

RCM NEWS

RCM News for January 2021

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

In this issue:

Announcements

Articles

Refrigerants

Secondary Windows

Weatherproofing

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

Commercial Window Upgrade Opportunity

For a limited time, commercial buildings that upgrade their low-performing single or double pane windows with secondary windows can receive an incentive by participating in a field test run by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), in partnership with local utilities. In addition to an incentive from NEEA, projects will receive special pricing from the six participating manufacturers, 15-30% off the material cost depending on the manufacturer. If you're looking to improve your envelope, increase occupant comfort, and reduce outside noise and air infiltration, this is a great opportunity to leverage technical support and product discounts, while the building is empty or partially empty. To see if your building qualifies for the field test or to learn more, email Jordan Pratt from Energy 350 at jpratt@energy350.com.

Seattle City Light Energy Efficiency as a Service Project Solicitation

Seattle City Light's Energy Efficiency as a Service (EEaS) pilot program is accepting project proposals for a competitive solicitation for the next ten available spots. All proposals are due by April 30, 2021. Commercial, non-residential existing or new construction projects are eligible. [Click here for more information](#).

ARTICLES

Refrigerants

Growing concerns and regulations on refrigerants have pushed facility managers to examine ways to reduce refrigerant's impact in HVAC and other systems. A three part article in the January 2021 issue of *Building Operating Management* by Sara Kingman, Julian Parsley, and Yensi Izquierdo, discusses concerns about refrigerants, and ways that facility managers can reduce their impact, including increasing refrigeration efficiency and using alternative refrigerants with lower global warming effects.

Part 1: [Refrigerant Choices Evolving to Benefit Social and Climate Needs](#)

Part 2: [Alternative Refrigerants: What Can Facility Managers Do?](#)

Part 3: [In California, 2024 Looms Large for Facility Managers](#)

Secondary Windows

Windows can account for a significant amount of wasted energy in a building, as well as being a source of occupant discomfort. However, the cost of replacing them can be very high and sometimes cost prohibitive. Secondary windows are a cost-effective alternative to replacing old windows that can help save energy and improve the environment for occupants. [Budget Friendly Window Upgrades](#) published in *Better Bricks* by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance describes how secondary windows work, their advantages and the ideal situations that will benefit from their use.

Weatherproofing

Weatherproofing a building is important for ensuring the comfort of building occupants. "[3 Tips for Weatherproofing Successfully Year-Round](#)" by Sarah Kloepple in the December 10, 2020 issue of *Buildings Magazine* discusses ways to identify if your building needs weatherproofing improvements and the areas to focus on when making those improvements.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- Cost Effective Code Compliance: Lighting – Feb 2
- Cost Effective Code Compliance: Water Heating – Feb 9

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

Lighting Design Lab

Better Buildings Webinars

- Climate Risk Assessments: Commercial Buildings & Portfolio Resilience – Feb 2
- Smart Tools for Smart Labs – March 2
- Leveling the Slope: Helping State and Local Governments Reach Their Energy Goals – March 16

[Click here for more information](#)

US DOE Better Buildings

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Portfolio Manager 101 – Feb 3
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Feb 10
- Performance-based Targets for Commercial New Construction: The Building Owner's Perspective – Feb 11
- Setting Performance Goals in Portfolio Manager – Feb 16
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Feb 18
- Developing Portfolio Manager Benchmarking as a Service for SPPs – Feb 23
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesday at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

US EPA ENERGY STAR

Federal Energy Management Program Courses

- ESPC ESA Webinar Series: Advanced ESPC ESA Considerations – Feb 9
- Advanced Measurement and Verification for ESPC – Feb 19

[Click here for more information](#)

US Dept of Energy, FEMP

eProject Builder Introductory Webinars

eProject Builder is a web-based data management platform to preserve, track, and report information for energy projects.

- Webinar – Feb 11

[Click here for more information](#)

US Dept of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Getting to Zero Webinar Series

A webinar series to share knowledge on achieving the highest level of efficiency in buildings.

- Advanced Water Heating Initiative Playbook and 2020 Progress – Feb 11
- It's Getting BETR: The Building Electrification Technology Roadmap is Here – Feb 25

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

Smart Building Center Technical Webinar Series

- HVAC Retrofit Approaches for Savings and Returns – Feb 24
- Advanced Lighting Technologies – March 24
- Achieving Water, Energy and Cost Savings Through Conservation – April 28
- Innovation in Building Envelope and Window Technologies – May 26

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center

Data Center Energy Practitioner (DCEP) Training

The DCEP training program certifies energy practitioners qualified to evaluate the energy status and efficiency opportunities in data centers. Course curriculum teaches proven best practices as well as new tools and techniques in IT equipment, air management, cooling systems, and electrical systems.

February trainings are listed below. Click on the link to see March trainings.

- Data Center: Generalist – Feb 15
- Data Center: HVAC Specialist – Feb 18-19
- Data Center: Generalist & HVAC Specialist – Feb 15, 18-19
- Data Center: IT Specialist – Feb 22

[Click here for more information](#)

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, FEMP

Basics of Building Benchmarking for Ordinance Compliance

ENERGY STAR is offering a three-part webinar series on the basics of Portfolio Manager, as guidance for building owners to comply with building benchmarking ordinances. Part 1 has concluded; see Resources below to access recording. Please promote these webinars to commercial building owners and managers.

Click on each webinar for information and registration:

- Feb 24 – [Part 2: Using Benchmarking Results to Understand your Building's Performance](#)
- Mar 30 – [Part 3: To Efficiency and Beyond! How to Benefit from Benchmarking Compliance with Strategies for Improving your Energy Performance](#)

US EPA ENERGY STAR

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.

Contact BOC directly for information about cancellations.

All dates below are for the first class.

- Washington State
 - Level I classes
 - Virtual – May 4, 2021 through September 15, 2021
 - Location/delivery TBD – Fall 2021
 - Level II classes
 - Virtual – date TBD Spring 2021
 - Location/delivery TBD – Fall 2021

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

- Oregon
 - Level I classes
 - February 11, 2021 through August 12, 2021 online

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

GoGreen Conference

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

- April 6 – virtually

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington Business Alliance

Clean Buildings Standard – Equity and Inclusive Incentive Reservation Webinar

Discussion about issues of equity and access for the limited pool of incentive money in the Early Adopter Incentive Program for the Washington Energy Performance Standard for Commercial Buildings.

- April 28 – virtually

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington State Department of Commerce

Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

This event provides opportunities to explore emerging technologies and share innovative strategies in energy and water efficiency.

- May 17-20, 2021

[Click here for more information](#)

US Dept of Energy Better Buildings

Green Transportation Summit & Expo

The 10th annual summit

- Aug 16-18, 2021 – 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.

- Aug 24-25, 2021 – in Seattle

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center, NEEC

2021 Getting to Zero Forum 2021

Event offering discussion and education on zero energy and zero carbon buildings.

- Oct 27-29, 2021 – New York City

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

RESOURCES

Portfolio Manager and Building Benchmarking for Ordinance Compliance

ENERGY STAR's Jan 26, 2021 webinar, "Beginner's Guide to Using Portfolio Manager for Benchmarking Law Compliance", is now available for on-demand viewing. This was the first of three webinars on the basics of building benchmarking for ordinance compliance. Information on the next two webinars in the series, occurring late February and late March, are in the events section of this newsletter. Access the video-recording by clicking on "View Event Recordings" at the top right of [ENERGY STAR events page](#). Please note that the recording is on Webex and may need an extension added to your browser. For a copy of the PDF of the slides, please contact Karen at janowitzk@energy.wsu.edu.

Energy Efficiency Workforce Portal

The Smart Buildings Center in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy has developed the [Better Buildings Workforce Development Portal](#). The Portal provides career guidance, curriculum/credentials, continuing education and training, and internship opportunities for those pursuing careers in the energy efficiency industry.

Lighting for Health and Energy

Research has shown that using circadian lighting technology for students and hospital patients can help improve sleep quality, psychological well-being, ability to learn and the healing and recovery process. New guidance documents from the Lighting Research Center (LRC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute offer design suggestions for schools and healthcare facilities regarding ways they can implement circadian effective lighting while at the same time avoiding increased energy usage.

- [Lighting for Health and Energy Savings: Schools](#)
- [Lighting for Health and Energy Savings: Healthcare](#)

BetterBricks and CRE Hub

One of the best repositories of resources and tools for RCMs and others working toward energy efficient commercial buildings is [CRE Hub](#), from BetterBricks, a project of Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. Find solutions to problems such as with sensors or chillers, learn about lighting controls, or gather information on non-energy benefits to influence management decisions on energy projects. Use the Building Lifecycle tool to narrow results for a particular type of building and activity, such as maintenance or tune-up.

Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard

The Washington State Energy Performance Standard for covered commercial buildings became law in November 2020 and will affect Washington State commercial buildings with 50,000 or more square feet of conditioned space. A voluntary efficiency incentive program will run from 2021 to 2026. Visit the [Clean Buildings website](#) 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

