

Paycheck Protection Program: Loan Forgiveness During COVID-19

A significant number of electric cooperatives leveraged the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for important short-term assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of these loans can be forgiven, provided certain conditions, documentation and deadlines are met. This advisory provides resources and guidance for cooperatives in applying for loan forgiveness.

- **Advisory**
- **Contacts:**
 - [Joe Goodenbery](#) and [Allison Hamilton](#) (Business and Technology Strategies)
 - [Russ Wasson](#) (Tax & Finance)
 - [Bobby Hamill](#) (Legislative)

Benefits Offered Through Microgrids with Energy Storage

Microgrids have the potential to help utilities and their customers by mitigating long-term outages from extreme weather events, providing grid services, and improving reliability. Improved performance and decreasing costs for distributed energy technologies have resulted in increased microgrid deployments, many of which are beginning to incorporate energy storage. This article, the first of a three-part series based on the CEATI report: *Integration and Coordination of Energy Storage within Microgrids*, looks at how microgrids with energy storage are currently being used and may be most effective for the future.

- **Article**
- **Contacts:** [Dan Walsh](#) and [Jan Ahlen](#)

Co-ops Are Gaining Cybersecurity Insights with the RC3 Online Self-Assessment

More than 480 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. **The next and final round for applications to participate opens August 31.** Learn more on our RC3 website, including webinars with insights from participants, and return to the website August 31 for the link to the participation application. **The Self-Assessment can be used virtually and does not require staff to assemble in the same location.**

- **RC3 Self-Assessment Website**
- **Instructional Webinar Series - On Demand**
- **Contacts:** [Cynthia Hsu](#) and [Valerie Sayd](#)

Finding Successful Broadband Approaches Through Partnerships

Models for deploying broadband can take many shapes and sizes. For co-ops trying to meet their member-consumers' network needs, it can be challenging to determine the best approach. Many co-ops have found the solution through partnerships. This new *RE Magazine* article showcases some of the partnerships co-ops around the country have established to successfully implement broadband for their members. In addition, our new webinar explains how broadband has become an essential service.

- [Article](#)
- [Broadband Webinar](#)
- Contact: [Paul Breakman](#)

NRECA Collaborates with NUARI for a Virtual Cybersecurity Exercise

NRECA will be hosting a National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) event this fall in collaboration with [NUARI](#), a non-profit organization that focuses on critical national security issues. Using funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, NUARI creates virtual tabletop exercises that simulate cyber-attacks and enable organizations to test their incident response plans. NRECA's RC3 Program team is working with the NUARI team to develop and offer an online cybersecurity exercise tailored to our co-op members. **Tentative date: October 29.** More information to come.

- [RC3 Website](#)
- Contact: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

How Power Poles Are Now Supporting Other Technologies

New technologies are increasingly relying on co-op power poles for implementation, such as 5G, the latest generation of wireless service, which promises speeds 10 times faster than current 4G cellular. The industry estimates there could be up to 300,000 small cell installations nationwide in just the next few years, many ending up on utility poles. This poses several challenges for co-ops. This new *RE Magazine* article provides some insights on this issue, and this [draft Guide for Joint Use](#) provides guidance for co-op consideration.

- [RE Magazine article](#)
- [Advisory on Draft Guide for Joint Use](#)
- Contact: [Robert Harris](#)

Insights about Mobile Substations

More robust and compact designs of higher-capacity mobile substation equipment are presenting new opportunities for applications. Our recent article series based on CEATI Station Equipment Program's *State-of-the-Art Review of Mobile Substations*, discusses standards, shares insights from literature search, vendor surveys and user experience, and presents technical specification guidelines for mobile substations.

- [Mobile Substations Article Series](#)
- Contact: [Patti Metro](#)

A New Energy Resource Model Initiative

The fuel mix for electric generating units is significantly and rapidly changing, incorporating more renewable generation, both utility-scale and behind-the-meter. This, in turn, is affecting how consumers interact with the

generation resources, such as electric vehicles and smart meters, and consumers' relationship with their utility, including innovative rate structures. NRECA's new case study series explores the impact of these changes on the relationship between wholesale power suppliers and their distribution members, as they adapt to this new industry model and manage associated business disruption challenges. Read our first case study highlighting the collaboration between a G&T cooperative and its members as they achieve long-term, strategic goals.

- **Case Study: North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives**
- Contact: [Paul Breakman](#)

DOE Wind Energy Webinar Available On Demand

NRECA recently hosted a webinar with DOE's Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) 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. This webinar is now available On Demand.

- **Webinar**
- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

- **Broadband as an Essential Service**
On Demand
- **DOE Wind Technology Webinar**
On Demand
- **"Future Of..." Series**
On Demand
- **RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program Instruction Series**
On Demand
- **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-19**
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:

- **Paycheck Protection Program: Loan Forgiveness**
Contacts: [Allison Hamilton](#) and [Joe Goodenbery](#)

- **Financial Impact Report**
Contacts: Russell Tucker and Joe Goodenbery
- **Financial Impact and Pathways to Relief**
Contact: Allison Hamilton
- **At Risk Job Sectors Report**
Contact: Michael Leitman
- **Impacts on Generation and Transmission Cooperatives**
Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman
- **How COVID-19 Is Impacting 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.

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