy Efficiency Practitioner (EEP™) Training Program – Oct 23-25
- Certified Lighting Efficiency Professional (CLEP™) Training Program – Oct 23-26
- Certified Demand Side Manager (CDSM™) Training Program – Oct 30-Nov 1
- Accelerated Certified Energy Manager (CEM®) Online Training Program – Oct 30-Nov 3

[Click here for more information](#)

The Association of Energy Engineers

Smart Building Center Technical Webinars

- Opportunities to Optimize Performance through Digital Twin Technology – Oct 18 Virtual

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Illuminating Engineering Society Webinars

- How can Metrics and Guidelines Help us Fix Flicker? – Oct 23

[Click here for more information](#)

Illuminating Engineering Society, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

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
 - Level II class
 - Oct 25, 2023 to Feb 29, 2024 via Zoom
- Oregon
 - Level I class
 - Jan 4 to Jul 11, 2024 via Zoom

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

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification, Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute

2023 Decarbonization Conference for the Built Environment

- Oct 25 to Oct 27 in Washington D.C. Metro Area

[Click here for more information](#)

ASHRAE

Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit – Save the Date

- Apr 2 to Apr 4, 2024 in Washington, D.C.

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. Department of Energy, Better Buildings

Getting to Zero Forum – Save the Date

- May 21-23, 2024 in Charlotte, NC

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

RESOURCES

2023 Smart Buildings Exchange

In case you missed it, the session recordings from the third annual [Smart Buildings Exchange conference](#), from the Smart Buildings Center, are now available. Sessions, which include Smart Approaches for Building Electrification & Carbon Reduction, Moving Beyond Fault Detection & Diagnostics, and Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings, can be accessed directly from the [Smart Buildings Center YouTube Channel](#).

Helpdesks

The Smart Buildings Center (SBC) offers technical support with two helpdesks. Resources, guidance, training, and technical assistance are provided through a [K-12 Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Helpdesk](#), funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce, to help improve the indoor environment in our schools. The [Clean Buildings Performance Standard Helpdesk](#) is a utility-sponsored helpdesk providing technical assistance, resources, and trainings to assist building owners in reaching compliance with the Clean Buildings Performance Standard.

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

