

Business & Technology Update



Thursday, July 26, 2018 | coop.com | [BTS Website](#) | [Contact](#) | [Web Version](#) |

Solar Revolution in Rural America

With grant funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, NRECA worked with cooperatives to develop models and resources for cooperatives interested in developing solar energy. The Solar Utility Network Deployment Acceleration (SUNDA) became an impactful catalyst for rapid acceleration of solar development by America's electric cooperatives. This new [report](#) details how electric co-ops today own or purchase more than nine times as much solar energy as they did in 2013.

- [Report](#)
- [The Story of Co-op Solar in Nine Graphics](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Deb Roepke](#)

NineStar's Broadband Initiative

There is a demand in unserved and underserved locations for broadband services, which are essential to community development, economic growth and prosperity, and educational attainment. Co-ops are taking a lead in meeting this need with projects to install broadband to benefit their member-consumers. The newest in our [NRECA case study series](#) highlights the initiatives of NineStar Connect.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#)

EPA Approves New Halogen Test Method

The EPA has just approved a new test method for measuring emissions of HCL in coal-fired power plant flue gas to ensure compliance with the EPA MATS regulations. This new advisory reviews how using the newly approved OTM-40 approach will result in a reduction in costs and the time needed to measure emissions of HCL.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Dan Walsh](#) or [Dale Bradshaw](#)

The Impact of Cryptocurrency Mining

The types of cryptocurrency have expanded since Bitcoin's debut in 2009 to now more than 4,000 types. With this market development has evolved a new business of cryptocurrency mining – the use of complex algorithms to solve equations that verify and encrypt transactions. This new advisory explains this

Upcoming Events

- [Electrification 2018](#) – August 20-23, Long Beach, CA
- [G&T Resource Planning Association Conference](#) – October 1-2, Savannah, GA
- [RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Course](#) – November 13-14, Sandia National Laboratory, Albuquerque, NM (**Save the Date; Registration to open in August**)

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RURAL COOPERATIVE CYBER SECURITY CAPABILITIES PROGRAM

new market and how its energy-intensive nature is affecting cooperatives. A recent RE Magazine article provides further explanation of the related concept of blockchain.

- [Advisory](#)
- [RE Magazine Article on Blockchain](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Allison Hamilton](#)

Golden Spread Uses Strategic Sourcing to Meet IT Needs

The ongoing evolution of co-op business model to consumer-centric poses a key challenge in achieving the most efficient outcome for consumer members while concurrently rewarding and motivating a highly skilled and committed workforce. This involves identifying practical utility-side and end-use solutions, including shared services and other resource strategies. A new case study in our series about Strategic Sourcing highlights the efforts of Golden Spread in launching its “IT Community” for a collaborative, member-driven approach to technology and service needs.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#) or [Lauren Khair](#)

Outlook Update on Electric Industry Generation, Capacity and Markets

Ongoing industry trends of low natural gas prices and increasing renewables are putting increased pressure on coal and nuclear resources that have traditionally provided baseload power, as well as on existing infrastructure to provide additional flexibility in dealing with this altered landscape. NRECA's updated report presents high-level analyses and projections of electricity generation, capacity, transmission, and markets to provide a summary of the current state of the industry and where it may be headed, from both a national view and from the perspective of electric cooperatives.

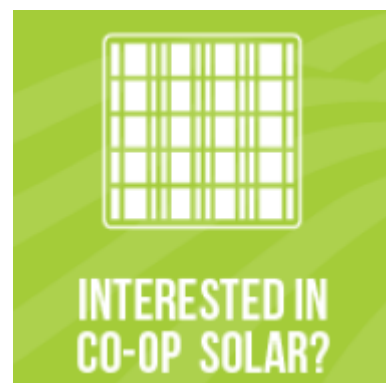
- [Advisory](#)
- [Full Report](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Michael Leitman](#)

Wind and Solar Integration Group Transitions to Address Energy Systems Integration

Since the start of the Utility Variable-Generation Integration Group (UVIG) in 1989, it has adapted as the industry has evolved from an initial focus on the analysis of wind for utility applications to impacts of increased solar and other distributed generation to now other energy sources, such as battery systems. This new advisory reviews the evolution of this organization, and how UVIG is now changing its name to the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) to keep up with industry changes.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Thomas Gwinn](#)

Battery Energy Storage Assessment - Cooperative Viewpoint



Battery energy storage can be used for a variety of applications and provide various benefits to the co-ops, consumers, and other industry stakeholders. This new report by NRECA, in conjunction with CFC, CoBank, and NRTC, reviews two principal technologies that are the leading battery energy storage deployment - lithium-ion and flow batteries - and provides co-op case studies on battery energy storage application.

- [Report](#)
 - Contact for Questions: [Jan Ahlen](#)
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Distribution Reliability Benchmarking Tool

Join over 100 cooperatives who are using an online web app to calculate SAIDI automatically and accurately without using other complicated and expensive methods. The Reliability Benchmarking Group web app can track and analyze the outage data, benchmark cooperatives with each other nationwide, and provide real-time data through special tools in the program. Find out more and sign-up on cooperative.com.

- [More Information and Sign-up](#)
 - Contact for Questions: [Tony Thomas](#)
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Rethinking Passwords

The increasing reliance on data-based knowledge and information driven technology has led to exponential growth in the amount of data created in our daily transactions. One of the easiest ways to secure data is with the use of a password. This advisory reviews different approaches to creating and storing passwords, to protect personal and organization data.

- [Advisory](#)
 - Contact for Questions: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)
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Electric Trucking Approaches Reality

Electric trucking has the potential to have significant impact for electric cooperatives. Daimler and Tesla have recently announced all electric trucks for late 2018 and 2019, respectively. This advisory reviews these developments as electric trucking becomes closer to reality.

- [Advisory](#)
 - Contact for Questions: [Brian Sloboda](#)
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Energy Management Systems Offer Many Benefits

Energy Management Systems (EMS) bundle sensors, controllers, and energy-consuming equipment under the control of a central operating system. These systems not only reduce overall energy expenditures and peak demand charges, but are also powerful tools to help co-op members track corporate carbon and climate goals, and to achieve ISO 50001 certification. This new TechSurveillance article details several easy exercises that an account executive or other co-op staffer can go through with a member to make sure a EMS is operating effectively.

- [Article](#)
 - Contact for Questions: [Brian Sloboda](#)
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Co-ops Increase investment in System Maintenance to Promote Reliability

An analysis of the most recent data by NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies team shows that co-ops are making significant investments in system reliability to meet the demands of their consumers for affordable and reliable electricity. Over a 5-year period examined, the annual rate of growth in reliability spending was nearly 3 percent, while the rate of inflation was around 1 percent. This new advisory reviews these research findings about co-ops' commitment to protecting critical infrastructure.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Madelyn Roche](#)

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.

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