

10 Budget-Friendly Educational Resources for Facility Professionals

Professional development is crucial for keeping up with standards and trends in facility management and property management. But all too often, budget cuts leave little to no room for continuing education. Check out these free and low-cost online resources to make sure your staff is up to speed.

1. BUILDINGS WEBINARS

Our continuing education platform features presentations on topics from POTS line replacement to decarbonization, and they're all free to view. Just sign up for a free account and watch our library of top FM topics.

2. ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN MASTER CONTINUING EDUCATION

Need to earn IDCEC or AIA CEUs? Look no further than this easy-to-navigate platform. Just view the article or webinar, then take the assessment at the end.

3. BOMA INTERNATIONAL

Keeping up with professional organizations is not just helpful—it's important. Property professionals can find [continuing education and certification courses](#) at all cost levels on topics ranging from insurance and financial matters to emergency preparedness. Anyone new to the field should consider checking out the [Certified Manager of Commercial Properties \(CMCP\) certification](#), which is designed for people who are early in their careers.

4. IFMA

IFMA's [Knowledge Library](#), true to its name, hosts a wealth of industry knowledge and research that could prove invaluable in your career. It's free for members, and a limited number of articles are free with a non-member account. IFMA also administers the Certified Facility Manager, Sustainability Facility Professional, and other credentials that can help further your career.

5. INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Check out the [course catalog](#) from IREM to learn about asset management, leasing topics, risk management for different building types, and more.

6. U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

As you might expect, USGBC has many resources for LEED Accredited Professionals to maintain their credentials, but you don't have to be a LEED AP to benefit from what they have to offer. There are several free courses that qualify for GBCI Continuing Ed hours. Their [continuing ed platform](#) features webinars that will introduce you to radon risks, the environmental performance of various building materials, accessibility concepts, and more.

7. GREEN PROVING GROUND

The General Services Administration (GSA) tests emerging technologies in federal buildings, then writes lengthy reports about it so facilities professionals can gain insider knowledge about how these technologies perform in real-world settings.

8. DISASTERSAFETY.ORG

Created by the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, DisasterSafety.org has short fact sheets and tips on how to protect businesses and buildings from all kinds of natural disasters. While you're there, be sure to check out [FORTIFIED](#), a standard to help buildings minimize the risk of storm damage and get back into operation more quickly after a weather event.

9. NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

NEMA has helpful [standards](#) for evaluating solid state lighting, lighting controls, and other electrical products. Their standards can help you get on the same page as vendors if you're looking at retrofitting lighting or other systems.

10. NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

NFPA isn't just a standards developer—it also has an interesting [training series](#) with topics that can be highly useful for facilities managers and building owners. Learn about how to comply with NFPA standards and keep your building safer at the same time.