

Technology Advisory

New Opportunities for Co-ops to Engage with CEATI

What has changed?

NRECA has been a member of CEATI international for years, representing cooperatives' interests and sharing the research and insights for the benefit of all NRECA members. This involvement has provided members access to leading-edge technology research that otherwise would have been cost-prohibitive for individual cooperatives.

Recently, NRECA and CEATI entered into an agreement to expand the opportunities for co-op representatives to be involved directly with CEATI research. This new arrangement will increase the benefits through our relationship with CEATI, by engaging more cooperatives directly in research and supporting peer-to-peer learning of technology innovation and best practices.

Who is CEATI?

CEATI international is the *Center for Energy Advancement for Technology Innovation* – a user driven, multi-national technology solutions exchange and development program that facilitates energy utility information exchange, informal benchmarking, and technology transfer opportunities.

CEATI facilitates the development of highly leveraged, collaborative research and development projects for utilities. The projects are initiated upon issues raised by participating organizations, which are typically short-term and result in practical deliverables that will impact day-to-day operations as well as strategic planning.

What is the impact on cooperatives?

In addition to NRECA staff, up to ten (10) NRECA Cooperative members¹ shall now be entitled to receive the benefits through NRECA's participation in each of the nine (9) relevant CEATI programs (see next page for programs). NRECA staff and approved co-ops may sponsor and monitor projects for the programs, and will receive the latest communications directly from CEATI.

The selected cooperatives will receive full CEATI portal access through their NRECA membership, as well as access to webinars and conference calls for the listed programs. CEATI shall work with NRECA to ensure maximum engagement from the co-ops.

¹ Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is not eligible for participation as one of the selected 10 cooperatives, as TVA is already a member of CEATI under a separate agreement.

Co-op volunteers will be expected to be active participants in the CEATI project creation and selection process. Co-op staff along with the NRECA liaison will be responsible for advocating for projects that represent the needs of electric co-ops and for ensuring that deliverables from CEATI benefit electric co-ops.

What do cooperatives need to know or do about it?

For each of the nine (9) CEATI Interest Groups, ten (10) co-ops will be selected to participate. This means that potentially a total of 90 cooperatives will be involved in this opportunity. Co-ops may request to be considered for participation in multiple Interest Groups. The relevant CEATI Interest Groups are listed below, along with the designated NRECA contacts:

CEATI Interest Group	NRECA Primary Representative	NRECA Secondary Representative
Distribution Line Asset Management (DLAM)	Robert Harris Robert.harris@nreca.coop	Thomas Gwinn Thomas.Gwinn@nreca.coop
Power Quality and Advanced Technologies (PQAT)	Tony Thomas Tony.Thomas@nreca.coop	Thomas Gwinn Thomas.Gwinn@nreca.coop
Station Equipment Asset Management (SEAM)	Thomas (TJ) Kirk Thomas.Kirk@nreca.coop	Tom Lovas Tom.Lovas-contractor@nreca.coop
Strategic Options for Integrating Emerging Technologies and Distributed Energy (SOIG)	Dan Walsh Daniel.Walsh@nreca.coop	Brian Sloboda Brian.Sloboda@nreca.coop
Thermal Generation (TG)	Dan Walsh Daniel.Walsh@nreca.coop	Dale Bradshaw Dale.Bradshaw-contractor@nreca.coop
Transmission Overhead Design & Extreme Event Mitigation (TODEM)	Patti Metro Patti.Metro@nreca.coop and Thomas (TJ) Kirk Thomas.Kirk@nreca.coop	Tom Lovas Tom.Lovas-contractor@nreca.coop
Vegetation Management Task Force (VM)	Thomas (TJ) Kirk Thomas.Kirk@nreca.coop	Tom Lovas Tom.Lovas-contractor@nreca.coop
Customer Energy Solutions (CESIG)	Brian Sloboda Brian.Sloboda@nreca.coop	Kaley Lockwood Kaley.Lockwood@nreca.coop
Infrastructure Protection & Secure (IPSIG)	Cynthia Hsu Cynthia.Hsu@nreca.coop	Tony Thomas Tony.Thomas@nreca.coop

To be considered for selection for this new NRECA membership benefit, interested cooperatives should contact the NRECA Primary Representative for the given CEATI Interest Group by October 1, 2017. Please put "CEATI Participation Request" in your email subject line.

The NRECA representatives for each of the CEATI programs, in coordination with NRECA member Advisors, will identify up to ten cooperatives for participation based on each individual co-op's needs and anticipated benefits from utilization of CEATI tools and resources. Any cooperative may be considered for selection, whether G&T or Distribution.

Responsibilities of the Participants:

The following are the expectations of co-op participants:

- *Active Involvement*

NRECA and CEATI are committed to supporting the selected cooperatives' involvement in the designated programs. However, it will also be the responsibility of the selected cooperatives to take initiative to participate and take full advantage of the benefits offered through this arrangement.

CEATI will provide periodic reports to NRECA indicating the activities of participating cooperatives. Any cooperative failing to demonstrate initiative in engaging with CEATI programs will be considered for termination in this agreement, so that another cooperative is given the opportunity.

- *Sharing Among Cooperatives*

Participants are also encouraged to share their experiences and gained knowledge with their NRECA member colleagues at their own cooperative and at others, to help extend the benefits from this arrangement to co-ops who are not directly involved.

- *Travel and Other Expenses*

Participants will be responsible for any travel or other expenses incurred during involvement in this opportunity.

Additional Opportunities

It is important to note that the group of participating co-ops may change over time, providing a larger number of co-ops to participate in the CEATI programs. Also, NRECA will continue its traditional involvement with the various CEATI programs, sharing the

information with our co-op Network as appropriate and useful, and representing members' interests in the research and forums.

At any time, any cooperative – whether or not participating in this new arrangement – may contact the NRECA Primary Representative for the CEATI interest Group with questions about CEATI research, reports, or projects.

Contact for Questions

Dan Walsh, Project Manager of the Generation, Environment, and Carbon work group:
Daniel.Walsh@nreca.coop

Thomas Kirk, Associate Analyst: Thomas.Kirk@nreca.coop

Tom Lovas, Technical Liaison – Transmission & Distribution and Distributed Energy Resources work groups: Tom.Lovas-contractor@nreca.coop