

RCM News for April 2020

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard

The Washington State Energy Performance Standard for covered commercial buildings will affect Washington State commercial buildings with 50,000 or more square feet of conditioned space. The standard is scheduled to become law November 1, 2020, and a voluntary efficiency incentive program will run from 2021 to 2026. The standard will be implemented as a mandatory requirement beginning in 2026.

Public input and participation is encouraged during the rule-making process for RCMs, energy managers, building owners, facility directors, and other interested parties. May 21 and May 27 are the next online workshops – see Clean Buildings under Upcoming Events and Opportunities below. Visit the [Clean Buildings website](#) for more information. WSU Energy Program is providing customer support – contact Karen Janowitz at janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu if you have questions.

Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard Webinar

A PDF and video-recording of a March 26, 2020 webinar about the upcoming Clean Buildings Performance Standard is available for viewing on the WSU Energy Program [Resource Conservation Management website](#). The webinar includes an overview of the standard, the early adoption program, and what energy managers can be doing now in preparation.

Seattle Building Tune-ups and Energy Benchmarking

The Benchmarking report deadline for the City of Seattle [benchmarking requirement](#) has been extended to July 1, 2020. Due to COVID-19, all upcoming [Building Tune-Up](#) 2020 deadlines have been extended six months, and hospital and medical institutions have been extended one year. In other Tune-Up news – compliance of the largest buildings, over 200,000 SF, is 95%.

ARTICLES

Chiller Replacements

When the time comes to make a decision to replace an old chiller, there are many factors that need to be considered, from what type of new equipment to purchase to how the equipment will be installed. New innovations in chiller manufacturing offer opportunities for energy savings as well as improved occupant comfort. A series of articles by James Piper in the April 2020 issue of *Facilities Maintenance Decisions* discusses types of chillers available, how to determine the chiller that best fits your facility, the important factors for cooling loads, and considerations that will help make your upgrade successful.

Part 1: [Chiller Replacements: Out With the Old, In With the New](#)

Part 2: [Chiller Upgrades: Assessing Equipment Condition](#)

Part 3: [Assessing Cooling Loads for Chiller Upgrades](#)

Part 4: [Maintenance Matters: Ensuring Chiller Upgrades Succeed](#)

COVID-19 and Energy Efficiency

While energy efficiency work has decreased as a result of the coronavirus-related economic crisis, many utilities are finding solutions to adapt and continue implementing efficiency programs. In [“Advancing energy efficiency during the COVID-19 crisis”](#), posted April 28, 2020 by the NW Energy Coalition, Sean O’Leary reports on utilities offering advice on operating unoccupied buildings safely, and gearing up to offer a range of incentives and projects once physical distancing restrictions are no longer necessary.

COVID-19 and HVAC in Buildings

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has released statements describing their recommended operation and maintenance guidelines for HVAC equipment to help manage the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 disease. The statements are available to read on the ASHRAE website titled [“ASHRAE Issues Statements on Relationship Between COVID-19 and HVAC in Buildings”](#).

Energy Efficiency and Understanding Utility Bills

An important step in planning an energy project is to first make sure that you understand the charges on your utility bill. A three-part article by Lindsay Audin in the April 2020 issue of *Building Operating Management* discusses how examining the description of the tariffs in your electric bill will provide the details of the way utility rates are determined. Analyzing daily and monthly load profiles can help identify ways to improve peak demand and take advantage of special rates that might be offered by utilities.

Part 1: [To Improve Energy Efficiency, Understand Your Electricity Bill](#)

Part 2: [Case Studies Illustrate Energy Bill Variables](#)

Part 3: [How to Match Your Electricity Rate with Facility Usage](#)

Tunable White LED Lighting

LED technology provides many opportunities for expanding the use of lighting within buildings that were not possible with traditional lighting. The combination of LEDs and dimming controls makes it possible to create tunable white lighting which can have multiple uses in buildings. The April 2020 issue of *Building Operating Management* features a three-part article by Craig DiLouie that describes how tunable white LED works, what benefits it can provide, as well as how it fits into lighting protocols and the questions and considerations to ask yourself before deciding to implement tunable white lighting in your facility.

Part 1: [Should You Give Tunable White LED Lighting a Shot?](#)

Part 2: [Understanding Lighting Controls Protocols](#)

Part 3: [Tunable White LED Lighting: Questions and Considerations](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Better Buildings Webinars

- Managing Buildings During a Shutdown and Bringing Them Back Online – May 1
- Managing HVAC Systems to Reduce Infectious Transmission – May 4
- Lighting & Electrical Research Team Webinar – May 5
- Smart Energy Analytics Campaign: Spring 2020 Award Winners – May 20
- Show Me the Data: What Does Observational Research Reveal About Today's Connected Lighting Systems? – May 21

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Financing Energy Efficiency Projects: What to Know Before you Sign – May 5
- Portfolio Manager 101 – May 6
- Portfolio Manager 201 – May 13
- Using ENERGY STAR recognition in Strategic Energy Management programs – May 14
- Portfolio Manager 301 – May 19
- Using ENERGY STAR for K-12 School Design and Operations – May 19
- Renewable Energy Options for Small Businesses and Congregations – May 21
- Just Add WaterSense to your Energy Efficiency Efforts – May 27
- Benchmarking Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants in Portfolio Manager – June 2
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

US EPA

New Buildings Institute Live Webinars

- Living Future – May 7-8
- A Deeper Dive into Net Zero Carbon Schools – May 14
- National Grid Zero Net Energy Spring Forum – May 19
- Achievable! Showcasing Successful Zero Energy School Projects From Around the U.S. – May 28

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

Building Energy Exchange

Building Energy Exchange provides energy and lighting efficiency solutions in New York City, yet webcasts may be appropriate for all in the industry.

- Our Passive Future – May 7 online webcast
- Healthy Buildings in the Age of COVID-19 – May 14 online webcast

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Energy Exchange

Lighting Research Center (LRC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

A new interactive webinar series on the latest research in lighting.

- UV: Beyond Red, White, and Blue – May 12

[Click here for more information](#)

Lighting Research Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Emerging Technologies Coordinating Council webinar

Presentations include battery market study and grid-interactive efficient buildings.

- May 13 webinar

[Click here for more information](#)

ETCC

Smart Building Center Technical Webinar Series

- HVAC Controls Including Demand-Control Ventilation – May 14

[Click here for more information](#)

BOC

Clean Buildings Workshops

These workshops will review draft revisions to ANSI/ASHRAE/IES standard 100-2018, Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings for a new Washington State law (more information under Announcements above).

All workshops web access only.

- May 21 – topic: Energy utilization development process and example outcomes
- May 27 – topic: Administrative procedures workshop

- June 10 TBD
- June 17 TBD

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington State Department of Commerce

Building Operators 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 a period of four to six months.

All dates below are for the first class.

Contact BOC directly for information about cancellations.

- Washington State
 - Level I classes
 - May 13 through Nov 4, 2020 - **LIVESTREAM**
When safe to attend in-person classes, registrants may choose in-person in Bothell, or continue with livestream
 - Sept 30, 2020 through Mar 4, 2021 in Seattle
 - TBA in 2021 in Spokane
 - Level II classes
 - Oct 20, 2020 through Mar 23, 2021 in Seattle

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

- Oregon
 - Level I classes
 - TBD in NE Oregon (Pendleton/La Grande)
 - Level II classes
 - TBD 2020 in Portland

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Better Buildings 2020 Summit: A Virtual Leadership Symposium

If you couldn't go to Virginia for the Better Buildings Summit, you can now attend online webinars and plenaries for free, as the summit has been moved online. View the website for the schedule and topics.

- June 8 through 11, 2020 online

[Click here for more information](#)

DOE, EERE

Green Transportation Summit & Expo

The 10th annual summit

- NEW DATE! Aug 24-26 in Tacoma, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Green Transportation

Smart Buildings Exchange Conference

Two-day conference and trade show with the latest information and technologies in the smart buildings industry, showcasing smart city and building projects and initiatives in the Pacific Northwest.

- Sept 2-3, 2020 in Seattle

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center, NEEC

Go Green Conference

A regional conference offering educational opportunities on sustainability for business and public sector leaders.

- Sept 8 in Seattle, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Business Alliance

Powerful Facility Energy Conference

A bi-annual conference offering practical energy solutions and opportunities to help create successful energy efficiency projects.

- Rescheduled for Fall 2020 (date to be announced) in Lynnwood, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Electric League of the Pacific Northwest

RESOURCES

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources for Facilities

Find a [list of resources](#) for facilities professionals to reference when dealing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Thank you to [FacilitiesNet.net](#) for putting this together.

Parking Lot Lighting Guide

The Lighting Research Center (LRC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute recently published the [Guide for Parking Lot Lighting: Maximizing Illuminance Uniformity to Promote Perceptions of Safety While Reducing Power Demand](#). The guide discusses recent research that shows how lighting uniformity positively affects perceived safety, and reduces energy use.

Benchmarking videos

Created for the Seattle Energy Benchmarking program, eight “how-to” [benchmarking videos](#) have useful information for everyone needing or wanting to perform benchmarking. Information includes an introduction to benchmarking, data collection, using utility data, and portfolio manager. All Washington State commercial buildings greater than 50,000 SF will need to benchmark for the Clean Buildings Standard – get a jump and start now!

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 Karen](#) 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 send to Karen Janowitz - janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu

