

Co-op Programs That Support Members in Need

The **Achieving Cooperative Community Equitable Solar Sources (ACCESS)** project, the flagship project of NRECA's initiative **Advancing Energy Access for All**, aims to improve the affordability, performance, and value of solar technologies on the grid. Through this project, tools and resources will be developed to assist electric co-ops and the broader industry deploy solar projects to benefit low- to moderate-income (LMI) consumers. This report, the first in a three-part series, explores the variety of programs and services offered by co-ops to help LMI members, while often simultaneously benefiting other members, the co-op, and the grid.

- **Report**
- Contacts: [Adaora Ifebigh](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

Optimizing Solar PV Plus Battery Energy Storage

The cost for solar PV systems continues to decrease, such that now in many locations in the United States, utility solar PV levelized cost of electricity can compete with total operating costs for fossil generation. In addition, the installation of distributed solar PV for industrial and commercial customers is growing. Since solar PV is intermittent, the value can be significantly improved, optimized and maximized, if the solar PV can be stored. This new Surveillance article looks at opportunities for improving solar PV benefits by incorporating battery energy storage systems.

- **Article**
- Contacts: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Jan Ahlen](#)

Webinar: 2021 Co-op Economic Outlook

Join us on **February 16, 2:00-2:45 pm ET** to hear a concise report on economic trends and their implications for the year ahead from NRECA's Lead Economist, Joe Goodenbery. This free session will cover important economic indicators, including GDP, business confidence, and unemployment, with a focus on job impacts in sectors of interest to the co-op economy.

- **More Information and Registration**
- Contacts: [Joseph Goodenbery](#) and [Robbin Christianson](#)

Methods for Locating Electric Vehicles in Cooperative

Territories

Predicting and managing the load growth from increasing demand for electric vehicles nationwide provides opportunities and challenges for cooperatives. By understanding the number of electric vehicles in a service territory, cooperatives can better plan for current and future impact to their electric load. While there are no easy means of determining the exact number of EVs in an area, this new advisory discusses several available options for electric cooperatives to locate electric vehicles in their service territory and track those numbers over time.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Maria Kanevsky](#)

Using NRECA's Reliability Benchmarking Group WebApp To Improve Reliability & Efficiency

Electric cooperatives are committed to providing safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost. However, reliability is much less intuitive than either safe or low cost, as it is measured in cryptic indices and calculated with complex mathematics. Through NRECA's Reliability Benchmarking Group, cooperatives are using a WebApp to help understand their reliability ratings and trends. Find out about the experiences and benefits gained by four cooperatives detailed in this new case studies report.

- [Report](#)
- [Reliability Benchmarking Group Website](#)
- Contact: [Tony Thomas](#)

Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Cannabis Production

The legalization of recreational cannabis in some U.S. states and the expanded use of cannabis for medicinal purposes has generated a new sector with significant energy needs. This growing industry is creating a need for utilities to better understand the energy requirements of the sector and find ways to manage demands on energy systems. NRECA partnered with CEATI to analyze the energy impacts of cannabis production, including energy consumption and best practices for saving energy. The outcome of this work will form an important base of industry knowledge and bridge the gap in information on energy use in cannabis facilities, from which future efficiency and demand reduction programs might be developed. This advisory previews some of the report findings.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

Final Set of RC3 Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Scenarios Now Available

NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (**RC3**) Program has released the final three scenarios in its series of 12 tabletop exercises for cooperatives to use in gaining insights about their ability to respond to a cybersecurity incident. The new scenarios focus on extreme weather impacts, remote worker compromises, and inadvertent malicious software installation. The RC3 tabletop exercise scenarios are offered in three levels of complexity to fit the various cybersecurity capabilities at cooperatives. All of the exercises can be conducted in

person or virtually with your co-op staff.

- [RC3 Tabletop Exercises](#)
- [RC3 Website](#)
- Contacts: [Cynthia Hsu](#) and [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

Case Study: Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and Its Members Develop a Portfolio of Distributed Resource Projects

The fuel mix for electric generating units is significantly and rapidly changing, incorporating more renewable generation, both utility-scale and behind-the-meter. This, in turn, is affecting how consumers interact with the generation resources, such as electric vehicles and smart meters, and consumers' relationship with their utility, including innovative rate structures. NRECA's new case study series explores the impact of these changes on the relationship between wholesale power suppliers and their distribution members, as they adapt to this new industry model and manage associated business disruption challenges. Read our most recent case study highlighting how a G&T cooperative, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), is working closely with its members to transition its power supply toward sustainable, low-carbon resources by building a portfolio of distributed solar projects across three states.

- [Case Study: ODEC](#)
- [New Energy Resource Model Initiative Website](#)
- Contact: [Paul Breakman](#)

CEATI Membership Benefits for Cooperatives – An Update

NRECA has been a member of CEATI International for many years, representing cooperatives' interests and sharing the research and insights for the benefit of all NRECA members. This involvement has provided members access to leading-edge technology research that otherwise would have been cost-prohibitive for individual cooperatives. Recently, NRECA entered into a new membership agreement with CEATI, to continue co-op access to their valuable research and to expand the participation opportunity. This advisory provides details:

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

Registration for 2021 TechAdvantage® is Now Open

This year, the [TechAdvantage® Experience](#) will be virtual! Over the course of two weeks (Feb. 23 & 24 – March 2 & 3), you'll have access to great technology educational content through one platform. Whether you are a veteran TechAdvantage attendee or a newcomer, this year is designed for all technical levels with a flat registration fee, which will also give you access to sessions from NRECA's PowerXchange conference (formerly NRECA Annual Meeting) as well as the Expo.

- [Details and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

- [What is the Beneficial Electrification League?](#)
- [How Data Is Revolutionizing the Electric Utility Industry](#)

Webinars:

- [2021 Co-op Economic Outlook](#)
February 16, 2-2:45 pm ET

On Demand:

- [New Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities](#)
- [The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series](#)
- [DOE Hydro - Informational Webinar](#)
- [Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items](#)
- [Future Of... Volume 1: EVs, Battery Energy Storage, and Grid Analytics](#)
- [Future Of... Volume 2: UAS, Analytics, and Distributed Operations](#)
- [Aligning Compensation with Your Business Strategy](#)
- [Broadband as an Essential Service](#)
- [DOE Wind Energy Webinar](#)
- [RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program](#)
- [Impacts of COVID-19 on Renewable Energy and Storage Development](#)
- [Impacts of Postponing or Canceling Annual Meetings and Director Elections due to COVID-19](#)
- [Integrated Vegetation Management \(IVM\)Series: Mitigating Bird Issues](#)
- [Series: Mitigating Bird Issues](#)

Resources Regarding the Impact of COVID-19 on Co-ops

NRECA has completed several analyses on the impact of COVID-19 on electric cooperatives, including economic, job sectors, safety, broadband, and other areas. Below are links:

- RE Magazine Article: **The Covid Effect: Contact Injuries**
Contact: Bud Branham
- **Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items**
Contact: Mike Sassman
- **Report: Mid-Year 2020 U.S. Economic Outlook: A Focus on Rural America**
Contact: Joe Goodenbery
- **Paycheck Protection Program: Loan Forgiveness**
Contacts: Allison Hamilton and Joe Goodenbery
- **Financial Impact Report**
Contacts: Russell Tucker and Joe Goodenbery
- **Financial Impact and Pathways to Relief**
Contact: Allison Hamilton
- **At Risk Job Sectors Report**
Contact: Michael Leitman
- **Impacts on Generation and Transmission Cooperatives**
Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman
- **How COVID-19 Is Impacting Electricity Industry Sectors**
Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman
- **Tools to Help Manage Energy Expenses**
Contact: Brian Sloboda
- **The Criticality of Broadband**
Contact: Paul Breakman
- **Business and Technology Resources to Use Virtually**
- **NRECA COVID-19 Hub**
- **Special Edition: Business and Technology Update**

See past issues of *Business and Technology Update* in our [archive on cooperative.com](#).

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
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