

Business & Technology Update



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Battery Storage Prices Near 'Tipping Point' – Fastest Growth Expected Behind-the-Meter

With the price of lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) at \$175/kWh and falling fast, investments by both electric utilities and their customers may soon be cost-effective across a range of applications. Experts anticipate that \$150/kWh will be the tipping point for affordable stationary energy storage, much as \$1/W was the breakthrough mark for the widespread installation of solar photovoltaics. The recently updated Battery Energy Storage Overview report by NRECA, CFC, CoBank, and NRTC, serves as a resource for electric cooperatives considering the future of battery storage, whether as a utility-scale asset or the impact of behind-the-meter installations by residential and C&I consumer-members. Read more in this new advisory providing highlights, and the full report for details.

- [Advisory](#)
- [Report](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Jan Ahlen](#)

Advancing Energy Access for All

Electric cooperatives have always been the primary vehicle for enabling energy access in rural communities and continue to level the playing field for rural communities by offering energy services, high-speed internet access, and a wide array of other programs designed to create choice and opportunity within their communities. NRECA's new initiative *Advancing Energy Access for All* spotlights cooperatives involvement in facilitating healthy communities, explores the innovative ways they do it, and uncovers new directions community assistance programs are taking. Read more in this introductory advisory and first case study of our series.

- [Advancing Energy Access for All Website](#)
- [Advisory: Overview](#)
- [Case Study: Cherryland Electric Cooperative](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Keith Dennis](#) and [Adaora Ifebigb](#)

Beneficial Electrification Events in Colorado and Wisconsin

NRECA is proud to be a sponsor of *2019 Beneficial Electrification – Electrify Colorado!* on June 12, and *2019 Beneficial Electrification – Electrify Wisconsin!* on June 27. Each of these sessions will be a full-day meeting and networking reception for electric cooperative management teams interested in the rapidly evolving market opportunity of Beneficial Electrification specific to the states of Colorado and Wisconsin. Hear from national and respective state leaders on a variety of topics focused on the utilities' role in the accelerating electrification of residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural end-uses – water-heating, space-heating, process heating, and more. Stay tuned for similar events in other states around the country!

- [Registration – Colorado Event \(June 12\)](#)
- [Registration – Wisconsin Event \(June 27\)](#)
- Contacts for questions: [Keith Dennis](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

Cybersecurity Online Courses for FREE: Applications Deadline is June 9

Upcoming Events

- [Cooperative Electric Vehicle Summit](#)
June 11, Denver, CO
- [Beneficial Electrification – Electrify Colorado!](#)
June 12, Denver, CO
- [AREGC Conference](#)
June 23-26, Point Clear, AL
- [Beneficial Electrification – Electrify Wisconsin!](#)
June 27, Madison, WI
- [Technology Planning, Decision Making and Leadership: Enhancing Organizational Effectiveness](#)
October 22-23, San Antonio, TX



Don't miss your opportunity to take a SANS online cybersecurity course for FREE. A total of seventy-seven (77) cooperatives have improved their cybersecurity skills through the first two cohorts of NRECA's RC3 Cybersecurity SANS voucher program, and with U.S. DOE funding support, a third group is now able to take this high-quality cybersecurity training at no registration cost. Registration is now open and the **deadline for applications is June 9.**

- [Advisory and FAQ](#)
- [Application for Participation](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Lauren Khair](#)

NERC Recommends Use of NRECA Cybersecurity Resources

NRECA's great work to assist members with cybersecurity supply chain issues was recommended by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) in a recent report: "NERC staff recommends that entities refer to industry practices and guidelines, such as those developed by the North American Transmission Forum, the American Public Power Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the North American Generator Forum, when developing their CIP-013-1 process(es) for the procurement of BES Cyber Systems." Review the cybersecurity supply chain practices and guidelines developed by NRECA and APPA in the Managing Cyber Supply Chain Risk-Best Practices for Small Entities whitepaper.

- [NRECA's Whitepaper](#)
- [NERC Report](#)
- [NRECA Cybersecurity Resources for Members](#)
- Contacts for Questions:
[Barry Lawson](#), Senior Regulatory Issues Director ((whitepaper; NRECA cybersecurity federal regulatory policy at FERC, NERC, DOE, DHS and other agencies), and
[Cynthia Hsu](#), Cybersecurity Program Manager (NRECA cybersecurity resources)

RUS Loans Now Available for Cybersecurity Measures

NRECA successfully advocated to make RUS loan money available for co-ops to address cybersecurity as well as electricity infrastructure needs as part of a provision in the 2018 Farm Bill, which was enacted in December. Read more about this new opportunity for funding to advance co-op efforts to improve cybersecurity.

- [Article](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

Recruiting Field Demonstration Partners for Power Quality Phase Balance Project

Phase unbalance damages 3-phase motor loads and increases technical losses, causing real problems on equipment such as large commercial HVAC units. Argonne National Laboratory, in partnership with NRECA, is conducting a research project to develop control strategies for solar PV inverters that mitigate power quality issues related to phase unbalance. NRECA is looking for cooperatives to serve as technical advisors on the development and testing of related software. The following advisory provides full details on benefits and responsibilities of participation. **Letters of support are due by June 27.**

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact for Questions: [David Pinney](#)

AREGC Conference To Present Best Practices in Plant Operation and Maintenance

The annual Association of Rural Electric Generating Cooperatives Conference is a national event designed to provide electric cooperative power plant operations, maintenance and engineering personnel with



the skills and education needed to enhance the effectiveness of electric generating cooperatives nationwide. Join us in Point Clear, AL on June 23-26 to meet with industry experts, collaborate with peers, and gain knowledge and insight into new practices and technologies to help direct the future of your cooperative.

- **Registration**
- Contact for Questions: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Lauren Khair](#)

NRECA Joins the National Carbon Capture Center

NRECA has recently joined in partnership with the NCCC, allowing NRECA a front-seat view of their research, information and insights into the testing of upcoming CO2 capture technologies, and direct contact with related technology providers. We will be able to share information from NCCC with our members to help them assess the economic viability and future of CO2 capture technologies fossil fuel combustion processes to support their investment decision making. As a complementary effort to NRECA's involvement with the Wyoming Integrated Test Center for Carbon (ITC-C), we will also be able to help facilitate the transition of successful tests at the NCCC to a larger test opportunity at the [Wyoming ITC-C](#). This advisory provides more details on this exciting development.

- **Advisory**
- Contacts for Questions: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Dale Bradshaw](#)

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Supports Economic Growth with Broadband

Recognizing nearly 20 years ago that local economic growth would require broadband, BRMEMC took initiative to provide this service to its members and even those beyond their area. Taking advantage of funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and partnering with neighbor Habersham Electric Membership Corporation, BRMEMC created the North Georgia Network Cooperative and built the first regional transport link to Atlanta, GA. Read more on BRMEMC's investment in a broadband network that has grown to now spanning 1,100 miles and having 7,900 active subscribers.

- **Broadband Case Study – BRMEMC**
- **Broadband Case Study Series**
- Contact for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#)

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