

## Impact of COVID-19 on Co-ops

NRECA has recently completed several analyses on the impact of COVID-19 on electric cooperatives, including economic, job sectors, and broadband. Below are links for further details, including our Special Edition newsletter issued last week.

- **Financial Impact Report**
  - Contact: [Russell Tucker and Joe Goodenbery](#)
- **At Risk Job Sectors Report**
  - Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)
- **The Criticality of Broadband**
  - Contact: [Paul Breakman](#)
- **NRECA COVID-19 Hub**
- **Special Edition:** [Business and Technology Update](#)

## Newly Updated: Battery Energy Storage Overview Report

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) can be used for a variety of applications to provide benefits to electric cooperatives and their consumer-members. NRECA, along with CFC, CoBank, and NRTC, recently updated our *Battery Energy Storage Overview* report to reflect the latest developments with two principal technologies leading battery energy storage deployment – lithium-ion and flow batteries – and to provide case studies of cooperative energy storage initiatives.

- **Report**
- Contact: [Jan Ahlen](#)

## Opportunity for Co-ops to Respond to DOE RFI for Connected Communities

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Building Technology Office (BTO) has issued a Request for Information (RFI), to gather information for the development of a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for an intended \$42 million investment into "connected communities." These communities are defined as "a group of grid-interactive efficient buildings (GEBs) with diverse, flexible end use equipment that collectively work to maximize building and grid efficiency without compromising occupant needs and comfort." **Deadline for submitting comments for the RFI is May 12.**

- **More information**
- Contacts: [Brian Sloboda](#) and [Allison Hamilton](#)

## Hydro Webinar Offered by DOE – May 12

On May 12, the DOE Water Power Technologies Office is conducting their **Semiannual Stakeholder Webinar** for water power science and research stakeholders, led by WPTO Director Alejandro Moreno. DOE representatives will highlight recent announcements and publications, share project updates, and discuss upcoming priorities. They will also discuss COVID-19 impacts to events and DOE funded work. NRECA members are welcome to attend and may email questions for a Q&A part to the webinar to: [WaterPowerTechnologiesOffice@ee.doe.gov](mailto:WaterPowerTechnologiesOffice@ee.doe.gov). In a related effort, NRECA is currently researching the small hydro market for electric cooperatives through funding from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and support from the DOE, and will be releasing a report by this summer.

- **Registration**
- NRECA Contact: [Jan Ahlen](#)

## 2021 TechAdvantage® Call for Presentations – Deadline Today

TechAdvantage® 2021 invites you to submit a proposal for presentation during the Conference, which will be held at the San Diego Convention Center, February 21–24, 2021. The deadline to submit your proposal is **today by 5:00 p.m. EST**. This is an unparalleled opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise with key electric cooperative CEOs and professionals in engineering, operations, IT, supply management and energy services.

- **Website**
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

## RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment – Application Deadline May 15

NRECA worked with Axio Global, Inc. to develop an online version of the RC3 Cybersecurity Self-Assessment, providing enhanced features not feasible in the hardcopy version. Co-ops can now apply as a group to receive a free, multi-year group license to access this new online version. **Deadline for application is Friday, May 15.** This Self-Assessment can be used virtually and does not require staff to assemble in the same location. Learn more about how to use the online version in an upcoming free webinar on May 20.

- **Advisory with More Details and Link to Application**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- **Webinar: How to Use the Online RC3 Self-Assessment**
- Contact: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

## Preparing to Plug In Your Municipal Electric Transit Bus Fleet

The electrification of transit buses has been one of the most successful electric vehicle opportunities in the commercial sector. NRECA has partnered with the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), American Public Power Association (APPA) and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to create a common document that the entire industry can reference as transit bus fleets begin to electrify, *Preparing to Plug in Your Bus Fleets – 10 Things to Consider*. This advisory provides an overview:

- **Advisory**
- Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

## 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 second of a two-part series presenting use cases and case studies demonstrating lessons learned in a variety of cooperative applications.

- [Report](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Contacts: Adaora Ifebigh and David Pinney](#)

## Co-op Technology Survey Results Highlighted in RE Magazine

The 2019 NRECA Co-op Technology Survey asked co-ops to indicate whether they have deployed, have outsourced, or are considering implementing 29 diverse systems, ranging from AML to electric vehicle incentives to artificial intelligence/machine learning. The survey strives to reflect the current state of technology policies and practices at cooperatives around the country. A new *RE Magazine* article looks at the answers received from nearly 200 participating co-ops, and the executive summary of the survey results is available to all NRECA member cooperatives through our website, [cooperative.com](http://cooperative.com):

- [RE Magazine Article: \*The Electric Co-op Technology Landscape is Expanding, Study Finds\*](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Contacts: Mike Sassman and Adaora Ifebigh](#)

## EIA No Longer Considers Prepay Programs As Energy Efficiency

Electric co-ops should be aware that EIA has decided that they will not be considering electricity pre-pay programs as energy efficiency programs in the EIA-861 Form, Schedule 6. The basis for this decision is their view that energy efficiency programs need to maintain the same quality of service to customers, and without further research into the actions and decisions that households take to reduce consumption under pre-pay programs, it is unknown whether they lead to deprivation. For questions, please contact NRECA:

- [Contact: Lauren Khair](#)

## Tools to Help Members Manage Energy Expenses

Electric co-ops pioneered the use of prepaid metering, proactive bill notifications and energy assistance programs to help consumer-members budget their energy expenses. Programs like these can help consumer-members manage their electricity bills during these extraordinary times. Find out more in this advisory:

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

## Business and Technology Resources to Use Virtually During This Time of Physical Distancing

NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies group has a wealth of resources for cooperatives to access online and use virtually with staff during this time of physical distancing, including reports, guides, articles, advisories, webinars, podcasts, and toolkits. We are here to help you stay engaged and advance your business and technology expertise. Find out more in this advisory and we welcome you to contact our team:

- [Advisory](#)
- [Business and Technology Strategies Website](#)

- [Team of Subject Matter Experts](#)

## WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

- [DOE Water Power Technologies Office Semiannual Stakeholder Webinar](#)  
May 12
- [How to Use the Online RC3 Cybersecurity Self-Assessment](#)  
May 20
- [Impacts of Postponing or Canceling Annual Meetings and Director Elections due to COVID-19](#)  
On Demand
- [Integrated Vegetation Management \(IVM\)](#)  
On Demand
- [Series: Mitigating Bird Issues](#)  
On Demand

See past issues of *Business and Technology Update* in our [archive on cooperative.com](#).

**Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.**

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