



Business & Technology Update

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Regional Meetings In Your Area

This year's regional meetings are underway, bringing NRECA's topic experts to your area – including some from our Business and Technology Strategy group – to share information on the many ways we are working to meet the needs of co-ops and provide insights for co-op decision-making. Three meetings remain, happening in Sacramento, CA; Columbia, SC; and Kansas City, MO. Find out what to expect in this article, and we hope to see you!

- [Article: NRECA's 2024 Regional Meetings: What to Expect](#)

Current Federal Opportunities for Cooperatives

NRECA is committed to helping identify and pursue opportunities for our members through federal funding and partnerships. Here are some 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. Funding is expected in the next few weeks.
- [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.
- [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

New Resources

Co-op Energy Storage Case Study

The goal of the Rural Energy Storage Deployment Program (RESDP) is to successfully deploy battery storage systems at rural critical infrastructure served by electric cooperatives to increase resiliency, improve system efficiency, and to collect best practices and lessons learned from these deployments with electric cooperatives across the country. Read our latest case study, highlighting the efforts of West River Electric Association and NRECA to deploy a battery for a critical infrastructure site located in South Dakota.

- [Case Study](#)
- [RESDP Website](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

New Guidebook for Developing a Community Benefits Plan

A Community Benefits Plan (CBP) is a key component of many competitive federal programs enacted as part of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. A CBP addresses how an applicant – co-op or other entity – will engage with the community or communities impacted by its proposed project throughout its lifecycle. The goal of a CBP is to improve stakeholder involvement and deliver measurable benefits to Disadvantaged Communities. NRECA's new Guidebook provides details on how to develop a CBP, including insights into what makes a strong CBP as part of a proposal for federal funding.

- [CBP Guidebook](#)
- Contact: [Rajeena Shakya](#)

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

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

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](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series: October 9

Join us **October 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's System Optimization Director, Michael Leitman, will focus on explaining the Davis-Bacon Act.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

Upcoming Conferences

2024 G&T Resource Planning Association Conference

Join us 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.

- [Information and Registration](#)
 - [Contacts: Allison Hamilton and Dan Walsh](#)
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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. After completing your registration, make sure to take advantage of NRECA's discounted hotel rate by securing a reservation at the New Orleans Marriott **by October 7, 2024**.

- [Information and 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 highlights include:

- [724.1 Restoring Emotional Safety and Trust in the Workplace](#): 9/23 and 9/24, 1-4pm ET
- [5130.05 Effective Problem-Solving and Decision-Making](#): 10/2, 1-4pm ET
- [743.05 Mastering Authentic Feedback Conversations with Radical Candor](#): 10/7, 1-4pm ET
- [5310.1 Embracing Disagreements: Building Productive Conflict Skills](#): 10/8-9, 1-4pm ET

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](#)

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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