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# Business & Technology Update

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## October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Cyber threats have become a way of life for all industries, including the electricity industry. NRECA has a wide array of resources and engagement opportunities to help cooperatives advance their cybersecurity posture, mitigate threats, and respond should an incident occur. The following is a sample, and co-ops can find more on [cooperative.com](https://cooperative.com). Our team is dedicated to helping co-ops with their cybersecurity questions or concerns; email: [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop).

- [RE Magazine Special Report: Co-op Cybersecurity](#)
- [Cybersecurity Resources Summary](#)
- [New DOE Award of \\$5 Million to NRECA to Expand Cybersecurity Programs for Co-ops](#)
- [NRECA Threat Analysis Center \(TAC\)](#)  
The TAC is designed to assist cooperatives in the detection, analysis, and communication of cybersecurity threats. Our goal is to strengthen our collaborative efforts to improve the protection of our industry grid. Find out more about TAC in this new infographic:

[Infographic: NRECA's Threat Analysis Center](#)

- [Co-op Cyber Goals Program](#)  
This program provides 20 cybersecurity goals aimed at helping co-ops work toward achieving high priority security measures and creating a benchmark for the implementation of basic cybersecurity fundamentals. Over 400 co-ops are currently participating in this voluntary, self-paced program. Read more about Co-op Cyber Goals and about some of the first co-ops to complete the newly

announced Level Two goals.

#### [Article: Co-ops Begin Meeting NRECA's Level Two Cyber Goals](#)

- [Industrial Control Systems for Rural Electric Cooperatives \(ICS-REC\)](#)  
All co-ops with OT/SCADA are invited to join this effort designed to improve and expand on OT Monitoring.
- [Project Goaltender](#)  
NRECA and DOE's Sandia National Laboratory are working together on advancing cybersecurity regarding DERs and electric vehicle charging systems. We are looking for a couple more co-ops to join the effort. Contact: [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop)

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## Additional Federal Opportunities for Cooperatives

NRECA is committed to helping identify and pursue opportunities for our members through federal funding and partnerships. In addition to the cybersecurity opportunities above, here are others that are currently open for co-op participation:

- [Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas \(ERA\)](#): NRECA's consortium proposal for round 2 of DOE's ERA funding is open for co-op participation. The questionnaire will be closed on November 22, 2024.
- [Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships \(GRIP\)](#): NRECA Research is teaming with Hubbell, Inc. for the final round of DOE's GRIP funding. Co-ops are invited to apply to join our consortium proposal.

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## New Resources

### [AMI's Continued Evolution for a More Intelligent Grid Edge](#)

The evolution in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology has enabled electric cooperatives to access real-time data, improving grid management and operational efficiency. Advanced metering systems allow for automated billing and quicker detection of outages, enhancing customer service and reducing operational costs. However, implementing AMI requires significant investment, which needs to be carefully considered. Our new Surveillance article reviews the latest AMI technologies, to help co-ops understand how they can enhance operational efficiency and member service.

- [Article](#)
- Contact: [David Pinney](#)

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### [Podcast: Federal Funding Accelerates Energy Innovation Among Co-ops](#)

Electric co-ops have always been energy innovation leaders, but a surge in public funding is taking that to the next level. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 includes billions for clean energy projects—including the New ERA program designed specifically for co-ops—and the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law funded a wide range of programs that benefit co-ops. Hear from NRECA's Lauren Khair, Golden Valley Electric Association's Travis Million and Flathead Electric Cooperative's Jason Williams, as they share information about some of these co-op projects in the latest Along Those Lines episode.

- [Podcast](#)
  - Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)
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## 2024 National Directors Survey Results Now Available

Every other year, NRECA conducts the National Directors Survey (NDS)—a comprehensive survey of system policies and practices pertaining to cooperative governance. The NDS provides benchmark data regarding board compensation, along with board practices and policies. The survey results also include a brief section on services provided that are not “traditional” electric transmission, generation or distribution efforts, including broadband. Co-ops who participated in the survey may purchase the results for \$295. Co-ops who did not participate may purchase the results for \$995, which includes an executive summary.

- [Purchase the 2024 National Directors Survey](#)
  - Contact: [NDS@nreca.coop](mailto:NDS@nreca.coop)
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## 2024 National Compensation System Available: Same-day Access to Data

One of the most useful salary benchmarking resources in the industry, the National Compensation System (NCS) provides comprehensive salary information compiled from NRECA member electric cooperatives across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure cooperative.com login, our new point-of-sale feature allows access to the data within minutes! Simply place your order online and pay with a credit card. Order today for \$795.

- [Order the 2024 Distribution NCS](#)
  - [Order the 2024 G&T NCS](#)
  - Contact: [Beth Wray](#)
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## Upcoming Webinars

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### TODAY: Pole Attachment Developments – Important Things to Know: October 17

Join us today, **October 17, at 2 p.m. ET** for this free webinar that will provide an update on the new pole attachment rules, regulations and deadlines that the Federal Communications Commission has implemented on IOUs and that attachers are advocating for state policymakers to impose on electric cooperatives. It will also provide guidance to help cooperatives address the expected massive influx of new pole attachment requests as a result of new broadband funding.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
  - Contact: [Brian O'Hara](#)
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### Utility Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Utilization – Demystifying Microgrids: October 30

Increased capacity needs are not going away. In fact, they are growing at a rate greater than many utilities can address without using distributed energy resources (DER) — microgrids. Join us on **October 30 at 2 p.m. ET** for this interactive panel discussion sponsored by NRTC and PowerSecure that will review the pros and cons of using microgrids, and how microgrid deployment can help meet today's increasing capacity needs.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Allison Hamilton](#)

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## Joint Office of Energy and Transportation – 2024 in Review: November 5

On **November 5 at 2 p.m. ET**, Sejal Shah, Senior Advisor for Electric Utility Programs and Policies at the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation will provide a thorough review of the year's significant funding opportunities, policy developments, and pioneering projects and initiatives pertinent to electric cooperatives. Additionally, she will discuss upcoming opportunities and initiatives for 2025, offering a forward-looking perspective on the future of energy and transportation. Join us to discover the latest funding opportunities and how they can benefit your co-op.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Jennah Denney](#)

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## Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series: November 12

Join us **November 12 at 2 p.m. ET** as NRECA staff continues to keep you up to date on the latest research and funding programs in which cooperatives may want to participate—including NRECA research initiatives, federal and other FOAs, and new opportunities with the infrastructure law. This session, led by NRECA's Senior Director of Business Transformation, Lauren Khair, will focus on cybersecurity and data plans.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

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## Upcoming Conferences

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### 2024 Cooperative University

Join us **October 28 - November 1 in New Orleans, Louisiana** for the professional development and networking event for all electric cooperative employees. With courses offered across three NRECA professional programs (SMDP, CCEP and CKAE®), you can select from various co-op-specific courses based on core, role-specific and supervisory, management and leadership competencies to enhance your business and technology skillset all in one location—minimizing cost to your co-op.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Brianne McIntyre](#)

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## Career and Development Courses for Cooperatives

NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for cooperatives' career development. Some upcoming highlights include:

- [713.1 Engaging and Developing High-Performing Employees: Bringing Out Their Best](#): Nov. 1-30 (last day to register or cancel with refund is Oct. 29)
- [714.1 Change Is Hard: Guiding Your Team Through Complex Times](#): Nov. 1-30 (last day to register or cancel with refund is Oct. 29)
- [5201.1 Creating a Culture of Accountability](#): 11/11 and 11/12, 1-4 p.m. ET each day
- [744.05 Coaching Your Team Members: Unlocking Potential and Facilitating Growth](#): 12/4, 1-4pm ET (last day to register or cancel with refund is Nov. 29)
- [5302.1 Navigating Emotions in the Workplace: Transforming Your Relationships](#): 12/4 and 12/5, 1-4 p.m. ET each day

The schedule is available for the 2025 [Supervisor and Manager Development Program \(SMDP\)](#) and [Cooperative Career Essentials Program \(CCEP\)](#) online courses. Both programs offer self-paced, on-demand courses, including:

- [5105.05 Electric System Fundamentals](#)
- [5112.05 The Data-Driven Electric Co-op: Using Analytics to Make Better Decisions](#)
- [5113.05 Ratemaking for Electric Cooperatives](#)
- [760.05 The Science of Emotional Intelligence](#)
- [762.05 Co-op Members, Boards, CEOs and Employees: Building a Strong Foundation for Success](#)

The schedule also includes the dates and location for the annual [Cooperative University](#) event, where SMDP and CCEP courses are held in-person. The [CCEP](#) focuses on the core skills that all employees need, regardless of their title or tenure. The [SMDP](#) focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others.

- [Full 2025 Course Schedule](#)
- Contact for SMDP: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)
- Contact for CCEP: [Alison Kent](#)

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## NRECA's Infrastructure Funding Consortia

Members are invited to sign-up to participate in [NRECA's consortia](#) focused on five key areas of co-op interest related to infrastructure funding opportunities. Find out more and sign-up through the links below, and view our past related webinars [On Demand](#):

- [Cooperative Approach to Vehicle Electrification \(CAVE\) Consortium](#)
  - [Cyber and Physical Security Consortium](#)
  - [Microgrid Consortium](#)
  - [Natural Hazards Consortium](#)
  - [Smart Grids and Data Consortium](#)
  
  - [Infrastructure Resource Hub](#)
  - Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)
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## On Demand Webinars

Many NRECA webinars are offered On Demand after the live events, to continue as resources to benefit our members. Here is just a sample. Find many more on [cooperative.com](https://www.cooperative.com).

- [Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series](#)
- [Economic Outlook Webinar Series](#)
- [Infrastructure Consortia Webinar Series](#)
- [Cybersecurity Update Webinar Series](#)

**Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn More.**

Newsletter provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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