

NRECA Cybersecurity Resources for Cooperatives Updated Summary

NRECA has a variety of cybersecurity resources and engagement opportunities available for members to gain understanding of cyber threats to our industry and take steps to advance cybersecurity preparedness.

The following list provides a summary of resources currently available and the corresponding website links. Visit cooperative.com for more information and updates.

Overarching Efforts

NRECA Cybersecurity Program

The NRECA Cybersecurity Program provides a variety of measures aimed to help our members advance their cybersecurity posture. Initiated with NRECA's [Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities \(RC3\) Program](#), a former 3-year collaborative partnership between NRECA and the U.S. Department of Energy, we provide resources and actionable advice to our members to establish fundamental cybersecurity measures, educate staff and leadership, and collaborate on threat mitigation, detection, reporting and recovery. Together, we strive to protect cooperatives' organizations and the industry grid.

As noted in the following list of resources, some of NRECA cybersecurity efforts are conducted through [NRECA Research](#), a not-for-profit entity established in 2019 to complement the resources and services provided by NRECA to address the needs of electric cooperatives.

[NRECA Cybersecurity Special Report](#) –
featured first in November 2023 RE Magazine

Topic Websites on cooperative.com:

- [Cybersecurity Overview and Key NRECA Contacts Link](#)
- [Featured Cybersecurity Resources, Fact Sheets and News](#)

Contact our team at: membersecurity@nreca.coop

Federally Funded Projects

[Guardian – 617A](#)

A multi-faceted cybersecurity program funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law from the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER). NRECA will work with a co-op steering group to implement parallel efforts focused on establishing cybersecurity champions, self-assessment, and education and training. Guardian – 617A is a project through NRECA Research.

Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance (RMUC)

At the time of this Advisory, this effort is currently awaiting funding review and decision by the U.S. Department of Energy. It will have two distinct efforts: one focused on the NRECA Research Threat Analysis Center community (called the Trusted Industrial Control Cybersecurity Community – Threat Analysis Center, or TICCC-TAC), and another on training opportunities for co-op staff (called the Strategic Program for Advancing Rural Knowledge, or SPARK).

Tools and Guides

Co-op Cyber Goals Program

NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program defines specific cybersecurity goals aimed at helping co-ops work toward achieving high priority security measures and creating a benchmark for the implementation of basic cybersecurity fundamentals. It provides clear guidelines and resources for basic security integration and actionable steps to advance your cybersecurity posture.

Cybersecurity Self-Assessment

NRECA's RC3 Self-Assessment tool (available in online and hardcopy versions), help co-ops understand their cybersecurity posture. Results of the self-assessment can be used by the co-op to prioritize mitigation actions and develop a cybersecurity action plan for their organization.

Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Toolkit

The NRECA TTX Toolkit provides relevant cybersecurity incident scenarios with real world implications. There are three categories of scenarios designed to meet a broad range of cooperative skills.

- **[Toolkit Request Form](#)**

Communication Toolkits and Research

NRECA has conducted research and developed the following toolkits in consultation with its members and outside experts. In some cases, samples have been provided by cooperatives, and they are credited. Please use these materials as a starting point for developing your own plans and products.

- **[Co-op Cybersecurity Lexicon – A roadmap to communicating on cybersecurity](#)**

Reputation Management and Cybersecurity Crisis Communications: A Proactive Guide

Cybersecurity events are dominating news headlines with growing frequency. NRECA has a guide to help co-ops navigate these events. This is designed as a proactive tool to support electric co-ops as they work to implement effective communications and reputation management strategies.

RC3 Cybersecurity Guidebook Series

Like safety, cybersecurity is a concern for everyone at a cooperative. However, each job role in a co-op may have unique cybersecurity responsibilities. RC3 is developing a series of cybersecurity guidebooks to provide information pertinent to specific job roles within a cooperative.

- **[Guidebook for Electric Cooperative CEOs and General Managers](#)**
- **[Guidebook on Incident Response for Electric Cooperatives](#)**
- **[Guidebook for Electric Cooperative Board Members](#)**
- **[Guidebook for Electric Cooperative Attorneys](#)**
- **[Guidebook for Human Resources and Benefits Administration Professionals](#)**

Advisory: Managing Your MSP Vendor for Cybersecurity

This advisory reviews the role of Managed Service Providers and key issues cooperatives should consider when selecting and contracting with MSPs.

Along Those Lines Podcast: What Does an Electric Co-op Look Like to a Hacker?

Advisory Series: Cybersecurity Information Sharing

This series of Advisories explains cybersecurity information sharing – what it is, how it should be done, and why it is important. In addition, the various personal, organizational, and technological barriers cooperatives face regarding information sharing are discussed in-depth, along with key strategies to overcome them.

RE Magazine Infographic: Cybersecurity Threats and Defenses

Waves of new, connected system technologies bring enhanced capabilities to electric cooperatives, but also broader vulnerabilities. These threats are driving changes around what it means to build a “resilient” grid, involving key areas like IT/OT convergence, core business policies and procedures, governance and the burgeoning concept of Cyber-Informed Engineering. This infographic reviews various cyberthreats and defenses.

Secure Cybersecurity Community and Information Sharing Platform

The NRECA Research Threat Analysis Center (TAC)

TAC is a technology platform that enables a *community*, empowering the co-ops to focus on the cyber threats that matter, respond quickly with the necessary expertise, and engage with the broader intelligence community without sacrificing privacy. Co-ops are invited to sign-up now for the TAC 2024 Beta Test.

Engagement and Learning Opportunities

Cybersecurity Update Webinar Series

Join NRECA’s cybersecurity team for this free quarterly webinar series as they provide a high-level overview of the latest information related to cybersecurity risks, as well as current opportunities within our industry to advance your cooperative’s cybersecurity posture. Each session will also highlight specific NRECA cybersecurity offerings for members—with details on new opportunities and instruction on how interested members can participate.

Co-op Cyber Tech

This annual 3-day technical conference is for all NRECA members and supporting organizations with the goal of addressing cybersecurity in the cooperative space. Conference content specifically highlights co-op cyber and is designed to provide opportunities for peer-to-peer and industry-to-peer collaboration, skills development, and advancement.

ICS-REC: Industrial Control Systems for Rural Electric Cooperatives

In November 2022, NRECA was awarded \$15M from the Department of Energy (DOE) to help our member electric cooperatives expand their cyber monitoring capabilities of their industrial control facilities. With the award funds, NRECA is looking to partner with member co-ops to identify and deploy industrial control system monitoring technologies that will provide cyber visibility, detection and response capabilities for energy delivery systems.

Cyber Incident Response Plan Development Workshop

Need a cyber incident response plan but don’t know where to start? This free, hands-on, 4-hour workshop will cover various response plan standards that can help you get started. You will need to consider the

mission critical assets you have, what the threats are to those assets, and how to recover those assets when something goes wrong.

Infrastructure Resource Hub and Federal Funding – Cybersecurity Consortia

NRECA secured important wins for electric cooperatives in the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package. To support our members, NRECA established co-op consortia to maximize potential access to certain funding opportunities and build momentum behind co-op efforts.

- [Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series](#)
Monthly free webinars providing updates on federal and other funding opportunities.
- [Cyber and Physical Security Consortium](#)
 - [Cyber and Physical Security Webinars](#)

Cybersecurity Member Advisory Group (CSMAG)

The Cybersecurity work group is focused on investing in research and products that help co-ops: identify cybersecurity issues, protect data and systems, detect problems, respond to cyber incidents, and recover quickly. Our Member Advisory Group provides valuable input into the work group planning and activities.

Co-op Peer to Peer Learning

- **The Impact of a Cyber Incident on an Electric Cooperative**

Delta-Montrose Electric Association shares its experience with a ransomware attack in November 2021, including the impacts to their network and systems and valuable lessons learned.

- [Webinar: Available On Demand](#)
- [Along Those Lines Podcast](#) – featuring DMEA Chief Information Officer Bob Farmer and IT Manager Jay Suckey

Our Team

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Contacts for Questions

Reach our NRECA Cybersecurity Team at: membersecurity@nreca.coop

Inquiries specific to the Threat Analysis Center (TAC), please contact: tac@nreca.coop