

Business &  
Technology  
Strategies

# TechUpdate

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**\*\*We apologize for the broken link in the Co-op Fuel Mix Advisory below. The link has been corrected.\*\***

## Smart Thermostats for Smart DR

Advancements in thermostat technology have introduced connected and smart thermostats into the broader consumer electronics market and led more utilities to consider using these technologies for DR programs. This new article details how electric cooperatives are using smart thermostats to provide cost-management options to individual members to increase their satisfaction and engagement, while also giving the cooperative tools to manage the operation of the distribution grid, defer distribution investment, avoid purchasing energy during high-cost periods, and reduce wholesale demand charges.

### [Article](#)

Contact for Questions: [Brian Sloboda](#)

## Finalists for XPRIZE CO<sub>2</sub> Challenge Announced

Ten finalists have been selected by the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE and each is taking home an equal share of a \$5 million milestone prize. This was revealed April 9 at the [Bloomberg New Energy Finance's Future of Energy Summit in New York City](#). The finalists are developing innovative technologies for converting CO<sub>2</sub> into useful products. Five who are focused on CO<sub>2</sub> from coal power plants will be testing at the Integrated Test Center at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Plant in Gillette, WY; and five who are focused on CO<sub>2</sub> from natural gas fired power plants will be testing in Alberta, Canada. This new advisory details the selected finalists and their areas of research.

### [Advisory](#)

Contact for Questions: [Dan Walsh](#)

## **CORRECTED:** Update on Co-op Fuel Mix

Ongoing NRECA research has highlighted how changes in market fundamentals, primarily historically low natural gas prices and declining costs for wind and solar, have prompted transition of the national fuel mix

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- [EnergySec CyberSecurity Education Week](#) – April 23-27, Phoenix, AZ (NRECA members discount rate of \$2,500 instead of \$3,495 with **CODE 30RC3**)
- [Safety Leadership Summit](#) – April 25-27, Atlanta, GA
- [AREGC Conference](#) – June 24-27, Lanier Islands, GA
- [CONNECT '18](#) – May 8-10, Salt Lake City, UT
- [Electrification 2018](#) – August 20-23, Long Beach, CA

BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY  
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RURAL COOPERATIVE  
CYBER SECURITY  
CAPABILITIES PROGRAM

away from coal and towards natural gas and renewables. This new advisory reviews how these forces have led to significant shifts in both the generation and retail fuel mix of America's Electric Cooperatives.

**Advisory**

Contact for Questions: [Michael Leitman](#)

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**Safety Gear Through the Ages**

Safety has always been a key concern for cooperatives, and continual efforts have been made to ensure line gear provides both functionality and protection. Ever wonder how today's technologies developed over the years? RE Magazine's April cover story, "Safety Illustrated," walks you through the evolution of various tools and devices used to keep workers safe.

**Article**

Contact for Questions: [Scot Hoffman](#)

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**How Tax Code Updates and Solar Tariffs Affect Co-ops**

Recent tax code changes and solar tariffs are affecting the renewable generation market. This new advisory explains how the extension of the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), the elimination of New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (nCREBS), the expansion of bonus depreciation, and the imposition of solar tariffs will impact the costs of cooperative solar development.

**Advisory**

Contact for Questions: [Jan Ahlen](#)

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**Seeking Co-op Examples of Cost Savings and Operational Efficiencies Achieved with MultiSpeak®**

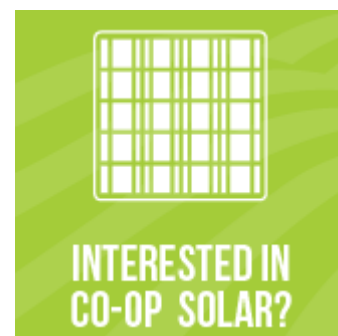
Distribution optimization is a key role of America's Electric Cooperatives that relies on seamless, cyber secure, cost-effective, and reliable data interoperability. NRECA's MultiSpeak® case study series provides insights into how co-ops are using this world leading software interoperability standard to achieve effective system integration and real savings. As detailed in this new advisory, NRECA is looking for additional co-op MultiSpeak case studies, and we welcome interested cooperatives to contact Aleeta Harrington at [Aleeta.Harrington@nreca.coop](mailto:Aleeta.Harrington@nreca.coop).

**Advisory: Seeking MultiSpeak Case Studies MultiSpeak Case Study Series**

Contacts for Questions: [Alvin Razon](#) and [Aleeta Harrington](#)



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