

Co-ops Added Record New Renewable Capacity in 2020

Last year, co-ops added nearly 1.6 gigawatts of new renewable capacity, more than any previous year, despite some slowdowns caused by the COVID-19 health crisis. Furthermore, growth is set to accelerate in the next three years, driven in part by large solar projects. The recent extension of federal renewable tax credits will likely also spur growth. This new advisory explains this market development.

- [Advisory](#)
- [Contacts: Michael Leitman and Russ Wasson](#)

Women in Power

In celebration of Women's History Month, *RE Magazine* is focusing on the many women who perform typically male-dominated jobs at electric cooperatives. A request for stories yielded dozens of responses — women from large co-ops and small co-ops, engineers, staking technicians, CEOs, board chairs. All candidates had different journeys, but common themes emerged.

- [Article](#)
- [Podcast](#)
- [Contact: Scot Hoffman](#)

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative Deploys New Distributed Wind Generation

NRECA's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND)* project aims to understand, address, and reduce the technical risks and market barriers to the adoption of distributed wind technologies by rural utilities. Our first in a series of case studies highlights the initiative of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative with their distributed wind project with two wind farms sited next to two large industrial loads and connected to their associated front-of-meter distribution substations.

- [Case Study](#)
- [RADWIND Website](#)
- [Contacts: Michael Leitman and Maria Kanevsky](#)

Co-ops Continue to Lead the Industry in AMI

As advanced communications have become increasingly important for electric system operations, cooperatives have been transitioning from Automated Meter Reading (AMR) to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and phasing out meters with no communications capability. According to updated analysis by NRECA, electric co-ops continue to lead the industry in AMI deployment. Read details in this new advisory.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts: [Joseph Goodenbery](#), [Michael Leitman](#) and [Tony Thomas](#)

CEATI Design Guide for Station Electromagnetic Interference Protection

Technologies used today to operate, control, protect and communicate with electric utility substation equipment are more sensitive to electromagnetic interference (EMI). The most significant impacts of EMI on cooperatives are the costs of protecting “the most vulnerable” electric system equipment. This Advisory is based on a CEATI Station Equipment Program report *Design Guide for Station EMI Protection* that provides recommendations on good installation and EMI suppression practices, as well as guidance on immunity and verification requirements to be compatible with a given level of EMI.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts: [Patti Metro](#) and [Paul McCurley](#)

Webinar April 22: Update on DCIP FY21 Funding

The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (**DCIP**) is designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation in order to enhance the military value, resilience or military family quality of life. In Fiscal Year 2021, \$60 million is appropriated to this program for grant awards for state, local governments and rural electric cooperatives. NRECA provides customized services to assist cooperatives in maximizing this opportunity. Join us, **April 22, 2 p.m. EST** for a **free webinar** with further details.

- [Webinar Registration](#)
- [More Information about DCIP](#)
- [Website: Electric Co-ops and The Military](#)
- Contacts: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

2021 National Compensation System Now Available

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. Ordering is now available for NRECA members. Data will be accessible within 1-2 business days of placing your order.

- [Website](#)
- Contact: [Beth Wray](#)

Webinar April 14: Using Artificial Intelligence to Predict Outages – A Case Study

The increasing quantity and variety of data available through operating systems such as SCADA, GIS, OMS and AMI presents an opportunity for cooperatives to gain valuable insights. The challenge is being able to easily and cost-effectively access and analyze the data to realize benefits. Join us for a webinar on **April 14, 11am-12pm EST**, when White River Valley's CEO, Chris Hamon, will describe how they are using Artificial Intelligence to forecast outages on their distribution grid using the PwrMetrix software. Tony Thomas from NRECA and Alvin Razon from Aerinet-PwrMetrix will discuss the importance and value of using AI-based tools for predictive data analysis.

- **Webinar Link:**
 - <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/879141973>
 - By Phone: 224-501-3412
 - Access Code: 879-141-973
- Contacts: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#) and [Tony Thomas](#)

Co-ops Tested Their Cybersecurity Readiness with CyberSEEC

Cybersecurity preparedness is of paramount concern for all companies including cooperatives. NRECA's **RC3 team** worked with several co-op volunteers and in partnership with the Norwich University Applied Research Institutes (**NUARI**) to develop CyberSEEC — CyberSecurity Exercises for Electric Communities. This “distributed play” exercise enabled co-ops to take a clear-eyed look at how their cybersecurity response plans held up in a close-to-life scenario. Last fall, nearly 160 participants from 26 cooperatives were the first to test CyberSEEC in a pilot program. Read about their experience in this new *RE Magazine* article.

- **Article**
- Contacts: [Cynthia Hsu](#) and [Scot Hoffman](#)

2021 TechAdvantage® Sessions Available On Demand with ENCORE

If you attended the 2021 TechAdvantage Experience, you still have access to the recorded content, using your log in credentials, until April 30, 2021. For those who missed attending this year's TechAdvantage Experience, you have the chance to benefit from the content through **TechAdvantage® ENCORE!** ENCORE gives you access to the same sessions that were delivered during the virtual TechAdvantage Experience. Content is available to watch at your leisure until June 25, 2021. Click [here](#) to learn more about TechAdvantage® ENCORE and how to purchase access to this valuable online product.

- **TechAdvantage® ENCORE**
- **TechAdvantage Schedule**
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

Using Innovative Rates to Advance Beneficial Electrification

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](#)

How Current Co-op Programs May Support 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). 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.

- [Report](#)
- 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](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

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

Webinars:

- **Using Artificial Intelligence to Predict Outages – A Case Study**
 - April 14, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
 - <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/879141973>
 - By Phone: 224-501-3412
 - Access Code: 879-141-973
- **FY21 – The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP)**
 - April 22, 2–3 p.m.

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.

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203 | Tel: (703) 907-5500 | E-mail: nreca@nreca.coop

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)