

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

April 15, 2011

**Energy Recovery, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

001-34112  
(Commission  
File Number)

01-0616867  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

1717 Doolittle Dr., San Leandro, CA  
(Address of principal executive offices)

94577  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

510-483-7370

N/A

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.**

On April 12, 2011, Thomas D. Willardson informed Energy Recovery, Inc. that he will step down as Chief Financial Officer effective June 1, 2011 in order to pursue another opportunity.

The ERI Board of Directors has appointed Alexander J. Buehler, 35, to succeed Mr. Willardson as Chief Financial Officer. He will join the Company on May 23, 2011. Mr. Buehler has served with Insituform Technologies, Inc. in various senior management positions, including Vice President of Europe and Vice President of Marketing, Manufacturing and Technology, since June 2004.

As Chief Financial Officer of ERI, he will receive an annual base salary of \$300,000, standard company benefits and a sign-on bonus of \$100,000, which must be repaid on a pro-rata basis in the event he resigns from the Company within twenty four (24) months of his start date. He will also be eligible for an annual bonus in an amount up to 50% of his annual salary based on his achievement toward Company financial and/or other performance goals under the Company's executive bonus plan. On the first Wednesday of the month following his start date, he will receive options to purchase 400,000 shares of Company common stock, subject to the Company's standard four (4) year vesting schedule. He will also be named as a participant in the Company's Change of Control Plan, a copy of which is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. He will also be eligible for certain severance benefits if he is terminated without cause other than in connection with a Change in Control. He will enter into the Company's standard Indemnification Agreement, the form of which is also on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) Press Release

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**ENERGY RECOVERY, INC.**

(Registrant)

Date: **April 15, 2011**

**/s/ Carolyn F. Bostick**

Carolyn Bostick, VP/General Counsel

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## NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR ENERGY RECOVERY INC

*Alexander J. Buehler Joins ERI as Thomas Willardson Steps Down*

**SAN LEANDRO, Calif., April 15, 2011**—Energy Recovery, Inc. (NASDAQ: ERII), a leader in the design and development of energy recovery devices for desalination, today announced the departure of its chief financial officer, Thomas Willardson, effective May 23, 2011 and the appointment of Alexander Buehler as its new chief financial officer, effective the same day.

“Tom Willardson helped us achieve tremendous success during our IPO and we are appreciative of his valuable work throughout his time at ERI. We wish him the best in his new endeavor”, stated HP Michelet, ERI executive chairman.

Mr. Buehler is a highly analytical business executive with years of experience in corporate development and strategic planning as well as new product development, operations and manufacturing process optimization. He has substantial global water experience and was critical in a number of acquisitions into the oil & gas market. Mr. Buehler spent the last seven years at Insituform Technologies, Inc., a global, publicly traded (NASDAQ: INSU) company focused on the application of high-tech plastics to enhance water, mining and oil & gas infrastructure. While at Insituform, Alex held several strategic, executive level positions in the U.S and abroad.

“Alex is the ideal CFO for the next phase of Energy Recovery’s growth and diversification into new markets”, stated Tom Rooney, chief executive officer. “I believe Alex will help us achieve our goals of growing, driving profitability and diversifying into a number of new markets. I have had the pleasure of working with him in the past and highly appreciate his keen analytical mind and skills”, continued Rooney.

“As the leading energy recovery company in the water industry, I am excited to join ERI to help drive toward a path into other markets. ERI is the gold standard for energy efficiency in desalination”, stated Buehler. “The Company’s unique technology will help serve other industries and applications beyond water,” said Buehler. “I look forward to contributing to ERI’s success”, continued Buehler.

Mr. Buehler received his Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy, West Point and Master of Business Administration in Finance from the prestigious Wharton School.

### **About Energy Recovery Inc**

Energy Recovery, Inc. (NASDAQ:ERII) designs and develops energy recovery devices that help make desalination affordable by significantly reducing energy consumption. Energy Recovery technologies include the PX Pressure Exchanger™ (PX™) devices, the ERI™ TurboCharger hydraulic turbine energy recovery devices and the ERI™ AquaBold™ and ERI™ AquaSpire™ high pressure pumps for desalination applications. In total, Energy Recovery has more than 12,000 devices installed; reducing the carbon footprint of desalination by saving 1 GW of energy and offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 5.2 million tons per year. The company is headquartered in the San Francisco Bay Area with offices in Detroit and in key desalination centers worldwide, including Madrid, Shanghai, and the United Arab Emirates. For more information about Energy Recovery, Inc. please visit [www.energyrecovery.com](http://www.energyrecovery.com).

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