

RCM News for November 2021

A Newsletter for Resource Conservation Managers in the Northwest

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Facilities Conservation and Planning Analyst – Tacoma Power

The Facilities Conservation and Planning Analyst at Tacoma Power manages facility conservation and sustainability programs for Tacoma Power Utility properties, and monitors facility performance indicator data. Other responsibilities include participating in facility planning and conducting site assessments and operational reviews.

Applications accepted until filled.

[Click here to view job announcement and to apply.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings Listening Sessions

Washington State Department of Commerce wants to hear from you about making their [Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants Program](#) meet your needs and goals, as well as finding out about barriers you may face in accessing the grants. Listening sessions are Dec 6 and Dec 8 (the Dec 2 session is full) and include examples of eligible projects and preparations to take before the next application period, as well as listening to your feedback.

State Project Improvement Grants

Applications for [State Project Improvement](#) funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce are being accepted on a continual basis until all funds have been awarded. These grants cover the additional costs to increase the efficiency of projects at existing state-owned buildings.

ARTICLES

Embodied Carbon

[“Smart Energy: What is Your Facility’s Climate Contribution?”](#), written by Stacy Smedley for the November 2021 issue of *Building Operating Management*, examines the importance of evaluating and selecting low-carbon materials in building projects. Reducing embodied carbon is considered more urgent than operational carbon. Various tools available to help assess embodied carbon in a project include Life Cycle Assessments, Environmental Product Declarations, and the Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator.

Net-Zero Energy School

An elementary school in Fitchburg, Wisconsin became the first net-zero energy school in that state. [“Wisconsin Elementary School Achieves Net-Zero Energy”](#), written by Howard Riell for the November 2021 issue of *Facility Maintenance Decisions*, describes features such as the solar photovoltaic system, on-site micro-grid/battery storage, and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Lighting Design Lab Webinars

Free online classes

- Commercial HPWH Systems for Multifamily Housing – Dec 1

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

Lighting Design Lab

Energy Data Management Webinar Series

A three-part series examining the seven steps of the Department of Energy’s Energy Data Management Guide (see below under Resources for more information).

- Hardwire Energy Data Management into Your Organization (last of a 3-part series) – Dec 2

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. DOE Better Buildings

Energy Retrofit Grants Listening Sessions

See Announcements above for more information

- Dec 6 online
- Dec 8 online

[Click here for more information](#)

Washington State Department of Commerce

Better Buildings Webinars

- Assessing and Reducing Embodied Carbon – Dec 7
- Roadmap to 50% Carbon Reductions in Multifamily Housing – Dec 16
- Glass Half-full: How Water Reduction Supports Resiliency, Cost Savings, and Occupant Health – Jan 11, 2022

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. DOE Better Buildings

ENERGY STAR® and Portfolio Manager® Trainings

All are online webinars.

- Achieving Water and Cost Savings in Capital Improvement Projects – Dec 8
- Working Together to Save Energy: Employee Engagement Strategies – Dec 9
- Mature your Energy Program for the Decisive Decade – Dec 13
- Portfolio Manager 101 – Dec 14
- Tracking GHG Emissions in Portfolio Manager – Dec 15
- Portfolio Manager 201 – Dec 16
- Portfolio Manager 301 – Dec 22
- Ask the Expert – Most Wednesdays at 9:00 AM Pacific time

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

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Energy Star Webinar Series: Learn From the Best

- Working Together to Save Energy: Employee Engagement Strategies – Dec 9

[Click here for more information](#)

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR

Embodied Carbon Bootcamp

Interactive online workshop providing presentations and tools for lowering carbon emissions in new construction and major renovations.

- Dec 14 – online

[Click here for more information](#)

New Buildings Institute, Breakthrough Energy

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
 - Spring 2022 for Washington residents – online
 - Fall 2022 for Washington residents – location/deliver TBD
 - Level II classes

- Fall 2022 for Washington residents – location/deliver TBD

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

- Oregon
 - Level I classes
 - March 3, 2022 through Oct 6, 2022 online
 - Level II classes
 - Jan 13, 2022 through July 14, 2022 online – **REGISTER NOW!**

[Click here for BOC Oregon information](#)

Building Operators Certification

RESOURCES

Energy Efficient and Carbon Neutral Buildings

New Buildings Institute (NBI), in collaboration with professional trade groups and other nonprofits, has developed [An Insider's Guide to Talking about Carbon Neutral Buildings](#), which aims to promote a common framework with which to talk about carbon neutral (focus on carbon emissions) in relation to energy efficiency (focus on kWh) in the built environment. Carbon neutral buildings have additional components such as minimizing or eliminating on-site fossil fuel combustion, optimizing on-site storage, specifying low GWP refrigerants, and selecting low embodied carbon materials. Graphics of these concepts provide greater understanding.

Energy Data Management Guide

Created for public-sector organizations, the [Energy Data Management Guide](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy is a seven-step approach for “establishing a robust and sustainable energy management program” by generating buy-in, building a solid foundation for energy data management, and hardwiring energy management. RCMs, energy and sustainability managers, public-sector officials, and others may find the information familiar, yet the website goes into detail and is bound to prove useful with its large collection of strategies, data management tools and resources, templates and worksheets, and relevant examples.

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

