

# Business & Technology Update



Thursday, April 18, 2019 | [coop.com](http://coop.com) | [BTS Website](#) | [Archive](#) | [Web Version](#) |

## New Report Outlining the U.S. Economy's Impact on Rural America

NRECA and RE Advisers have published 2019 U.S. Economic Outlook- A Focus on Rural America, a new report that outlines several economic issues expected to impact rural electric cooperatives and likely to play a big role in the communities they serve. The report takes a fresh look at a number of issues and trends affecting the broader economy and examines their impact on co-ops specifically.

- **Report**
- **Contacts for Questions:**
  - Report: [Russell Tucker](#), NRECA 703-907-5823
  - Portfolio Management Perspectives: [Darryl Keeton](#), RE Advisers 703-907-6087

## Participate in NRECA's Co-op Technology Survey

NRECA continues to seek your assistance in updating our Co-op Technology Survey. This survey is an important effort to reflect the current state of technology policies and practices at cooperatives around the country. Results of this confidential and comprehensive survey will provide co-ops with insights and best practices for benchmarking and decision-making. **Participating co-ops will receive a complimentary copy of the survey results.** This advisory provides further details. If your cooperative did not receive an email invitation to the survey, please contact Mike Sassman at [mike.sassman@nreca.coop](mailto:mike.sassman@nreca.coop). Survey response is requested by April 30.

- **Advisory**
- **Contacts for Questions:** [Adaora Ifebigh](#) and [Mike Sassman](#)

## Cybersecurity Summit and Classes at Carnegie Mellon

Join us for our next RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes on June 4-5 at Carnegie Mellon University to hear the latest on cybersecurity for small- and mid-sized distribution cooperatives. The Summits are not technical sessions, and any members responsible for cybersecurity decisions at their co-ops are encouraged to attend. On June 4th, we will offer two different afternoon cybersecurity classes. June 5th is a full day Summit with presentations on cutting-edge cybersecurity research, legal considerations, insider threats, E-ISAC, NRECA's cybersecurity resources, and more. **Registration is free.**

- **Registration**
- **RC3 2018-2019 Summits Website**
- **Contact for Questions:** [Cynthia Hsu](#)

## Discount for EnergySec Cybersecurity Education Week: April 29-May 3

NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program (RC3) has negotiated a reduced registration fee for our members to attend a week-long cybersecurity training hosted by Energy Sector Security Consortium, Inc. (EnergySec). This training is April 29 - May 3 in Charlotte, NC and designed for utility cybersecurity professionals. Instead of the normal registration fee of \$3,495, members can register

### Upcoming Events

- **EnergySec Cybersecurity Education Week**  
April 29 - May 3,  
Charlotte, NC  
Discount for NRECA  
Members: **Use Promotional Code 30RC3**
- **Technology Planning, Decision Making and Leadership: Enhancing Organizational Effectiveness**
  - **Portland: May 14-15** (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
  - **San Antonio: October 22-23** (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- **RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes**  
June 4-5 at Carnegie Mellon
- **Cooperative Electric Vehicle Summit**  
June 11, Denver, CO
- **AREGC Conference**  
June 23-26, Point Clear, AL



for \$2,500 using Promotional Code 30RC3.

- [Agenda and Registration](#)
- [More information on EnergySec](#)
- [Contact for Questions: Adaora Ifebigb](#)

## DOE Funding Opportunity for Co-ops Serving Tribal Lands

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, has announced the availability of up to \$17 million in new grant funding to deploy energy infrastructure on tribal lands. Any "organization" of two or more entities, at least one of which is an Indian tribe, can apply for the grant. Applications are due May 1st. This advisory provides more information.

- [Advisory](#)
- [Contacts for Questions: Jim Horan and Adaora Ifebigb](#)

## CoBank's Cooperative Electric Vehicle Summit

At this concentrated one-day event on June 11 in Denver, CO, electric cooperative management teams will have the opportunity to engage with experts and peers on a variety of topics focused on the utilities' role in electric vehicle integration with the grid, including drivers and benefits, load management, rates, deployment strategies, among others. Presentations from key industry leaders will give participants the confidence to develop and execute a strategy around electric vehicles to take back to their cooperative. NRECA is proud to be a sponsor of this event.

- [Registration](#)
- [Contacts for Questions: Brian Sloboda \(NRECA\) and Tamra Reynolds \(CoBank\)](#)

## Upcoming Opportunity to Participate in RC3 Cybersecurity SANS Voucher Program

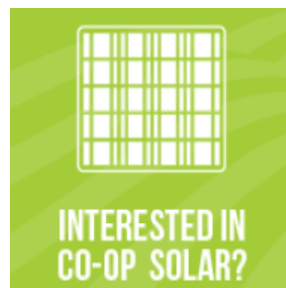
Cybersecurity is a constantly evolving challenge that requires continuous education and training. NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Program launched the RC3 SANS Voucher Program to help address cybersecurity training gaps. 78 cooperatives to date have benefitted from this program, and the next opportunity to apply to participate will be announced in our newsletter and website by early May.

- [RC3 Website](#)
- [Contact for Questions: Lauren Khair](#)

## Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Toolkit to Debut Soon

Through funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, NRECA and cybersecurity consultant Delta Risk, LLC designed a RC3 Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Toolkit (TTX Toolkit) for distribution cooperatives with a range of in-house information technology (IT) and cybersecurity capabilities. The TTX Toolkit will be available to members later this spring and will allow cooperatives to run tabletop exercises with staff from different departments in the cooperative, to raise cybersecurity awareness and preparedness, and to emphasize that cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility. The following Factsheet and FAQ offer more details.

- [Factsheet \(Summary\)](#)
- [FAQ \(Details\)](#)
- [Contact for Questions: Adaora Ifebigb](#)



## Learn How to Develop a Technology Plan at Co-op University

Join us at Co-op University for a course designed to help IT professionals as well as non-IT managers across your co-op understand how to develop a technology plan. This course delivers a proven planning process, best management practices, and analytical tools and resources crucial for effective technology planning, decision making, and leadership. Over the two-day course, you will experience three interactive hands-on exercises and be introduced to a step-by-step approach to developing a Technology Plan. There are two sessions offered:

- **Portland, OR: May 14-15**
- **San Antonio, TX: October 22-23**
- **Contact for Questions: Janet Bowers**

## 2020 TechAdvantage Call for Presentations

On the heels of another successful TechAdvantage Conference and Expo, it is time to start planning for next year. You are invited to submit a proposal for a presentation to share your know-how, experience, and expertise during the 2020 Conference, which will be held in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA, March 2–4. This is an unparalleled opportunity reach key electric cooperative CEOs and professionals in engineering, operations, IT, supply management and energy services. **Deadline for proposals is April 24.**

- **More information**
- **Contact for Questions: Mary Ackleson**

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