



Business & Technology Update

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New Resources

Battery Energy Storage System Safety

With the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, as well as the falling costs of renewables, battery energy storage systems are becoming a more attractive generation and capacity source for many utilities. The benefits and challenges of commissioning these types of systems are becoming clearer, specifically around the area of safety. As part of the Rural Energy Storage Deployment Program ([RESDP](#)), NRECA Research worked with DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to provide an overview of the codes and standards for stationary battery energy storage systems and some considerations for cooperatives as they deploy this technology.

- [Report](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

How Broadband Makes a World of Difference In Rural Illinois

Nestled along the upper Mississippi River and surrounded by farms and villages tucked into rolling hills, the town of Galena, Illinois, has charm to spare and regularly ranks among the country's top small towns to visit. Now, with the coming of high-speed internet, Galena is seeing a surge not only in tourism but in new residents—and the driver behind this trend is the local electric co-op. Listen to this new *Along Those Lines* podcast to hear from JCE Co-op officials and Galena residents on how broadband can transform rural communities, and read our related article featuring JCE CEO and President, Mike Casper, explaining how their investment in broadband aims to improve the quality of life in the co-op's area.

- [Podcast](#)
 - [Article](#)
 - [Contacts: Venkat Banunarayanan and Scot Hoffman](#)
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Implementing Fundamental Cybersecurity Measures

NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals program provides a variety of ways for cooperatives to advance their cybersecurity posture and establish fundamental cybersecurity measures. Ten Level One goals were announced in 2023, and we recently announced an additional 10 goals as Level Two. Over 425 co-ops are now participating in the Cyber Goals Program. NRECA encourages all co-ops to participate in this voluntary, self-paced program.

- [Cyber Goals Program](#)
 - [Article](#)
 - [Contact: Cybersecurity Team](#)
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Infographic: Power Transmission

Most experts agree that the U.S. grid will need thousands of miles of new and upgraded transmission in order to meet skyrocketing electricity demand and connect new generation sources while ensuring that power remains reliable and affordable. The ability to site and build this critical infrastructure, however, is being weighed down by supply chain bottlenecks and clouded by new federal regulations that could lead to a more rigid, less equitable planning, permitting and cost-allocation process, among other challenges. NRECA's new infographic details what is needed, why it's needed, and the challenges the grid faces.

- [Infographic](#)
 - [Contacts: Patti Metro and Scot Hoffman](#)
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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

Battery Energy Storage Systems in Rural Electric Utilities: August 27

Join us on **August 27 at 2 p.m. ET** for this free webinar covering locations, capacities, battery technologies, paired grid resources and common use cases for energy storage among rural electric cooperatives. Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc. will also present a brief case study covering the engineering, procurement, construction, and operation of two of their battery energy storage system sites—highlighting challenges and opportunities in implementing energy storage solutions. This webinar is part of the Outreach for Advanced Storage Integration and Support (OASIS) project, a cooperative agreement between NRECA and the DOE, with a goal of providing resources to rural electric cooperatives to empower them to integrate new energy storage technologies.

- [Webinar Information and Registration](#)
- [Information on OASIS Project](#)
- [Contacts: Anantha Narayanan and Steph Joven](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series: September 4

Join us **September 4 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 Research Software Engineer and Data Scientist, Lisa Slaughter, will focus on creating a project management plan with indicators to measure success.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- [Contact: Lisa Slaughter](#)

AMI – Continued Evolution for a More Intelligent Grid Edge: September 12

For more than 50 years, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) has continued to evolve to provide increasing functionality to cooperatives and their members. Advances from vendors in the past decade offered commonly available mesh networks and 15-minute interval data provided daily. Vendors are now overcoming hurdles allowing new communications technology and increasingly intelligent grid-edge devices with more data refreshed much more frequently. Join us **September 12 at 2 p.m. ET** to hear more about how AMI network evolution is supporting the increased role of data in day-to-day operations and long-term decision making.

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

Exploring Beneficial Electrification Landscape for Key Accounts: September 25

Join us **September 25 at 2 p.m. ET** for a free webinar on Beneficial Electrification (BE), exploring its advantages for electric utilities and the challenges and opportunities it presents for co-op commercial and industrial members. The webinar provides both a cooperative and practitioner's perspective, showcasing real-world examples of collaborative efforts between utilities, governments, and private companies driving BE implementation.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- [Contact: Charu Gupta](#)

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**. Offered in coordination with NRECA's [Generation Member Advisory Group](#) and hosted by [North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives](#)-, this conference aims to facilitate collaboration on new technology that will address industry challenges regarding generation assets and promote deployment to achieve low-cost, reliable energy. Presentation topics will include modeling software, resource adequacy, carbon emissions accounting/reporting, how to place EV charging infrastructure, and more. The conference will offer networking opportunities for co-op colleagues to share insights into the top issues within the generation and transmission industry. **The deadline for hotel reservations at the NRECA group rate has been extended to August 23.**

- [Website](#)
- Contacts: [Allison Hamilton](#) and [Dan Walsh](#)

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.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Brienne McIntyre](#)

Career and Development Courses for Cooperatives

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

- 723.1 [Team Dynamics](#): 9/10 and 9/11, 1-4pm (ET)
Last day to register or cancel registration with a refund: Sept. 5
- 742.05 [Accountability at Your Co-op: Inspiring Ownership and Driving Results](#): 9/19, 1-4pm ET, live and online
- 724.1 [Restoring Emotional Safety and Trust in the Workplace](#): 9/23 and 9/24, 1-4pm (ET)
Last day to register or cancel registration with a refund: Sept. 18
- 743.05 [Mastering Authentic Feedback Conversations with Radical Candor](#): 10/7, 1-4pm ET, live and online
- 5310.1 [Embracing Disagreements: Building Productive Conflict Skills](#): 10/8-9, 1-4pm ET
- 5308.05 [Getting Comfortable Giving & Receiving Feedback](#): 10/9, 12-4pm ET
- 5130.05 [Effective Problem-Solving and Decision-Making](#): 10/10, 12-4pm ET
- 744.05 [Coaching Your Team Members: Unlocking Potential and Facilitating Growth](#): 12/4, 1-4pm ET, live and online

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. The [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 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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