



Business & Technology Update

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Level Two Cyber Goals Announced

At our annual Co-op Cyber Tech conference last week, NRECA's Director of Cybersecurity, Carter Manucy, unveiled a new set of 10 cybersecurity goals for the Co-op Cyber Goals Program. These Level Two goals provide additional ways for cooperatives to advance their cybersecurity posture through fundamental measures. Over 400 co-ops are participating in the Cyber Goals Program, and the over 100 co-ops that have finished the initial set of Level One goals were recognized at Co-op Cyber Tech. NRECA encourages all co-ops to participate in this voluntary, self-paced Program.

COOPERATIVES REPRESENTED AT CO-OP CYBER TECH CONFERENCE FOR COMPLETING LEVEL ONE CYBER GOALS



- [Cyber Goals Program](#)

- [Article](#)
 - [Contact: Cybersecurity Team](#)
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New Opportunities & Resources

Co-ops Prepare for EV Fleets

Could a fleet of electric delivery vans or big rigs be rolling into your electric cooperative's service territory? It might happen sooner than you think, and co-op leaders throughout the nation say the time to start preparing is now. RE Magazine's June cover story, Co-ops Make Early Moves to Accommodate Commercial EV Fleet Needs, features insights from NRECA's Manager of Electric Vehicle Strategy and Solutions, Jennah Denney, and highlights how some co-ops are preparing for the influx of EVs in their service area.

- [Article](#)
 - [NRECA Electric Vehicle Resources and Opportunities Summary](#)
 - [Contact: Jennah Denney](#)
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Join the Cybersecurity Project Guardian Working Group

Co-ops are invited to participate in the Project Guardian – 617A Working Group, where you can help shape cybersecurity strategies for cooperatives. We welcome professionals from co-ops of all sizes and regardless of technical background. Small co-ops are especially encouraged to apply. **Application closes on July 10**, with candidate announcements by August 1. Don't miss your opportunity to be part of this impactful endeavor to shape the future of cooperative cybersecurity! Hear more details in our upcoming webinar **June 25 at 2 p.m. ET**.

- [Project Guardian – 617A Website](#)
 - [Working Group Application Form](#)
 - [Webinar Information & Registration](#)
 - [Contact: Cybersecurity Team](#)
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NERC Resources About IBR & DER Including Grid Disruptions

The North American Electric Reliability Organization (NERC) has identified technological advances in inverter-based resources (IBRs) and distributed energy resources (DERs) as having a major impact on our electrical grid. NERC provides a variety of useful resources to explain IBRs and DERs and their impacts, including disruptions to electricity systems. This advisory provides an overview of NERC's efforts and available resources to benefit cooperatives.

- [Advisory](#)
 - [Contact: Patti Metro](#)
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Final Call to Participate in the 2024 National Directors Survey

Don't miss your chance to participate in this year's National Directors Survey (NDS)—a comprehensive survey pertaining to cooperative governance. Conducted every other year, the NDS provides benchmark data regarding board compensation, along with board practices and policies. An email with a unique link to participate was sent to the CEOs of all NRECA member cooperatives from MarketResearch@NRECA.coop. Submit your data **by June 30** to receive a complimentary executive summary report and a \$700 discount on the full survey report (participant price \$295; non-participant price \$995).

- Contact: [Beth Wray](#)
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Persistent Poverty Communities Served by Co-ops

The Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture assesses and reports on counties in the U.S. that have consistently high poverty rates. NRECA's analysis of the latest report issued in 2023 shows that a majority of these persistent poverty communities are within cooperative areas. This new advisory provides an update on this topic and how it impacts our members.

- [Advisory](#)
 - Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)
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How a Co-op Proved the Power of Wind

In the late 1970s, North Carolina's Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corp. beat out 65 electric cooperatives, municipals and investor-owned utilities to host a Department of Energy (DOE) research and development project on wind energy. This new RE Magazine article shares details of their experience with the DOE-erected, monstrous 2,000-kilowatt wind turbine atop a 4,200-foot peak in the Blue Ridge Mountains and how it would help pave the way for this generation source.

- [Article](#)
 - Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#) and [Scot Hoffman](#)
-

Updated NRECA Market Analyses

Annually, NRECA provides analyses of the state of cooperative retail fuel mix, the progression of renewable generation, and the evolution of AMI. The newest updates provide details on rising cooperative retail sales, changes in generation resources, and the continued leadership of co-ops regarding metering technology.

- [Advisory on Co-op Fuel Mix](#)
 - [Advisory on Renewables Growth](#)
 - [Advisory on AMI Deployment](#)
 - Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)
-

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](#)

Upcoming Webinars

TODAY: NERC Focused Overview - Summer Reliability Assessment, Extreme Weather and Vegetation Standards

Join us **today at 2 p.m. ET**, as NRECA's Senior Director of Grid Operations and Reliability, Patti Metro, presents information about the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC's) Summer 2024 Reliability Assessment and the new electric reliability challenges facing the nation. The assessment covers a 4-month period (June - September) and provides an evaluation of generation resource and transmission system adequacy, as well as energy sufficiency to meet projected summer peak demands and operating reserves. In addition, several Reliability Standards associated with extreme weather events and vegetation management will be reviewed.

- [Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Patti Metro](#)

Introducing Project Guardian – Latest Cybersecurity Program for Co-ops: June 25

Join us on **June 25 at 2 p.m. ET** to learn about Project Guardian — the newest part of a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy for all member cooperatives. Project Guardian – 617A is a cooperative agreement between NRECA Research and the Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response funded under the Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance (RMUC) Program. This agreement provides \$4M of funding over five years (May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2029) to advance the cybersecurity posture of electric cooperative utilities.

- [Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Cybersecurity Team](#)

Volt-VAR Optimization – Managing the Needs of Today and into the Future: June 27

Volt-VAR Optimization (VVO) is a technology first deployed in the 1970s, but the technology continues to evolve and improve. By operating distribution systems within tighter volt and VAR limits, VVO can offer a wide array of benefits including improvements to power quality, demand and energy consumption, and system hosting

capacity. Join us **June 27 at 2 p.m. ET** to learn about the planning aspects of deploying VVO, measurement and verification, and technology options for achieving VVO through system automation.

- [Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [David Pinney](#)

Elective (Direct) Pay Energy Tax Credits: July 2

This free, 60-minute webinar with Paul Gutierrez, Legislative Affairs Director at NRECA will explain direct pay (referred to as “Elective Payment”) for energy tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act. The session will include a broad overview of what energy tax credits are eligible for direct pay and discuss the requirements to receive the full value of eligible tax credits and bonus credits.

- [Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Paul Gutierrez](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series: July 9

Join us on **July 9 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 Cybersecurity Director, Carter Manucy, will review negotiating the terms and funding of a DOE contract.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Carter Manucy](#)

Upcoming Conferences

2024 G&T Resource Planning Association Conference

Registration is now open for the G&T Resource Planning Association Conference, **September 30-October 2 in Asheville, North Carolina**. Hosted by North Carolina’s Electric Cooperatives, presentation topics include modeling software, resource adequacy, carbon emissions accounting/reporting, how to place EV charging infrastructure and more. Network with co-op colleagues and gain insight into the top issues within the generation and transmission industry.

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

Career and Development Courses for Cooperatives

NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for cooperatives' career development. The schedule is available for the 2024 [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. [SMDP](#) focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others.

- [Full 2024 Course Schedule](#)
- Contact for SMDP: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)
- Contact for CCEP: [Alison Kent](#)

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](#)

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](#).

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

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn More.

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