

Advancing Beneficial Electrification

Beneficial electrification offers multiple benefits to consumers, the environment, and cooperatives. The following looks at three new aspects of advancing beneficial electrification – the use of innovative rates, the debut of electric transport refrigeration units, and a grant opportunity.

• **Innovative Rates**

The primary driver behind the introduction of innovative rates – moving from a flat, volumetric rate to a more complex, time-variable one – is to better align costs, eliminate cross-subsidization and help make energy more affordable. Many of these drivers are consistent with and complementary to the goals of beneficial electrification. This new report explores how innovative rates support the adoption of beneficial electrification.

- **Report**

- Contact: [Allison Hamilton](#)

• **Electric Transport Refrigeration Unit (eTRU)**

Electric transport refrigeration units (eTRUs) are not only beneficial for company bottom lines, but they also are beneficial for communities and the environment. Transport refrigeration units (TRUs) are mobile refrigeration systems that supply precise temperature control for perishable goods during transport and storage. Read about the benefits and cost savings offered by these systems, which have traditionally been powered entirely by a diesel, but now use electricity to power the unit while not in motion.

- **eTRU Factsheet**

- Contact: [Keith Dennis](#)

• **New Grant Opportunity**

The Beneficial Electrification League (BEL) has announced the availability of funding for grants to advance their mission to increase understanding on the benefits of electrification. BEL is seeking grant proposals for up to \$50k for projects that focus on either 1) Electrification of Agricultural Operations or 2) Electrification that Benefits Low Income or Underserved Communities. Simple applications are due 3/31/21 and decisions are expected in April 2021.

- **More Information**

- Contact: [Keith Dennis](#)

- **Additional New Beneficial Electrification Resources**

- **Communications Strategies for Beneficial Electrification**
Contacts: Keith Dennis, Anne Prince and Mary Ann Cristiano
- **Co-op Case Studies**
Contact: Keith Dennis

Solar Energy Access for Communities 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, NRECA is working with co-ops and industry stakeholders to examine program designs and financial mechanisms that would help facilitate access to solar options for low- to moderate-income consumers (LMI). The following are some of the recent publications through this effort:

- **Small Co-op Tackles Big Issue – Solar Access for Low-Income Households**

In an article written by NRECA's ACCESS Project Manager, Adaora Ifebigh, *Public Utilities Fortnightly* recently highlighted the efforts of one of the ACCESS Leader Co-ops, Roanoke Electric, and its solar program, SolarShare.

- **Evaluation of Existing Financing Mechanisms & Program Designs for Low to Moderate Income Solar PV Programs**

Our latest ACCESS report in this series looks at which of the existing programs and financing options used by cooperatives today to support their members may be effective also for LMI solar programs.

- **How to Value DER Projects to Demonstrate the Range of Possible Benefits**

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) worked with NRECA and a selection of the ACCESS co-ops to provide clarity around potential benefit streams for solar projects and the process for accurate DER valuation. This report is the output from that effort and is intended to provide a guide for cooperatives considering similar solar projects.

- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

NEETRAC Scoping Study on Pests in Enclosures

Through NRECA's membership arrangement with the National Electric Energy Testing, Research & Applications Center (NEETRAC) at Georgia Tech, we are able to share their research reports with our members. NEETRAC aims to help the electric utility industry solve the every day problems associated with the complex task of transmitting and distributing electric energy reliably and efficiently. Animal entry to electric utility enclosures present both safety and reliability hazards. This reports details how animals enter enclosures, how to prevent animal entry and post-entry remediation measures.

- **Report**
- **Additional NEETRAC Information**

- Contact: [Robert Harris](#)

Maximizing the Value of Energy Storage

Grid-connected energy storage is essential in enabling the large-scale integration of intermittent renewable generation, which will eventually support the energy transition and achieve the greenhouse gas emissions targets. Our new *Surveillance* article series summarizes the CEATI Strategic Options for Integration Emerging Technologies and Distributed Energy Interest Group (SOIG) report *Methodologies to Maximize the Value and Amount of Energy Storage: Economic and Technical Evaluation*. The final of the three articles is now available and summarizes CEATI's review of energy storage controls and dispatch requirements and the impact of energy storage sizing. Also included is CEATI's template utility case study and an Excel-based tool to assess the valuation of different use cases.

- [Article](#)
- [Article Series](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Jan Ahlen](#)

Smart Inverters as a Grid Asset for the Future

Due to the recent rapid growth of inverter-based distributed energy resources (DER), the DER interconnection standard (IEEE 1547) has been updated and the related IEEE 1547-2018 and test standard IEEE 1547.1-2020 have been released. As they start to become mandated, utilities might be required to perform some advanced functions and services, and DER operators might need to adopt alternative settings for smart inverters to perform these functions. To guide cooperatives on how to determine the alternative smart inverter settings to comply with the standard and to achieve the benefits of the grid services, NRECA is working with cooperatives to conduct field tests. This article reviews the project and implementation of the first field test with Central Electric Power Cooperative and Black River Electric Cooperative.

- [Article](#)
- Contacts: [Fathalla Eldali](#) and [Robert Harris](#)

2021 NRECA PowerXchange and TechAdvantage Sessions On Demand for Registrants

This year's PowerXchange and TechAdvantage Experience offered a wide range of topics to help cooperatives address the opportunities and challenges of today's industry. Our Business and Technology Strategies team participated in several sessions to talk about the future grid, advancing technologies, managing risk, safety, cybersecurity, and much more. The recorded sessions are available On Demand through April 30th for registrants (use your same login as for the conference).

- [Link to On Demand Sessions](#)
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#) (TechAdvantage Sessions) and [Kristen Wheeler](#) (PowerXchange Sessions)

2021 National Compensation System: Pre-Order by March 15

The National Compensation System (NCS) provides comprehensive salary information compiled from NRECA member systems across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure Cooperative.com login, it allows users to customize their data search and export individual reports into a variety of formats. Place your **pre-order** by **March 15** to access the NCS at the discounted price.

- [Website](#)
- Contact: [Ginny Beauchemin](#)

Latest Co-op Facts and Figures

NRECA recently updated our annual Co-ops Fact Sheet and Co-op Fuel Mix Analysis. These resources share the latest national numbers about co-op members, assets, sales and miles of line; as well as how the retail fuel mix has changed over recent years. In addition, hear a concise report on economic trends and their implications for the year ahead in our recent webinar in which Joseph Goodenbery, NRECA Lead Economist, and Mark Santero, President & CEO of the Homestead Funds, discuss economic indicators, such as GDP and unemployment, and the shape of the recovery.

- [Electric Co-op Fact Sheet](#)
Contact: [Madelyn Roche](#)
- [Co-op Fuel Mix Advisory](#)
Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#) and [Lauren Khair](#)
- [Webinar: 2021 Co-op Economic Outlook – Now On Demand](#)
Contacts: [Joe Goodenbery](#) and [Robbin Christianson](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

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

Webinars:

- [FY21 – The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program \(DCIP\)](#)
 - April 22 – *Registration Now Open!*

On Demand:

- [2021 Co-op Economic Outlook](#)
- [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.

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