

RCM NEWS

RCM News for January 2023

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buildings Upgrade Prize

Leveraging billions of dollars in available funding, cash prizes are being offered by the U.S. Department of Energy to the most innovative concepts to increase existing building upgrades. Phase 1 of the [Buildings Upgrade Prize](#) (Buildings UP) awards winning teams for “Equity-Centered Innovation” and “Open Innovation”. A separate Application Support Prize awards funding and technical support to teams who lack capacity for a full Phase I submission. Prize-related information, including timeline, webinars, and more are on the [HeroX Buildings UP website](#).

Electrification Infrastructure Grants

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. Phase one applications for the [Clean Energy Fun – Electrification of Transportation Systems Grants program](#) will be accepted until March 6, 2023. Phase two will open on April 3, with applications due May 15, 2023.

ARTICLES

Community College Sustainability

Listening to every storm drain for running water, which would indicate a leak, was one of many ways that the Sustainability Director at the Hinds Community College in Mississippi was able to successfully

reduce energy and water use by 20 percent in one year. "[Mindy Stevens Sets Sustainability Standards at Hinds Community College](#)", written by Dave Lubach for the February 2023 issue *Building Operating Management*, describes how Stevens and her colleague at the college's new energy conservation department approached the task of reducing wasteful consumption. They upgraded HVAC systems, retrofitted lighting with LEDs and instituted new recycling and composting programs.

HVAC for K-12

K-12 schools that use all-electric, high-performance HVAC systems provide numerous benefits to staff and students, and improve costs due to efficiency as well. In "[HVAC Choices for Student Health and Learning](#)", on the RMI website, writers Emma Hines and Sara Ross discuss an RMI research report by the same name that shows how HVAC systems affect student health, learning, and equity. Elements contributing to such a system include heat pump rooftop units with economizers and dedicated outdoor air systems with energy recovery ventilation.

Indoor Air Quality

Establishing an HVAC maintenance plan, assessing ventilation, and interviewing building occupants are the focus of "[3 Cost-Effective Ways to Improve School Indoor Air Quality This Winter](#)", written by Sara Porter in the February 2023 issue of *Facility Maintenance Decisions*. These are some of the most important measures that can be taken to improve indoor air quality, according to the Healthy Green Schools & Colleges standard, which was created in partnership with Green Seal and the Healthy Schools Campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ ALL EVENTS VIRTUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ◀

Better Building Webinars

- Tapping Into the Power of Utility-Scale Solar: State and Local Perspectives – Jan 31
- Deploying Energy Efficient and Low Carbon HVAC Technologies in Underserved Commercial Settings – Feb 2
- Trust the Process: Strategies for Reducing Larger Commercial Building Plug and Process Loads – Feb 9
- Framework for GHG Emissions Reduction Planning in Buildings – Feb 22
- Integrated Lighting Campaign: Opportunities for Participants – Feb 23
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Climate Planning – Feb 28

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

U.S. DOE Better Buildings

Submetering in Municipal & Higher Education Buildings

- Feb 2

[Click here for more information](#)

Smart Buildings Center, Puget Sound Energy

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- How to Apply for the ENERGY STAR for U.S. Buildings – Feb 2
- Portfolio Manager 101 – Feb 7
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Feb 9
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Feb 14
- Benchmarking Properties with Onsite Renewable Electricity Generation – Feb 22
- Ask the Expert – every other Wednesday

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign Webinar Series Track 1: Energy Efficiency Plus Health

Three-part live webinar series for school district staff. Please note that all three sessions must be attended.

- **Past webinar:** Making the Case to Save Energy and Improve Indoor Environmental Quality in Schools (Jan 10)
- Understanding Your Building Stock: Energy Benchmarking and Indoor Environmental Assessments for Schools – Feb 14
- Building Assessment Tools for School Energy Retrofits – Mar 14

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign Webinar Series Track 2: Emissions Reduction and Resilience

Three-part live webinar series for school district staff. Please note that all three sessions must be attended.

- **Past webinar:** Making the Case for Carbon Reduction and Electrification Readiness for School Districts (Jan 24)
- Understanding Greenhouse Gas Tracking and Reporting in School Districts – Feb 21
- Take Action on Climate Planning for Climate Vulnerability and Resiliency in Schools – Mar 28

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

Smart Building Center Technical Webinars

Building Operator Certification (BOC) live webinars. BOC graduates have the opportunity to get CEUs upon successful completion of webinar and accompanying quiz.

- The Electrical Transformation – Feb 22
- Benefits of Heat Pumps & Variable Refrigerant Flow Systems – Mar 22
- Improving Building Envelope Performance – Apr 19
- Achieving Savings with Advanced Lighting Technology – May 17
- Distributed Energy Resources & Resiliency – Sep 20
- Opportunities to Optimize Performance through Digital Twin Technology – Oct 18

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operator Certification

Early Adopter Incentive Program – Live Q&A Webinar

Funds are still available for the Clean Buildings Performance Standards Early Adopter Incentive Program. Register in advance and submit questions via the online registration form.

- Feb 22

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington State Department of Commerce

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.

- Mar 7 through Apr 5, 2023 via Zoom

[Click here for more information](#)

Building Operator Certification

Building Operator 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
 - Mar 15, 2023 to Aug 3, 2023 via Zoom
 - Sept 19, 2023 to Feb 27, 2024 in Seattle
 - Level II class
 - Fall 2023 via Zoom

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

- Oregon
 - Level I class
 - Level II class
 - Apr 6, 2023 to Sep 14, 2023

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operator Certification, Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute

Powerful Facility Energy Conference

Energizing Our Future

- Mar 16 in Lynnwood, WA

[Click here for more information](#)

Electric League of the Pacific Northwest

Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

- Apr 11-13, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. DOE Better Buildings

Getting to Zero Forum

- May 10-12, 2023 in Minneapolis + virtual

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute

Roadmap Conference

Electric transportation conference

- May 15-17, 2023 in Portland

[Click here for more information](#)

Forth

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.

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

