



RCM News for February 2025

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WA Department of Commerce Clean Buildings Performance Standards Webinar Series

The Clean Buildings Team webinars are designed to help support building owners, utility providers, energy consultants and anyone else working through compliance with CBPS.

- CBPS for Utility Providers – Mar 12
[Click Here to Register](#)
- Developing the EUI for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Buildings – Mar 20
[Click Here to Register](#)

Look for more Trainings and Events in future issues!

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.

- Mar 25 10:00 AM
- Apr 22 10:00 AM
- May 27 10:00 AM

[Click here to register](#)

Clean Buildings Accelerator 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](#)
 - [Upcoming Informative Session Dates](#)
Mar 5, Apr 16, May 7
 - [Upcoming Accelerator Kickoff Dates](#)
Mar 26, May 21, Aug 20, and Sep 24
- [Seattle Clean Buildings Accelerator Program](#)
- Snohomish PUD
 - [Next Peer Cohort starts in Q1 2025](#)
- [Tacoma Power](#)

Incentive Programs – Bellevue & Issaquah

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.

- [Bellevue](#)
- [Issaquah](#)

ARTICLES

Retrofits for Cleaner, Healthier Indoor Air

Understanding the effects of wildfire smoke, airborne pathogens, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and many other air pollutants are a critical component of assessing and planning your space conditioning needs. Smoke can affect ambient air, which is relied on heavily in many conventional HVAC systems for source air. VOCs and pathogens can accumulate in spaces with poor ventilation, and the combination of outdoor and indoor air pollutants can be a challenge to balance, especially in the face of energy efficiency needs. MetalMark Innovations CEO Sissi Liu reviews different opportunities to simplify upgrades and provide advanced filtration technologies that boost efficiency and indoor air quality at the same time in their article "Future-Proofing Buildings: The Power of Retrofitting for Cleaner, Healthier Indoor Air." [Read the January 28 article in Forbes here.](#)

Tracking Net Zero Energy easier with New Tool

Facilities looking to track progress to Net Zero energy usage have a new assessment tool in their belts from the Green Building Initiative. The Green Globes Journey to Net Zero is a proprietary software aligned with the historic USDOE definition of a Net Zero building that tracks building assets, consumption details, and building metrics to evaluate energy usage intensity and related emissions. The software can assist building management teams in assessing improvements and showing progress

in the path to Net Zero. [Read Senior Editor Dan Hounsell's Feb 25 article "New Tool Tracks Facility Progress to Net Zero" on *fmPrime* and access the tool on Green Building Initiative's website.](#)

Benchmarking Buildings is both Art and Science

Facility benchmarking is more than just measuring energy usage and comparing it to historic and modelled results - it's often ensuring you strategically measure as many relevant metrics as possible so you can highlight opportunities for improvement within your data. In contributing writer Jason Schwartzberg's "The Art and Science of Benchmarking," the author discusses overcoming silos in larger organizations to collect all relevant information and give yourself the tools to lead in efficiency work. [Read the Feb 20 article on *FacilitiesNet* here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101: Navigating Portfolio Manager, adding a New Property, and Entering Use Details – Mar 4
- Portfolio Manager 201: Editing Property Details, Data Quality Checker, and Sharing Property Data – Mar 6
- How to Apply for ENERGY STAR NextGen Certification – Mar 11
- Energy Benchmarking Properties: Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants in Portfolio Manager – Mar 12
- Benchmarking Offsite Green Power – Mar 13
- Verifying the ENERGY STAR® NextGen Certification Application – Mar 18
- Part 1: A Beginner's Guide to Using Portfolio Manager for State/Local Benchmarking Law Compliance – Mar 19
- Portfolio Manager 301: Spreadsheet Uploads, Setting Goals, and Creating Custom Reporting Templates – Mar 25
- Reducing costs with Quick Water Wins – Mar 26
- Part 2: Using Benchmarking Results to Understand Your Building's Performance (Basics of Building Benchmarking to Meet State and Local Policy Requirements Series) – Mar 27
- Part 3: To Efficiency & Beyond! How to Benefit from Benchmarking Compliance with Strategies for Improving Efficiency (Basics of Building Benchmarking to Meet State and Local Policy Requirements Series) – Apr 10
- Part 1: A Beginner's Guide to Using Portfolio Manager for State/Local Benchmarking Law Compliance – Apr 29
- Part 2: Using Benchmarking Results to Understand Your Building's Performance (Basics of Building Benchmarking to Meet State and Local Policy Requirements Series) – May 5
- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- It Takes A Village: Learn how Partners can Advance your Knowledge and Get Your Projects on the Right Track – Mar 11
- HVAC Issues in 2021 WA & Seattle Commercial Energy Codes – Mar 20

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Lighting Design Lab

FacilitiesNet Education

Solving Roofing Challenges: Cost-Effective, Smart Restoration Solutions

- Mar 19

[Click here to register](#)

FacilitiesNet Education

Smart Buildings Center 2025 Live Technical Webinars Series

- Smart Pumps, Motors & Drives – Mar 19
- Retrofitting Fossil Fuel-Based Equipment with Heat Pumps – Apr 16
- Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Building Controls & Security – May 21
- Strategies to Help Reduce Peak Energy Use – Sept 17
- Building Walkthrough – Finding Energy Waste – Oct 15

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operators Certification

BCxA Spring Webinars

- Clearing the Confusion & Smoke with Smoke Controls Systems Commissioning – Mar 17
- Benchmarking, Calculating Energy Usage & Potential Savings – Apr 21
- Data Center Commissioning – May 19
- Electrical Cx for Mission Critical Projects – Jun 16

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Commissioning Association

National Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations

BOC course provides the basic principles of energy efficiency awareness and practices in commercial buildings. Six half-day classes for those seeking a foundational understanding of building systems and who have less than a year of experience in the field or are looking to start a career in facilities or energy management.

- Mar 5 – Apr 3 via Zoom – [Click Here for more information and to join the waitlist.](#)
- May 20- Jul 10 via Zoom – [Click here for more information and to Register.](#)

BOC Certification Classes

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 four to six months.

Washington State

- Spring 2025 Level 1 Class in Seattle
May 21- Sep 17
- Fall 2025 Level I Classes via Zoom
Sep 30- Feb 11
- Fall 2025 Level II Classes Via Zoom
Oct 1 – Jan 29

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

Oregon

- Spring 2025 Level I Class via Zoom
May 8 to Oct 9
- Spring 2025 Level II Class via Zoom
Mar 13to Oct 9
REGISTRATION CLOSES MARCH 3

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Q1 BCxA NW Chapter Meeting – Save the Date

- Mar 13 – location to be announced & virtual via Zoom

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Commissioning Association Northwest Chapter

WAMOA

- Leadership Seminar – Mar 20-21 in Leavenworth

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Association of Maintenance and Operation Administrators

2025 IFMA Greater Seattle Chapter Expo & State of the Union

Empowering Facility Professionals: Helping Teams Get “Stuff” Done

- May 15 – in Mercer Island

[Click here for more information](#)

IFMA Greater Seattle Chapter

National Facilities Management and Technology Conference and Expo

- Mar 25-27, in Baltimore, MD

[Click here for more information](#)

National Facilities Management & Technology

Getting to Zero Forum – Save the Date

- Apr 22-24 in Los Angeles

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

2025 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

Northwest Facilities EXPO

- May 14-15, 2025, in Portland, OR

[Click here for more information](#)

Northwest Facilities Expo

RESOURCES

2024 Better Buildings Webinars Available On Demand

USDOE Better Buildings has released on-demand versions of every webinar conducted by the Better Buildings office in 2024. Topics include Industrial Control Systems, Refrigerants, Advanced Lighting, Heat Pumps, and Comprehensive Operational Planning, plus many more. [View the full offering on USDOE Better Buildings website here.](#)

US Department of Energy Releases Two Free Tools for Estimating Commercial Energy Efficiency Tax Deductions

The US Department of Energy released the 179D Portal, hosting two free tax deduction estimators allowing operators to estimate tax benefits for investments in energy efficiency upgrades and new construction under the Inflation Reduction Act's 179D Tax Deduction. One tool allows for small office buildings and retail strip malls to follow the traditional compliance pathway, while the second integrates with any commercial building type in EnergyStar Portfolio Manager to estimate savings with existing and retrofit equipment specifications and building consumption data. Access the tools, instructions for use, tax information, and disclosures can be found on the DOE Website [here](#).

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.

