

## RCM News for January 2025

### A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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#### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

##### City of Tacoma Hiring Principal Energy Management Engineer

Tacoma Power's Power Management division is looking for a Principal Energy Management Engineer to join their Business Customer Energy Solutions team. In this role you will develop and deliver energy conservation programs and secure energy efficiency measures with Tacoma Power's commercial and industrial customers by conducting engineering technical activities. This work is critical to achieving energy conservation targets and providing other energy-related services for the commercial and industrial sectors for Tacoma Power's Business Customer Energy Solutions section. [Read the full job description and apply on GovernmentJobs.com.](#)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### Seattle and Bellevue 2030 Districts Announce Water Week

Seattle 2030 District, Bellevue 2030 District, and the Smart Building Center have collaborated to present Water Week from February 24-28, a weeklong event series addressing water sustainability in the built environment. Water Week features engaging webinars, several site tours highlighting effective water management including Climate Pledge Arena, Copperworks Distillery, and Bellevue College, interactive roundtables, and professional networking opportunities. Site visits are free but have limited capacity, so register early! [Visit 2030 Districts Water Week](#) page to learn about events, locations, and registration.

## 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. Federal Tax deductions range from \$0.58-\$5.81 per square foot under IRA 179D for buildings demonstrating at least 25% energy savings from improvements and meeting certain other requirements. It's important to note that while some IRA programs have recently been rescinded, tax benefits related to the Inflation Reduction Act are still in place as of 1/29/25. Access the tools, instructions for use, tax information, and disclosures can be found on the DOE Website [here](#).

## Clean Buildings Performance Standard News

### 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.

- Clean Buildings 101 – Feb 12 [Register](#)
- Compliance for Connected and Campus-Level Buildings – Feb 20 [Register](#)
- Developing the EUI for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Buildings – Mar 20 [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.

- Feb 25 10:00 AM
- Mar 25 10:00 AM
- Apr 22 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 Accelerator Kickoff Dates](#)  
Feb 19, 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

### Training Courses for Lighting Controls

Moving from fluorescent bulbs to LED fixtures is a seemingly obvious path to energy savings, but often, many facilities fail to add one supportive, energy saving technology due to unfamiliarity-lighting controls. This knowledge gap can leave many energy dollars unsaved during lighting retrofits, as simple controls can add upwards of 20% savings to LED lighting projects. To help rectify this and raise awareness about controls, Slipstream has produced a free series of 16 short videos describing controls and their benefits, as well as ways to maximize your savings during operations. Slipstream also plans to release a series of 17 hour-long videos in February diving into topics in greater detail with the opportunity to receive continuing education credit. Read a January 2025 article by Executive Editor Dave Lubach, "[Training Courses Offer Guidance on Lighting Control Benefits](#)" with Slipstream's Scott Schuetter on *FacilitiesNet* and access the training videos on Youtube [here](#).

### Buildings with Next Generation RTUs

Rooftop Units (RTUs) are a mainstay of light commercial buildings, where they provide distribution for heating systems and often provide some level of air conditioning. While the RTU has been around for a long time, they remain excellent choices for many light commercial facilities looking to upgrade their HVAC system and decarbonize. As sensors, advanced controls, and other efficient technologies have permeated large building HVAC systems, many of these features have also been integrated into RTUs. Commercial heat pumps can also be paired with RTUs for even larger energy savings and with a relatively short return on investment, as HVAC is the most energy intensive segment of the average light commercial building. Read Philip Smyth's October 2024 article "[Decarbonizing Light Commercial Buildings with Next Generation RTUs](#)" in *Buildings Magazine* [here](#) to learn more about the benefits of next generation RTU's for light commercial buildings and how well they pair with other technologies.

### ASHRAE Guidelines Updated to mitigate IAQ Impacts for Smoke

ASHRAE provides a number of standards, guidelines, and sequences to help facilities managers design, build, and operate HVAC systems and manage building envelopes. Responding to increased concerns of Indoor Air Quality impacts due to wildfires, Guideline 44 provides a number of strategies to mitigate smoke intrusion from envelope preservation to ventilation management. Read more about the new Guideline 44, as well as updates to the HVAC testing Standard under Standard 111 and automation optimization under Guideline 36, in Joe Burns' December 18 article "[ASHRAE Releases Guidance to Mitigate Smoke's IAQ Impacts, Updates HVAC Testing Protocols](#)" on *FacilitiesDive* [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

### Better Buildings Webinar Series

All are online webinars.

- Water, Reclaimed: How a Fit-for-Purpose Approach Saves Water and Cuts Costs – Feb 4
- Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future: Strategies for Historic Building Retrofits – Feb 25

[Click here for more information](#)

*US DOE Better Buildings*

### ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Benchmarking Properties with Offsite Renewable Energy Generation – Jan 28
- Portfolio Manager 101: Navigating Portfolio Manager, Adding a New Property, and Entering Use Details – Feb 4
- Part 1: A Beginner's Guide to Using Portfolio Manager for State/Local Benchmarking Law Compliance (*Basics of Building Benchmarking to Meet State and Local Policy Requirements Series*) – Feb 11
- Portfolio Manager 201: Editing Property Details, Data Quality Checker, and Sharing Property Data – Feb 13
- How to Apply for ENERGY STAR® Certification – Feb 18
- Portfolio Manager 301: Spreadsheet Uploads, Setting Goals, and Creating Custom Reporting Templates – Feb 20
- Verifying ENERGY STAR® Certification – Feb 25
- How to Apply for Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR® Recognition – Feb 27
- 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
- Financing Energy Efficiency Projects: What to Know Before You Sign – Mar 10
- How to Apply for ENERGY STAR® NextGen Certification – Mar 11
- Energy Benchmarking Properties: Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants in Portfolio Manager – Mar 12
- Part 2: Using Benchmarking Results to Understand Your Building's Performance (*Basics of Building Benchmarking to Meet State and Local Policy Requirements Series*) – Mar 13
- Verifying the ENERGY STAR® NextGen Certification Application – Mar 18
- Portfolio Manager 301: Spreadsheet Uploads, Setting Goals, and Creating Custom Reporting Templates – Mar 25
- Part 3: To Efficiency & Beyond! How to Benefit from Benchmarking Compliance with Offsite Renewable energy Generation – Strategies for Improving Efficiency (*Basics of Building Benchmarking to Meet State and Local Policy Requirements Series*) – Apr 10

- Ask the Expert- every other Wednesday

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

US EPA EnergyStar®

### Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- Seattle City Light Trade Ally Office Hours – Feb 21

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

*Lighting Design Lab*

### Washington Association of School Business Officials

- 2025 Facilities Workshop – Online – Mar 19 & Mar 26

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

WASBO

### Smart Buildings Center 2025 Live Technical Webinars Series

- Developing a Decarbonization Plan for Your Building – Feb 19
- 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*

### Building Operator Certification. The BOC

#### Free BOC Informational Webcast

Learn more about the BOC Program. Free BOC Informational Webcast: or watch a free recorded BOC Informational webcast [here](#).

- Feb 5 – [register](#)

Or watch a free 60-minute recorded information webcast [here](#).

#### 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 I Classes via Zoom **SOLD OUT**  
Feb 26 to Jun 5
- Spring 2025 Level I Classes in Seattle  
May 21 to Sep 17
- Fall 2025 Level 1 Classes via Zoom

TBA

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

#### Oregon

- Spring 2025 Level I Class via Zoom  
Apr 10 to Oct 9
- Spring 2025 Level II Class via Zoom  
Mar 23 to Aug 21 (Tentative)

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

#### 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 – [register here](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

*Building Operators Certification*

#### WAMOA

- Leadership Seminar – Mar 20-21, 2025, in Leavenworth

[Click here for more information](#)

*Washington Association of Maintenance and Operation Administrators*

#### National Facilities Management and Technology Conference and Expo

- Mar 25-27, 2025, in Baltimore, MD

[Click here for more information](#)

*National Facilities Management & Technology*

#### Getting to Zero Forum – Save the Date

- Apr 22-24, 2025, 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](#)

## RESOURCES

## Smart Building Technology Education Video Series

Slipstream led a project funded by the DOE and others to develop a semester-long smart building curriculum for college students. The team then adapted the content into 16 training videos for building professionals, Smart Building software developers, and the general public. These 16 in-depth training sessions are divided into 5 different topic categories: Introduction, Building systems, Sensors and IOT Devices, Smart Building Controls and Smart Building applications. All 16 in-depth training videos are now available, free of charge, on the [Whole Building Design Guide \(WBDG\) website](#).

## Clean Buildings Performance Standard Customer Support

There are a few ways to get your questions answered and receive support for Washington State Clean Buildings compliance. The Smart Buildings Center (SBC) offers technical support through the [Clean Buildings Performance Standard Helpdesk](#), which is a utility-sponsored helpdesk providing technical assistance, resources, and trainings. You can also contact the Clean Buildings team at the Washington State Department of Commerce by [email](#) for questions and support, or fill out their [Customer Support Form](#).

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## 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](mailto:RCM@energy.wsu.edu).

