



RCM News for April 2023

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

In this issue:

Announcements

Articles

Air Quality in Old Buildings

Facility Lighting Controls

Microgrid Benefits

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Resources

While every URL in RCM News is checked for accuracy prior to distribution, URLs may change, and servers may temporarily fail to connect to working URLs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Light-Coaching Cohort

The Seattle Clean Buildings Accelerator is recruiting for a new Light Coaching Cohort starting in May 2023. All City Light customers are eligible. Join an online info session on May 2 ([register here](#)) to learn how this free program helps facility managers and owners get their commercial buildings (larger than 50,000 sq. ft.) on track for meeting the WA Clean Buildings requirements and reducing emissions. [Click here](#) for more information or email cleanbuildings@stillwaterenergy.com

Smart Buildings Center's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Survey

Please consider taking the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion survey from the Smart Buildings Center (SBC) – it will take less than 5 minutes to complete. SBC is conducting the survey to analyze their program reach, participation, and success rates as a means for establishing baseline metrics and setting goals for improvement. [Click here for more information and to take the survey.](#)

Washington State Clean Buildings Expansion Bill Rulemaking

A series of workshops are being offered to building owners and others to participate in the Clean Buildings expansion bill (Tier 2) rulemaking. The expansion applies to buildings between 20,000 and 50,000 square feet, adding a new second tier that includes multi-family buildings. The next workshop

is May 18 and covers customer outreach, technical support, and energy benchmarking. Register for the May 18 workshop [here](#). More information is on the [Clean Buildings homepage](#). Other workshops are listed under Events in this RCM News.

A pre-rulemaking webinar introducing the Clean Buildings expansion occurred on April 13. A [recording](#) and PDF [slide deck](#) of the presentation are now available for viewing.

Clean Buildings Performance Standard: Emergency Rules Exemption Public Hearing

A public hearing about extending the window of time from one to three years for Clean Buildings Standard exemption decisions will take place the morning of May 9. The Washington State Department of Commerce requests written comments about the [emergency rule filing](#) be submitted to buildings@commerce.wa.gov. [Register](#) for the Zoom meeting, or attend at Meeting ID: 852 2805 2395, Passcode: 947795.

Electrification Infrastructure Grants

The Washington State Department of Commerce is accepting grant applications from local governments and federally recognized Tribal governments for the procurement, installation, and integration of electric vehicle supply infrastructure in rural communities. Applications for phase two of the [Clean Energy Fund – Electrification of Transportation Systems Grants program](#) are accepted until May 15, 2023.

New Survey of Data Center Energy and Water Use for Energy Star Score Update

The Green Grid (TGG) has partnered with the EPA to conduct a new survey of data center energy and water use to allow for an update to the EPA's Energy Star score for data centers. TGG will be creating, administering and collecting responses from this voluntary survey. [For more information click here.](#)

ARTICLES

Air Quality in Old Buildings

Poor air circulation and quality has been plaguing an old building at the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. In "[Faculty research raises questions of thermal comfort, CO2 levels in old Cal Poly building](#)", published April 13, 2023 in *Mustang News*, Leila Touati discusses a current study on thermal comfort and CO2 levels in the building which is being done in order to find solutions. Increased outdoor air at night and operable windows are a couple of solutions that engineers are considering.

Facility Lighting Controls

An effective lighting control system in institutional and commercial facilities can play a critical role in saving energy, as well as providing other benefits. Howard Riell, in his article "[Lighting Controls Come of Age](#)", published April 4, 2023 on the Facilitiesnet website, notes expanding benefits accomplished with system data collection, a number of trending options, and various examples of better decisions which can be made by incorporating an effective lighting control system.

Microgrid Benefits

Greg Zimmerman's article "[Understanding the Benefits of Microgrids](#)", published on the Facilitiesnet website April 24, 2023, summarizes an interview with Brian Patterson, founder and chairman of the board of the Emerge Alliance. Patterson explains the benefits of microgrids, why DC and/or hybrid AD/DC is a resilience strategy which enables a system to either ride-thru or quickly recover from a situation that could cause a sustained power loss, and what steps executives should take to implement a microgrid in their facilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

Certified Energy Manager (CEM) Training

In-person four-day training and CEM examination.

- May 1-5 in Seattle

[Click here for more information](#)

Pacific NW Chapter of Association of Energy Engineers, Smart Buildings Center

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101 – May 2
- Portfolio Manager 201 – May 9
- Part 2: Using Benchmarking Results to Understand Your Building's Performance – May 10
- Portfolio Manager 301 – May 16
- Conducting a Water Assessment from Start to Finish – May 24
- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Clean & Affordable Energy Conference 2023

Panelists will discuss how to advance community energy resiliency and decarbonization through expanding the use of customer-side resources such as energy efficiency, storage, and distributed renewable energy.

- May 4 and May 9 – Virtual

[Click here for more information](#)

NW Energy Coalition

Clean Buildings

Emergency Rule workshop.

- Public Hearing for Emergency Rules: Clean Buildings Exemption Timeline – May 9

Clean Buildings Tier 2 Rulemaking Workshop Schedule

- Customer outreach, technical support, and energy benchmarking – May 18

- Energy Management Plan and the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program – Jun 15
- Tier 2 Incentive Program, administrative rules and reporting requirements, and Tier 1 amendments – July 13
- Cumulative Review – Aug 24

[Click here for more information](#)

WA State Department of Commerce

National Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations

BOC course providing the basic principles of energy efficiency awareness and practices in commercial buildings. Six half-day classes.

- May 9 through Jun 8, 2023 via Zoom – [register here](#)
- Sept 19 through Oct 25, 2023 via Zoom – [register here](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operators Certification

Getting to Zero Forum

- May 10-12, 2023 in Minneapolis + virtual

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

BCxA Events

How to Work with the Stakeholders in the Cx Process

- May 15 Online

Air Aware: Commissioning for Optimal Indoor Air Quality

- June 19 Online

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Commissioning Association

Roadmap Conference

Electric transportation conference

- May 15-17, 2023 in Portland

[Click here for more information](#)

Forth

2021 Energy Code Update Series

- HVAC – May 23
- Water Heating – May 30
- Alterations – Jun 6
- Lighting & Electric – Jun 13

[Click here for more information](#)

Lighting Design Lab

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.

- Washington State
 - Level I classes
 - Sept 19 & 20, 2023 to Feb 27, 2024 in Seattle
 - Level II class
 - Oct 25, 2023 to Feb 29, 2024 via Zoom

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

- Oregon
 - Level I class
 - June 1, 2023 to December 1, 2023 via Zoom

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification, Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute

Smart Buildings Exchange

A three day hybrid conference connecting participants to the latest information and technologies in the smart buildings industry.

- Aug 15- 17, 2023 in Seattle + virtual

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center

RESOURCES

Helpdesks

The Smart Buildings Center (SBC) offers technical support with two helpdesks. Resources, guidance, training, and technical assistance are provided through a [K-12 Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Helpdesk](#), funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce, to help improve the indoor environment in our schools. The [Clean Buildings Performance Standard Helpdesk](#) is a utility-sponsored helpdesk providing technical assistance, resources, and trainings to assist building owners in reaching compliance with the Clean Buildings Performance Standard.

EPA Greenhouse Gas Calculator

BOC graduates, are you interested to know what your smart building habits can add up to? With the help of the [EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#) the Smart Buildings Center (SBC) made this [poster](#) to show what you can accomplish as a BOC graduate in a year. And, SBC has updated their website with the [same calculator here](#) so you can find out just how much you can make a difference this year and every year. Use the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator to find out what the impact of your best practices mean in the scope of providing a green future for the planet. [Click here for more information.](#)

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.

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.

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

