

# Business & Technology Update



Thursday, October 4, 2018 | [coop.com](http://coop.com) | [BTS Website](#) | [Archive](#) | [Web Version](#) |

## Employees Are Co-ops' First Line of Cybersecurity Defense

Cooperatives are improving their cybersecurity posture and resilience with NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Program. The valuable lessons learned by 36 cooperatives using RC3's self-assessment tool are being shared in a new advisory series to benefit the entire cooperative network. Our latest advisory is about the importance of engaging your employees as your first line of defense.

- [Advisory](#)
- [Lessons Learned Series](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

## Beneficial Electrification on Farms Creates Win-Win for Co-ops and Their Members

The U.S. agricultural sector represents a major source of potential new electric revenue derived from beneficial electrification. Roughly 85 percent of the over 2.1 million farms in the U.S. registered with the USDA are located in counties served by co-ops. A recent analysis shows that electrifying farm equipment currently using fossil fuels on these farms would equate to between \$4.4 and \$5.4 billion in potential new annual revenue for co-ops, an increase of 12 to 15 percent versus current co-op electric sales nationally. Learn more in our new report.

- [Surveillance Report: Farm Beneficial Electrification](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Keith Dennis](#)

## Prairie Power Takes A Unique Approach to Building A Broadband Network

Facing an inadequate communications network that would no longer support necessary transmission operations, Prairie Power Incorporated took initiative to work with for-profit companies, telephone cooperatives, and its own members to strategically upgrade to a broadband network, while utilizing existing assets to gain efficiencies and save money. The result was a successful strategic sourcing approach that ultimately allowed PPI to launch a host of new services to benefit its members, including centralized distribution SCADA, infrastructure as a service (IaaS), and IT cybersecurity services. Find out more in this new advisory:

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

### Upcoming Events

- [Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day & RC3 Cybersecurity Summit](#) – October 31-November 1, Anchorage, AK
- [RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes](#) – November 13-14, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM
- [RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes](#) – December 11-12, Great River Energy, Maple Grove, MN – *Full, Wait List Available*
- [RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes](#) – January 29-30, Idaho National Laboratory (*Save the Date; Registration to Open Soon*)

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PROVIDING SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONABLE ADVICE

## Solar Lexicon Explains Key Technical Terms

NRECA's new Solar Lexicon provides explanation of Solar PV technical terms to assist cooperatives in understanding the technology and impact to our industry. Solar PV power systems are a fundamentally different type of technology than traditional fossil and nuclear fuel heat-based generators, such as steam turbines, gas turbines or internal combustion engines, which are fueled with coal, natural gas, or nuclear. This sometimes causes confusion when discussing costs and performance, especially when trying to compare PV systems to traditional fossil or nuclear generators.

- [Solar Lexicon](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Dale Bradshaw](#)



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## Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day - Oct. 31

NRECA Members are invited to the Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day on October 31 in Anchorage, AK to hear about a variety of hot topics affecting our industry, including microgrids, beneficial electrification, electric vehicles, and more. This free event is offered along with Alaska Power Association (APA). Arrive early for a tour of Chugach Electric's battery/flywheel system on the afternoon of October 30, and stay for NRECA's RC3 Cybersecurity Summit on November 1.

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



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## Upcoming RC3 Cybersecurity Summits and Classes

NRECA's series of RC3 Cybersecurity Summits and Classes offers cooperatives an opportunity to learn about today's cybersecurity threats, available resources, and how co-ops can improve their cybersecurity preparedness. The Summit is a full-day and the classes are concurrent, half-day sessions held the day before each Summit.

- Website: [2018 / 2019 RC3 Summit and Cybersecurity Classes Information](#)
  - **Nov. 1 – Summit in Anchorage, AK – Registration Open** (*Note: No classes since Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day is offered Oct 31*)
  - **Nov. 13-14 - Summit and Classes at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM – Registration Open**
  - **Dec. 11-12 - Summit and Classes at Great River Energy, Maple Grove, MN – Full; Wait List Available**
  - **Jan. 29-30 – Summit and Classes at Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Falls, ID** (*Save the Date; Registration to Open Soon*)
- Contact for Questions: [Cynthia Hsu](#)



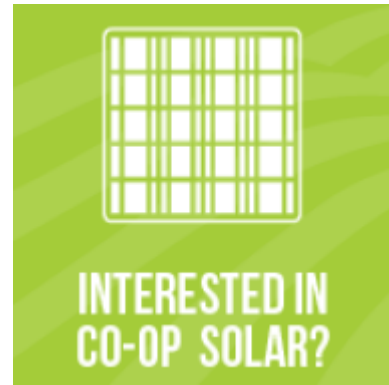
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## Barry Electric Listens and Responds to Members' Broadband Needs

Barry Electric Cooperative responded to its members' request for broadband service by forming goBEC, a not-for-profit subsidiary of the electric cooperative.

Read about their research to determine members' needs and how after initiating network construction in 2016, they have now completed buildout of roughly 50 percent of the fiber network throughout its service territory, with approximately 1,500 members connected to date.

- [Advisory](#)
- [Series of Broadband Case Studies](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#)



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## Considering Climatic Changes in the Design of Overhead Lines

Weather and climate impact overhead lines in many ways – wind and ice loads, storms, floods and temperature. This recent CEATI report provides recommendations for utilities, designers, and operators of overhead lines on how climatic changes can be taken into account for improved resiliency and more reliable design requirements for the electrical grid.

- [Report](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Patti Metro](#) and [Tom Lovas](#)

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