

Business & Technology Update



Friday, February 21, 2020 | [coop.com](#) | [BTS Website](#) | [Archive](#) | [Web Version](#) |

TechAdvantage® is almost here! Attend the pre-conference workshops and breakout sessions to learn about a variety of NRECA's business and technology research and resources for cooperatives – and come talk with our team at the NRECA booth in the Expo. We hope to see you March 1-4 in New Orleans!

Visit The Lab in the TechAdvantage Expo for Innovative Technologies

The Lab within the Expo of TechAdvantage® will be a demonstration of **the electric cooperative of the future**. Come visit for a sneak peek into a wide variety of the data-driven, efficient, forward-thinking technologies that can fundamentally change how we work and deliver power to our members. Participate in an AR/VR experience with Jo-Carroll Energy and learn how they are bringing substations into the office with virtual reality... learn about *GridState* technology being tested at Wake EMC for detecting and responding to cyber-attacks... and much more!

- [The Lab's Electric Cooperative of the Future Details](#)
- Contacts: [Mary Ackleson](#) and [Eric Commodore](#)

Public Comments for NESC Proposed Changes Due March 2

The National Electric Safety Code is currently being updated. The Preprint was issued last year for review, and public comments are **due by March 2, 2020**. This advisory reviews the process for submitting comments, and provides information on included Change Proposals (CPs) pertinent to cooperatives.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Robert Harris](#)

Opportunities for Co-ops to Be Involved with NRECA in DOE-Funded Projects

Come to TechAdvantage® to hear about a number of NRECA projects funded or supported by DOE, and how you can be involved:

Upcoming Events

- [NRECA Annual Meeting](#)
February 27-March 4, New Orleans, LA
- [2020 TechAdvantage® Experience](#)
March 1-4, New Orleans, LA
- [Electrification 2020 International Conference & Exposition](#)
April 6-9, Charlotte, NC
- [2020 Safety Leadership Summit](#)
April 15-17, Orlando, FL
- [EnergySec Education Week](#)
April 27-May 1, Knoxville, TN



Small Hydropower

Sunday, March 1st from 1 to 5 p.m.

NRECA and PNNL will discuss opportunities and challenges for hydropower and hydropower related assets. Co-op input will inform future DOE projects.

Contacts: [Jan Ahlen](#) or [Allison Hamilton](#)

Distributed Wind in Rural America

Tuesday, March 3 at 8 a.m.

NRECA is looking for cooperatives to be on an advisory group to help evaluate the current state of the wind generation market and develop resources to assist cooperatives with future wind projects.

Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

Cyber Resilience Testing for Operations Technology

Tuesday, March 3 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

NRECA, along with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, ABB, and Argonne National Laboratory, are looking for cooperatives to help develop a tool that can verify that appropriate cybersecurity measures are taken in energy delivery system equipment and devices.

Contact: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

Webinar Series: Mitigating Bird Issues with Electric Infrastructure

With nationwide declines of avian species and potential changes to federal regulations, continued and increased scrutiny of electric industry impacts to birds is expected. Join us for a webinar series on March 10, 17 and 24 at 2-3pm EST to hear about emerging avian issues and the new NRECA *Avian Protection Toolkit*. **Webinar attendance is free for members.**

- [Webinar Information and Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Patti Metro](#) and [Janelle Lemen](#)

How Co-ops Are Using Data Analytics

The application of analytics – turning raw data into actionable programs – can empower decision-making in co-op system operations and planning. This report is the first of a two-part series presenting use cases and case studies demonstrating lessons learned in a variety of cooperative applications. Come hear more at TechAdvantage.

- [Report](#)
- [Related TechAdvantage Session: *Industrial Applications of Machine Learning*](#)
- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#) and [David Pinney](#)

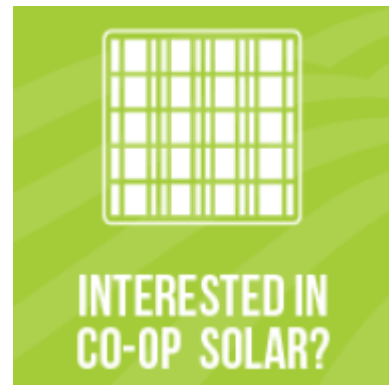
Beneficial Electrification with Space



Heating and Water Heating

The opportunities for co-ops to improve load profiles, save member-consumers' money and build load through electrification of heating and water heating — the two largest sources of household energy demand — have improved significantly over the last decade. This new report, issued jointly with the [Beneficial Electrification League \(BEL\)](#), reviews how air-source heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and grid-interactive water heaters are offering beneficial electrification opportunities for cooperatives and their members. Learn more about the BEL in a related new *RE Magazine* article.

- [Report](#)
- [RE Magazine Article: *Beneficial Electrification Group: 'A League of Their Own'*](#)
- [Contacts: Keith Dennis and Maria Kanevsky](#)



Updated Summary of Broadband Case Studies Now Available

NRECA has released an updated and revised edition of the 2019 report, *"Electric Cooperatives Bring High-Speed Communications to Underserved Areas."* The new report summarizes the original 2018 case studies, with updated information, plus another eight case studies completed by NRECA in 2019.

- [Report](#)
- [Contact: Paul Breakman](#)

MCEC's New Rate Structure to Provide Consumers Greater Usage Control

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative (MCEC) initiated a new, three-part rate, recognizing that energy usage by some consumers in low-income areas is disproportionately high. This new rate enables the co-op's consumer-members to exert greater control over their bill by taking modest actions to reduce on-peak usage. Read about their efforts in this new case study, part of NRECA's *Advancing Energy Access for All* initiative.

- [Case Study: MCEC](#)
- [Advancing Energy Access for All Website](#)
- [Join the Community](#) for Discussions on Energy Access
- [Contacts: Adaora Ifebigh and Allison Hamilton](#)

Space Heating Pilot with Mountain Parks Electric Cooperative

After a decade of declining or stagnant electricity sales, Mountain Parks

Electric, Inc. (MPE) is exploring electric space heating technologies that could increase electricity sales while decreasing members' space heating costs. Read about a pilot of ductless cold climate air source heat pumps to test their performance in cold conditions, their cost effectiveness relative to using propane as heating fuel, and their potential to increase MPE's electricity sales.

- [Report](#)
- Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

Statewides Support Commitment to Zero Contacts Campaign

Since launching *Commitment to Zero Contacts* at the NRECA Safety Leadership Summit in April 2018, more than 570 managers of electric co-ops and public power districts have formally endorsed the program, and many statewide associations have made it a major focus of their safety education work. Learn more in this new article:

- [Article](#)
- [Commitment to Zero Contacts Toolkit](#)
- [2020 Safety Leadership Summit: April 15-17](#)
- Contact: [Bud Branham](#)

Webinar On Demand: Utility Model Development with the Open Modeling Framework

Recently, NRECA's David Pinney presented a UI-ASSIST Special Webinar about NRECA's open source framework for power system modeling. Used by a number of universities, national labs, and utilities, OMF.coop provides a toolbox for developing new models and making them easy for end users to operate. Access this webinar On Demand to learn about OMF and how to get started building and deploying new models on the framework.

- [Webinar](#)
- Contact: [David Pinney](#)

CEATI Membership Brings Value to Cooperatives

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. In addition, through an agreement between NRECA and CEATI, cooperative representatives can be directly involved in CEATI research. Find out more in this advisory:

- [Advisory](#)

- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

DID YOU MISS ANY OF OUR RECENT NEWSLETTERS?

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Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
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