

RCM News for November 2024

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clean Buildings Portal Now Requires Digital Signatures Upon Application Submissions

As of mid-October, applications into the Clean Buildings Portal require digital signatures prior to submission. This applies to Early Compliance applications (on Form A – Summary page), Exemption applications (on Form H – Submit page), and Early Adopter Incentive Program applications (on Submit page). Contacts must be individuals, and each signatory will require an individual Portal access account with a unique email address. [Click here for more information and detailed instructions.](#)

Clean Buildings News from the Washington State Department of Commerce

Clean Buildings Tier 1 Compliance Workgroup Report Published

The Department of Commerce received funding to analyze the financial investments required for owners of Tier 1 covered buildings to comply with the state energy performance standard under RCW 19.27A.210 and make recommendations to the legislature to help building owners achieve compliance. Commerce partnered with consultants and organized a diverse workgroup to complete the financial analysis. The final legislative report includes a list recommendations regarding supporting building owners with the cost of compliance, growing workforce capacity within institutions and the market, and aligning policies and regulations. [Click here to download the report.](#)

Energy Audits for Tier 1 Public Buildings

The Energy Audit Incentive for Public Buildings Program currently offers \$20 million in grants to help cover the costs of the energy audits required for publicly owned buildings to participate in the [Clean Buildings Performance Standard](#) and [Early Adopter Incentive Program](#). Energy Audits can help save energy, comply with the Clean Buildings Performance Standard, or qualify for the Early Adopter Incentive Program.

- The building must be a Tier 1 covered building or a multifamily building over 50,000 sq. ft.
- The building must be publicly owned.
- The audit must be completed by an auditor on the [Verified Energy Auditor Network List \(Smartsheets Link\)](#).

Audits must be completed between July 1, 2023, and June 15, 2025. For more information, visit the [Energy Audit Incentive for Public Buildings Program](#) page or email: [Clean Buildings Incentives Program](#).

Tier 2 incentive Program Revised Workshop Series

There is one more meeting 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](#).

- [Finalizing the Program \(registration\)](#) – Dec 12

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.

- Dec 24 10:00 AM
- Jan 28 10:00 AM
- Feb 25 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](#)
- [Cowlitz County Public Utility District](#)
- [Pacific Power Washington Clean Buildings](#)
 - Help Desk (509) 365-6446 or cleanbuildings@stillwaterenergy.com

- [Puget Sound Energy Accelerator Program](#)
- [Seattle Clean Buildings Accelerator Program](#)
- [Snohomish PUD Clean Buildings](#)
 - [Coffee chat Dec 11](#)
 - [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

What are IAQ and IEQ?

With most of American’s time currently being spent indoors, it’s important to consider how indoor air quality (IAQ) and indoor environmental quality (IEQ) affect occupants. Beyond air quality, IEQ also considers lighting, ambient temperature, and ergonomic conditions that affect occupants. Lauren Brant’s article “[What are IAQ and IEQ](#)” published in the August 2024 issue of *Buildings Magazine*, examines how to identify issues with IAQ and IEQ, as well as strategies for improving indoor conditions. The article continues to look at mitigation strategies for pollutants during renovations, and briefly looks at the effects of nitrogen dioxide in an enclosed environment.

Building Renewal Series: Recognizing and Mitigating Common Pitfalls

Successful building renewal requires detailed planning and road mapping to ensure that all objects- whether envelope improvements, HVAC, lighting, measurement & verification, or other major and minor projects- are completed in a reasonable time and in the proper order. “[Recognizing and Mitigating Common Pitfalls](#)”, #5 in the BetterBricks “[Building Renewal Series](#)”, continues their discussion of common failures in the building renewal design and implementation process. This article dives deep into planning for commissioning, understanding your codes and standards, budgeting strategies, and overcoming value engineering. The authors also reinforce the importance of well-defined performance targets and timelines for activities, realistic budgets, and the implementation of a measurement and verification process to plan, measure, collect and analyze data for the purpose of verifying and reporting energy usage.

Case Study: A Review on Optimal Energy Management in Commercial Buildings

The rising cost and demand for energy have prompted the need to devise innovative methods for energy monitoring, control, and conservation. In addition, statistics show that 20% of energy losses are due to the mismanagement of energy. Even though a variety of optimization and control tactics

are utilized to reduce energy consumption in buildings nowadays, several issues remain unsolved. [“A Review on Optimal Energy Management in Commercial Buildings”](#) in the journal *energies* presents a critical review of energy management in commercial buildings and a comparative discussion to improve building energy efficiency using both active and passive solutions, which could lead to net-zero energy buildings. This work also explores different energy management objectives and constraints concerning user comfort, energy policy, data privacy, and security. In addition, the review depicts prospective future trends and issues for developing an effective building energy management system.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

Better Buildings Webinar Series

All are online webinars.

- A Smashing Success: Sustainable Management of Demolition Debris – Dec 3
- For the Birds: Energy Co-Benefits of Bird-Friendly Buildings – Dec 10

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings

PCB Awareness & Removal Workshop

Learn about PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls). This workshop, presented by 2030 Districts, EPA and the WA Dept. Of Ecology, will cover the dangers and risks of PCBs, their impact on health and the environment and best practices for identifying, handling, and disposing of PCB-containing materials.

- Dec 4 Seattle

[Click here to register.](#)

2030 Districts & SmartBuildingCenter

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Financing Energy Efficiency Projects: What to Know Before you Sign – Dec 2
- Portfolio Manager 101: Navigating Portfolio Manager, adding a New Property, and Entering Use Details – Dec 5
- Making Data Actionable: When and How Data Can Trigger Decisions – Dec 5
- Energy Benchmarking Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants – Dec 9
- Portfolio Manager 201: Editing Property Details, Data Quality Checker, and Sharing Property Data – Dec 12
- Portfolio Manager 301: Spreadsheet Uploads, Setting Goals, and Creating Custom Reporting Templates – Dec 17
- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Washington Association of School Business Officials

- Navigating the Clean Buildings Act: Insights and Strategies for School Districts- Dec 3

[Click here to register for the Webinar](#)

WASBO

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

- Iron Battery Technology Potential: Two Companies Describe Their Merits – Dec 5

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

Lighting Design Lab

FacilitiesNet Education

- Time's Up: How to Switch from Fluorescents to LEDs & Keep Your Controls- Dec 10

[Click Here to Register for Webinar](#)

FacilitiesNet.com

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 four to six months.

Washington State

- Early 2025 Level I Class in Spokane
Jan 15 to Apr 16
- Spring 2025 Level I Classes via Zoom
Feb 26 to Jun 5

[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
 - Apr 10 to Oct 9

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations

The BOC is offering an introductory course in the principles of energy efficiency in commercial buildings. This course is designed 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. This six-class course will begin March 5.

[Register for the Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations Here](#)

- Mar 5 to Apr 3 Spring 2025 via Zoom

Building Operators Certification, Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute

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 – Save the Date

- 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

RESOURCES

K-12 Health and Safety Guide from DOH and OSPI

The Washington State Department of Health and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction have collaborated to create the 2024 Edition of the Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington State. The guide is a comprehensive document covering nearly every aspect of operations in a school, including procedures, building operations, plumbing, HVAC, Indoor Air Quality, and more education-specific topics. While each district is responsible for implementing the items in the Health and Safety

Guide, RCMs and engineers that work with schools will find helpful resources to properly serve their scholastic clients. [Read the guide on the Department of Health website here.](#)

TVA EnergyRight School Uplift SEM Toolkit

The Tennessee Valley Authority has created a Strategic Energy Management framework that can be implemented in K-12 schools through the School Uplift Toolkit. The Toolkit contains activities to include students, teachers, and administrators in energy management, as well as a comprehensive manual reviewing key systems and operational concerns. School Uplift is a free service of the Tennessee Valley Authority regardless of location. [Access the Toolkit here.](#)

Smart Buildings Center Help Desk

The Smart Buildings Center’s (SBC) [CBPS Help Desk](#), which is a utility and Commerce-sponsored helpdesk, provides free technical assistance, resources, and training on the Clean Buildings Performance Standard. Within CBPS you can access the Clean Buildings Helpdesk for one-on-one appointments or virtual meetings; CBPS documents, Energy Star Portfolio Manager benchmarking instructions and uploading data instructions to your utility; and training videos, on-demand past workshops, and WSU CBPS webinars.

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.

