

## RCM News for January 2009

A newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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### Computing Efficiency

"U-M Saves Energy, Cash with Green Computing: Group Aims to Pull Plug on Wasting Electricity," by Katherine Yung, Business Writer, *Free Press*, describes the voluntary energy conservation effort at the University of Michigan begun in March 2008. The effort is focused on computers, data centers, and server rooms. See this article in the *Detroit Free Press*, November 30, 2008, at

<http://www.freep.com/article/20081130/BUSINESS06/811300404> .

### Energy Independence

"Achieving Energy Independence at UW [University of Wisconsin] River Falls" is an article, by staff, which describes the effort to provide all the energy needed on the campus through energy efficiencies and the on-site generation of renewable energy. Strategies used and choices made are covered. See this article in *e2 Newsletter*, Fall, 2008, at <http://www.ecw.org/prod/e2/fall2008.pdf> .

### Green College Libraries

"It's Not Easy Being Green: Or Is It?" is an article by Megan Coder, Reference Librarian, State University of New York-New Paltz. These tips address no- or low-cost changes that can be made in existing college libraries that are not slated for any major renovation in the near future. See this article in *C&RL [College & Research Libraries] News*, December 2008, Vol. 69, No. 11, at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2008/dec/noteasybeinggreen.cfm> .

### Green Cleaning

"Connecting Sustainability and Green Cleaning," by Stephen P. Ashkin, President, The Ashkin Group, gives one often-used general definition of green cleaning: "cleaning to protect health without harming the environment" but adds helpful details to that definition. Further, it covers related issues such as choosing suppliers, based on their own green practices, and how important it is for facilities managers to commit to a green cleaning plan. View this article in *Sustainable Facility*, November 2008, at

[http://www.sustainablefacility.com/Articles/Article\\_Rotation/BNP\\_GUID\\_9-5-2006\\_A\\_10000000000000454963](http://www.sustainablefacility.com/Articles/Article_Rotation/BNP_GUID_9-5-2006_A_10000000000000454963) .

## Water

"Enhanced Cooling Tower Maintenance Saves Water" is an article by William F. Harfst, Harfst and Associates, Inc. The author states that, when he talks about the benefits of this new water-conscious style of maintenance, he means that cooling towers for all applications, including universities and office buildings, can realize those benefits. The basics of coolers are well-reviewed, as are cycles of concentration which have a tremendous effect on the amount of water that can be conserved. The author has included the sidebar, "Cooling Tower Design Fundamentals." See this article in *Maintenance Technology*, October 2008, at <http://www.mt-online.com/article/1008-Enhanced-Cooling-Tower-Maintenance-Saves-Water> .

A valuable four-part article on water conservation, by Greg Zimmerman, Executive Editor of *Building Operating Management*, appeared in the October 2008 issue of that trade journal:

Part 1: "As Water Prices Surge, Water Efficiency Gains Momentum" tells the success story of Boston's effort to keep water supplies at acceptable levels with a relatively inexpensive conservation approach begun over two decades ago. See this at <http://www.facilitiesnet.com/bom/article/As-Water-Prices-Surge-Water-Efficiency-Gains-Momentum--9838> .

Part 2: "Graywater and Water Efficiency" describes the benefits of re-using water but cautions against trying to develop such a system in an existing building. It is only cost-effective when designed into building plans for new buildings. Read this at <http://www.facilitiesnet.com/bom/article.asp?id=9839> .

Part 3: "Water Efficient Landscapes" describes the transformation of a corporate culture's prized front lawn to a water- and energy-saving xeriscape. View this at <http://www.facilitiesnet.com/bom/article.asp?id=9840> .

Part 4: "Water Efficiency: What to Do First" emphasizes approaches for existing buildings that will cost-effectively conserve water. See this last part of the article at <http://www.facilitiesnet.com/bom/article.asp?id=9841> .

## Economizers

Economizers are required on most commercial HVAC systems by the Washington State Energy Code. Economizers can substantially lower cooling costs - if they operate correctly. A loose set screw on damper linkage, improper wiring connections or a multitude of other installation mistakes may cause the equipment to not operate as designed. WSU Energy Program staff has prepared a description of how economizers work and some tips on verifying that they operate correctly. See these tips at the WSU Energy Program website:

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/documents/code/ListservDocs/Economizers.pdf>

## Terry Husseman Sustainable School Awards

This annual program in Washington provides an opportunity to show your success with environmental stewardship. The awards program is coordinated by the Washington Department of Ecology and the application deadline is February 26, 2009. Find all the details for the Terry Husseman Sustainable School Awards at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/terryhusseman.html>

For information on the awards program, criteria, or ideas to foster sustainability in your school, contact our Awards Coordinator, [Michelle Payne](mailto:Michelle.Payne@ecy.wa.gov), [mdav461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mdav461@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-6129.

## Job Announcements

### McKinstry Hiring Energy Engineers in Seattle and Missoula

McKinstry Co. is currently recruiting for two Energy Engineers to join their team, one opening in Seattle and the other in Missoula, Montana. They are looking for Mechanical Engineers, experienced in mechanical system design who want to explore opportunities in energy efficiency. Ray Burton (RCM with Snohomish PUD for many years, now at McKinstry) says McKinstry is a great company, has good benefits, and they work on compelling projects. If you are interested contact Ray Burton at [RayB@McKinstry.com](mailto:RayB@McKinstry.com) or email Jennifer More in their HR department at [jenniferm@mckinstry.com](mailto:jenniferm@mckinstry.com).

### Energy Jobs Website

This site provides a search for energy jobs by state, company type, or job category.

<http://www.energyjobsportal.com/>

### Another Energy Jobs Website

Energyvortex.com provides a search tool for jobs.

<http://www.energyvortex.com/careercenter/>

## Upcoming Events

April 18-21, 2009 - Green Cities Conference – Portland, Oregon

<http://www.nlcgreencitiesconferenceandexpo.org/>

May 3-6, 2009 - Washington State Recycling Association Annual Conference- Yakima, Washington

<http://www.wsra.net/events/details.asp?Evid=57>

May 5-7, 2009 – Northwest Facilities Expo, Portland Oregon

<http://www.facilitiesexpo.com/fenw/index.po>

May 13-15, 2009 – Energy Facilities Connections Conference – Leavenworth, Washington

<http://ga.wa.gov/Events/EFC.htm>

June 10-11, 2009 – West Coast Energy Management Congress, Long Beach California

<http://www.energyevent.com/>

Northwest Building Efficiency Center Regional Events Calendar

<http://nwbuildings.org/EnergyEvents.aspx>.

#### Building Operator Certification

Sign up for courses with the Building Operator Certification (BOC) Program at the BOC website: <http://www.theboc.info/index.html>

#### Ongoing - On-Line AEE Self Study Professional Training Courses

Course titles such as "Basics of Energy Management" and "Fundamentals of HVAC Systems" are available in a home-study format.

<http://www.aeecenter.org/training/>

### Resources for You

#### Washington RCM Support

Washington State University Energy Program RCM Support

Check out the new "RCMx" where we have moved the RCM Guidebook into web format. 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.

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/rem/rcm.cfm>

#### Oregon RCM Support

Oregon Department of Energy RCM Support

<http://oregon.gov/ENERGY/CONS/RCM/rcmhm.shtml>

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Previous issues of RCM News may be viewed at the WSU Energy Program RCM support page:

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/rem/rcm.cfm>

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