

# Business & Technology Update



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## 35 Cooperatives Earn FCC Awards to Expand Voice and Broadband

This past summer, the FCC opened the Connect America Fund (CAF) program to entities other than incumbent telecommunications providers, and thirty-five electric cooperatives were winners of \$225 million in the CAF II auction. Find out about the winning cooperatives in the advisory below. CAF was established in 2011 to expand voice and broadband services in the FCC Universal Service Fund/Intercarrier Compensation Transformation Order promoting expansion of broadband infrastructure.

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

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## Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day and RC3 Cybersecurity Summit in Anchorage, AK

Registration is now open for two back-to-back energy events in Anchorage Alaska: the NRECA Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day on October 31, and an NRECA RC3 Cybersecurity Summit on November 1st. Both events are free, open to all Alaska utilities and NRECA member cooperatives, and will be cohosted by the Alaska Power Association (APA). Arrive early for a tour of Chugach Electric's battery/flywheel system the afternoon of Oct. 30th.

- [Registration](#)

Additional RC3 Cybersecurity Summits and Classes:

- [Nov. 13-14 - Summit and Classes at Sandia – Registration Open](#)
- [Dec. 11-12 - Summit and Classes at GRE – Full; Wait List Available](#)

For Questions and More Information:

- Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day: [Lauren Khair](#)
- Summits and Classes: [Cynthia Hsu](#)
- Website: [2018 / 2019 RC3 Summit and Cybersecurity Classes Information](#)

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## Expansion of Energy Storage Technology Makes Battery Recycling Essential

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are becoming more attractive and feasible for electric cooperatives, especially as intermittent renewable resources continue to grow and the electric vehicle market continues to expand. Battery disposal in hazardous waste landfills accelerates the scarcity of materials, maintains international hard labor, and creates environmental concerns. Learn

### Upcoming Events

- [G&T Resource Planning Association Conference](#) – October 1-3, Savannah, GA
- [Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day & RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes](#) – 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

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PROVIDING SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONABLE ADVICE

how electric cooperatives can help pioneer the switch to battery recycling and achieve environmental and economic benefits.

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

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## Understanding the Value of Broadband for Cooperatives and their Members

When implemented into an electric system, a broadband backbone communications system unlocks the benefits of smart grid use cases. NRECA has new resources available which detail the value of broadband for electric cooperatives, for both utility operations and for co-op consumer-members.

- [Report: The Value of a Broadband Backbone for America's Electric Cooperatives: A Benefit Assessment Study](#)
- [On Demand Webinar: The Value of Broadband Backbone](#)
- [Report: Unlocking the Value of Broadband for Electric Cooperative Consumer-Members](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Joe Goodenberg](#)

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## How to Minimize Cascading Failures of Overhead Lines

Failures of overhead lines due to extreme weather loads that exceed the lines' design parameters may also affect adjacent components, creating progressive failures known as "cascades." A recent CEATI report provides cooperative engineers a guide for assessing the design loads on anti-cascading structures that are normally placed at recommended intervals in the straight sections of line to minimize damage due to cascading failure during extreme events, and for determining the optimum placement of those containment structures.

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

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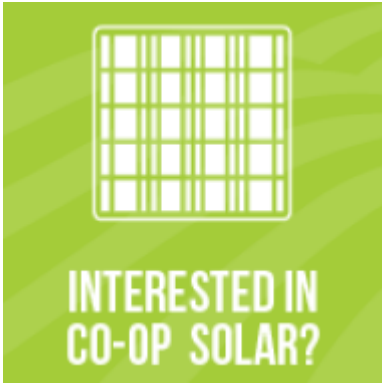
## NRECA Seeking Participants for New DOE MEEDS Cybersecurity Project

NRECA has partnered with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to assist with a new DOE-funded project that is a web-based solution to continuously monitor and detect distribution devices exposed to cyber threats to enable mitigation steps. The project is titled Mitigation of External-exposure of Energy Delivery Systems or MEEDS for short. NRECA is looking for cooperatives who are willing to participate in an information assessment collection to help inform the software design for the proposed solution and improve the quality of tools that are aimed at empowering cooperatives to improve their cybersecurity resiliency. Participating in this effort showcases cooperatives' leadership in research that supports strengthening the electric grid and cyber-threat information sharing. Find out more in the following advisory.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)



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