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Financial Impact of COVID-19 and Pathways for Relief

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented reductions in economic activity for individuals and businesses across the country. Electric utilities, including co-ops, are facing loss of load, unemployment, and fast-rising rates of nonpayment, leading to significant reductions in revenue. In addition, co-ops are experiencing increased expenses, including costs related to personal protective equipment (PPE), medical supplies, technology for remote work, additional cleaning services and increased interest expenses. This advisory reviews the financial impact of COVID-19 on electric cooperatives and offers some pathways for economic recovery.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Allison Hamilton](#)

Consumer Segmentation for Beneficial Electrification

With a growing industry focus on beneficial electrification, it is important to understand which groups of consumer-members may be interested, and how to tailor communications to the nuances of various consumer segments. This advisory reviews insights from a recent report sponsored in part by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives titled "Beneficial Electrification: The Voice of the Consumer" by the [Smart Energy Consumers Collaborative \(SECC\)](#). This report recaps the findings of a Maru/Matchbox survey of 1,200 consumers on topics related to beneficial electrification.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts: [Maria Kanevsky](#), [Jason McGrade](#), and [Mike Sassman](#)

New Webinar Series – *The Future Of...*

Join us for our new webinar series "The Future Of..." and hear from industry experts about technology, market advances and new services that are and will continue to shape the business of electric cooperatives. Our next two topics will explore the implications of battery energy storage on **June 30 at 2 p.m. EST**, and the future of grid analytics on **July 7 at 2 p.m. EST**. These webinars are **free to NRECA members**.

- [Registration and More Information](#)
- Contact: [Robbin Christianson](#)

Webinar with DOE's Wind Energy Technologies Office – July 9

Wind is now the #1 source of renewable electric power in the U.S. and has spurred economic and environmental benefits across the country. NRECA is hosting a webinar with DOE's Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) on **July 9 at 1:00 pm EST** to provide members with the opportunity to engage with the WETO to discuss members' perspectives on wind research and development, and future challenges and opportunities in supporting wind development. To register, please see the following advisory, click on the included Outlook Invitation and "Accept" the invitation.

- [Advisory and Invitation Link to Webinar](#)
- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Webinar Series – Final Session July 14

More than 450 of NRECA's member cooperatives are participating in the RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment program to learn about their current cybersecurity posture and make action plans for further improvements. We are offering a series of **five free webinars** to help cooperatives complete the five sections of the RC3 Self-Assessment, and hear lessons learned from cooperatives using the Self-Assessment. **The Self-Assessment can be used virtually and does not require staff to assemble in the same location.**

- [On Demand: How to Use NRECA's Online Self-Assessment](#)
- [On Demand: Overview, Lessons Learned, and Section 1 – Identify \(Part 1\)](#)
- [On Demand: Section 1 – Identify \(Part 2\)](#)
- [On Demand: June 23, 2-3:30pm ET – Section 2 – Protect](#)
- [Register: July 14, 2-3:30pm ET – Sections 3, 4 and 5 – Detect, Respond, Recover](#)

- [RC3 Self-Assessment Website](#)
- [Contacts: Cynthia Hsu and Valerie Sayd](#)

Maintenance and Repair Strategies for Pressure Parts

This *Surveillance* article is the second of a three-part series that reviews guidelines on pressure parts maintenance, developed by experts with knowledge and experience in onsite non-destructive examination (NDE) techniques, including the development and use of newer and more advanced techniques. Based on the CEATI Thermal Generation Interest Group's report *Best Practice Guidelines for the Management of Pressure Parts in Power Plants*, this article discusses a staged approach to component integrity and maintenance and repair issues and strategies, including risk-based maintenance, risk and reliability management, and reliability control maintenance, and summarizes the pressure parts management program for each critical component system.

- [Article: Maintenance and Repair Strategies, Component Integrity Analysis](#)
- [Full Article Series](#)
- [Contact: Dan Walsh](#)

Small Hydropower Report Highlights Opportunities Through Collaboration

Currently, small hydropower may be an untapped resource in rural America. Beyond traditional deployments, there are substantial opportunities to integrate hydropower with other cooperative and community assets. This report, based on discussions at two NRECA events with electric cooperative leaders, explores the substantial opportunities for electric cooperatives, irrigation districts, municipal water systems, developers, and other rural stakeholders to derive value from small hydropower, and how barriers can be overcome with successful collaboration.

- [Report](#)
- [Contacts: Jan Ahlen and Allison Hamilton](#)

IEEE Standard 1547.1-2020 for Testing DER Interconnections Now Approved

IEEE 1547.1-2020, the Standard Conformance Test Procedures for Equipment Interconnecting Distributed Energy Resources with Electric Power Systems and Associated Interfaces, has now been approved. It is a companion standard to the base standard of IEEE 1547-2018 regarding how systems need to be set up and perform and tells how to test and verify that the systems are performing as expected. Details and considerations for cooperatives are provided in this new advisory:

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

Now Available: NRECA's 2019 Annual Report

In 2019, NRECA partnered with members to resolve major policy issues like the passage of the RURAL Act and provided solutions to specific challenges such as engaging younger consumer-members. [Download a copy](#) for a quick but comprehensive look at the strength demonstrated by America's electric cooperatives as a network—and the tremendous impact made possible by our collaborative efforts.

Contact: [Alyson Craig](#)

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

- **The "Future Of" Series: Technology, Trends and What it Means for Your Cooperative**
 - June 30 at 2 p.m. EST – Battery Energy Storage
 - July 7 at 2 p.m. EST – Future of Grid Analytics
- **Wind Technology with DOE WETO**
 - July 9 at 1 p.m. EST
- **RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program**
 - **On Demand: How to Use NRECA's Online Self-Assessment**
 - **On Demand: Overview, Lessons Learned, and Section 1 – Identify (Part 1)**
 - **On Demand: Section 1 – Identify (Part 2)**
 - **On Demand: June 23, 2-3:30pm ET – Section 2 – Protect**
 - **Register: July 14, 2-3:30pm ET – Sections 3, 4 and 5 – Detect, Respond, Recover**
- **[Impacts of COVID-19 on Renewable Energy and Storage Development](#)**
On Demand
- **Impacts of Postponing or Canceling Annual Meetings and Director Elections due to COVID-1**
On Demand
- **Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)**
On Demand
- **Series: Mitigating Bird Issues**
On Demand

Additional Resources Regarding the 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:

- **Financial Impact Report**
Contact: [Russell Tucker](#) and [Joe Goodenberg](#)
- **At Risk Job Sectors Report**
Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)
- **Impacts on Generation and Transmission Cooperatives**
Contacts: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Michael Leitman](#)
- **Impacts on Electricity Industry Sectors**
Contacts: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Michael Leitman](#)
- **Tools to Help Manage Energy Expenses**
Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

- **The Criticality of Broadband**
Contact: [Paul Breakman](#)
- **Business and Technology Resources to Use Virtually**
- **NRECA COVID-19 Hub**
- **Special Edition: Business and Technology Update**

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

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203 | Tel: (703) 907-5500 | E-mail: nreca@nreca.coop

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