

# RCM NEWS

## RCM News for March 2012

A newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

*In this issue:*

Kudos – Part Two  
2012 Energy/Facilities Connections Conference  
Bioenergy  
HVAC  
Leased Buildings  
Lighting  
Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities  
Resources for You

### Kudos to local Energy Star Leaders – Part Two

Two school districts and three business in Washington state and Oregon are among winners of the [2012 Energy Star Award for Sustained Excellence](#). Recognized for their outstanding contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, the winners are Evergreen Public Schools, Bentsen Kennedy, and Ecova, Inc. in Washington state, and Gresham-Barlow SD and Energy Trust of Oregon, both in Oregon. An Energy Star Award for Excellence goes to the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council, located in Seattle. The February RCM Newsletter reported on ten school districts in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska that are recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as Energy Star Leaders for building efficiency.

### 2012 Energy/Facilities Connections Conference

The [2012 Energy-Facilities Connections Conference](#) is fast approaching, occurring May 9-11, 2012 at the Enzian Inn in Leavenworth, Washington. Register now as this popular conference is filling up. Facilities folk, managers, and others from schools, colleges, municipalities, state and provincial agencies, hospitals, tribes, non-profits and utilities come together in a focused environment to share best practices, learn innovative technologies and proven practices, and hear nationally-renowned speakers. Hosted by Washington State University Energy Program. Contact 360-956-2055, or e-mail [plantops@energy.wsu.edu](mailto:plantops@energy.wsu.edu) for questions.

### Bioenergy

"[The Power of Punctilious Planning](#)," by Anna Austin, Associate Editor, *Biomass Power & Thermal*, in the January 2012 issue, describes the effort by Eastern Illinois University to replace a 1928 coal-burning, campus facility with a power producing, biomass plant.

### HVAC/R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration)

"[The Root Causes of Thermal Comfort](#)," by Jennie Morton, discusses the bases for why a building's occupants feel uncomfortable and why their complaints differ, even though they are in the same building. The author offers explanations of how this can happen without its simply being a question of personal preference. She covers the topics that bear on the problem: temperature as a function of the temperature

of the air *and* the temperature of heat radiating surfaces, air diffusion, drafts, and needed adjustments to the HVAC system.

Produced by onset, maker of HOBO data loggers, [Analyzing Air Handling Unit Efficiency](#) is a 24-page guide focusing on optimizing air handling units which bring conditioned air to building occupants and contents. The publication takes an intimate look at how air handling units work, how to monitor the units by collecting data, and how to interpret that data for greater efficiency.

[Free Cooling](#) is an article written by Paul Stiller in the February 2012 issue of Sustainable Facility. Although considered free cooling, there are upfront costs in equipment such as a heat exchanger and control modifications. The article discusses which facilities in which regions may benefit from free cooling, how to quantify potential energy savings, and ways to counter common concerns.

### Leased Buildings

[Energy Efficiency: Landlord pitches energy savings to tenants and saves \\$1.7 million](#), written by Umair Irfan, appeared in the March 13, 2012 edition of ClimateWire. Energy efficiency measures are difficult to sell to tenants of office buildings when their utility costs are rolled into rent. The building management company Shorenstein, with help from Environmental Defense Fund's Climate Corps program, employs various way to encourage its leaseholders to reduce and manage energy use. Methods include incorporating efficiency benchmarks into leasing agreements, and overcoming obstacles such as lack of submetering.

### Lighting

"[Lighting Al Fresco](#)," by Lori Lovely, was published in the January/February 2012 issue of *Distributed Energy*. The author shows how to save energy on outdoor lighting. Shortcomings in understanding human responses to different kinds of lighting make for some difficulty from the start, and the limited types of available outdoor lighting – traditionally, they are high-pressure sodium and metal halide – do add to the challenge. LED lighting, the new kid on the block, is discussed.

### Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

#### AEE (Association of Energy Engineers) Realtime Online Seminars

Live interactive courses you can take from your computer. Programs are generally two to three hours long, over a period of days. Dates following course names below are start dates.

Below is a sampling of courses – refer to website for complete list.

- Electrical Engineering Fundamentals for Non-Electrical Engineers – Apr. 2, 2012
- Energy Auditing Fundamentals – Apr. 2, 2012
- Life Cycle Costing for Energy Professionals – Apr. 3, 2012
- Motors: Operation, Efficiency & Economics – Apr. 10, 2012
- Pitfalls & Profits in Performance Contracting – Apr. 10, 2012
- Fundamentals of Lighting Efficiency – Apr. 11, 2012
- Life Cycle Costing for Energy Professionals – Apr. 16, 2012
- Interior Lighting: LED vs. Traditional – Apr. 19, 2012

<http://www.aeeprograms.com/realtime/>

#### LED Street and Roadway Lighting Retrofit Financial Analysis Tool

A live hour long webcast gives an overview of the Retrofit Financial Analysis Tool, used to evaluate costs and benefits associated with converting to LED street and roadway lighting.

- Apr. 3, 2012

[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/ssl/events\\_detail.html?event\\_id=6750](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/ssl/events_detail.html?event_id=6750)

EERE

### Portland General Electric Seminars and Webinars

Portland General Electric offers educational seminars and webinars free of charge to its commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Similar customers of other utilities are welcome to attend for a small fee. Topics include energy management, lighting, commercial and industrial systems, as well as special topics such as water, smart grid, and leased space issues.

- Webinar – Intro to Solar Thermal & Photovoltaic Systems – Apr. 3, 2012
- Energy & Water Trends – Apr. 19 in Portland

See website for more events.

*Portland General Electric, Energy Trust of Oregon, NEEA, Better Bricks*

[http://portlandgeneral.com/business/news\\_classes/classes/docs/class\\_schedule.pdf](http://portlandgeneral.com/business/news_classes/classes/docs/class_schedule.pdf)

### Energy Efficiency Financial Analysis – Webinar

Learn about conducting a payback analysis to justify an energy-efficient equipment investment.

- April 5, 2012

<http://neea.org/participate/calendar.aspx?eventID=3412>

NEEA

### First Thursday Seminars – FEMP trainings

No cost monthly training by U.S. Dept. of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program.

- Selecting and Evaluating New and Underused Energy Technologies – April 5, 2012

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/femp/training/first\\_thursday\\_seminars.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/femp/training/first_thursday_seminars.cfm)

### Portfolio Manager

EPA plans to release a complete upgrade for Portfolio Manager in spring 2013. Improvements will include a user-friendly interface and guided questions for the benchmarking process and easier sharing and reporting features. Get a look at the new features by registering for one of these webinars.

- April 10, 2012, 10:00-2:30 am
- April 10, 2012, 12:00-1:30 pm
- April 11, 2012, 10:00-2:30 am
- April 11, 2012, 12:00-1:30 pm

[Energy Star Portfolio Manager upgrade website](#)

### Data Center Energy Efficiency Summit

A day-long summit on energy efficiency in data centers. Topics include: opportunities for reducing energy consumption in data centers, server rooms, and telecom operations; utility rebates and support for efficiency projects, and; networking with service providers.

- April 11, 2012 in Bellevue, WA

[Click for more information](#)

*The Electric League of the Northwest, Seattle City Light, PSE, Snohomish PUD, Tacoma Power*

### Energy Benchmarking using Energy Star Portfolio Manager – Seattle compliance

Intended to support compliance with the City of Seattle's building energy benchmarking and disclosure ordinance, this hands-on session teaches how to benchmark your building's energy performance.

- April 12, 2012 in Kirkland
- April 23, 2012 in Kirkland

<http://neea.org/participate/calendar.aspx?eventID=3449>

NEEA BetterBricks and City of Seattle

### Building Operator's Certification

74 hours of training and project work in building systems maintenance.

- Washington State
  - Level I – April 11, 2012 through Oct. 10, 2012 in Wenatchee (NEW CLASS)
  - Level I – April 19, 2012 through Oct. 11, 2012 in Everett
  - Level I – May 1, 2012 through Oct. 30, 2012 in Lacey
  - Level I – May 3, 2012 through Aug. 16, 2012 in Renton (NEW CLASS)
  - Level II – Oct. 31, 2012 through Feb. 12, 2013 in Renton

<http://www.theboc.info/wa/wa-schedule.html>
- Oregon
  - Level I – April 10, 2012 through Sept. 25 2012 in Medford, OR
  - Level I – April 24, 2012 through Oct. 9, 2012 in Portland, OR
  - Level II – April 2012 through Sept 2012 in Portland, OR

[http://www.nweei.org/images/pdf\\_files/current\\_master\\_oregon\\_sched.doc](http://www.nweei.org/images/pdf_files/current_master_oregon_sched.doc)

### Assessing Energy Efficiency in Commercial Buildings

Two hour online course to gain a better understanding of how a commercial building operates and how to reduce energy use by implementing energy conservation measures.

- April 25, 2012

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/932839970>

Onset

### 2012 Energy/Facilities Connections Conference

- May 9-11, 2012 in Leavenworth, WA

Registration now open for this invaluable annual conference that brings together experts and colleagues for workshops, hands-on training, networking, and useful information related to facilities and energy.

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/PublicFacilitiesSupport/PlantOperations/Conferences.aspx>

### West Coast Energy Management Congress

- May 23-24, 2012 in Seattle, WA

Energy conference and technology expo.

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

### GovEnergy

- Aug. 19-22, 2012 in St. Louis, MO

Registration is now open for this annual event training for federal energy management community.

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

### Resources for You

March to Savings

March to Savings is a call to action to encourage all Washington state employees to save energy during March 2012. Yet it's so much more than that – it's useful for all employees and managers everywhere, and for longer than just March. Designed and implemented by WSU Energy Program, in partnership with the Department of Enterprise Services, the program features the [March to Savings website](#) providing myriad resources such as fact sheets to save energy at work, links for saving energy at home, interesting how-to videos, tips on changing work habits, examples of energy-saving success stories, and plenty of resources for more information.

### Earth Day 2012

April 22 marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day. While every day you can take action to protect the environment (such as reducing energy and water use), on Earth Day you can participate in local events, as others across the globe will be doing. Events are not just on April 22, many occur before and after Earth Day. Visit the [Earth Day Network](#) for events near you.

### Energy Experts eNews

You can now get energy-related news from EnergyExperts.org and other energy-related organizations on Facebook and Twitter. <http://www.energyexperts.org/NewsFeeds.aspx>

### Energy Events Calendar

<http://www.energyexperts.org/TrainingEducationandEmployment/EventsCalendar.aspx>

### Washington RCM Support

Washington State University Energy Program RCM Support

Check out the “RCMx”. 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/PublicFacilitiesSupport/ResourceConservation/RCMx.aspx>

### RCM News is prepared by the Washington State University Energy Program

This activity is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program. Funds provided through the Washington Department of Commerce Energy Division.

This project is funded in whole or in part by funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This funding was awarded by the US Department of Energy through the Energy Policy Division of the Washington State Department of Commerce under Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant No.DE-EE0000849

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](mailto:janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu)