

## NRECA's Essence Cybersecurity Tool Chosen As Part of Biden Administration '100 Days' Initiative

NRECA's Essence 2.0 cybersecurity tool accelerates the detection of malicious cyber threats on systems **from months to seconds**. After evaluation of 18 different cybersecurity tools available on the market, DOE has chosen Essence as one of two options to be offered to utilities in a new initiative aimed at improving cyber posture of the electric industry in 100 days. Visit our website to learn more about this new program and how Essence can benefit the grid.

- [More Information](#)
- [Essence Website](#)
- [Essence Fact Sheet](#)
- Contacts: Emma Stewart and Cynthia Hsu at [100Days@nreca.coop](mailto:100Days@nreca.coop)

## DOE Funding Opportunity for Carbon Capture Systems

The U.S. Department of Energy has announced a funding opportunity for full scale Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) studies, which will allow for a natural gas fired power station to complete detailed engineering and cost estimates for retrofitting post combustion CO2 capture technology on an existing unit. NRECA is available to support cooperatives' applications. Interested cooperatives are asked to **contact Dan Walsh or Will Morris by June 1, 2021**.

- [More Information](#)
- Contacts: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Will Morris](#)

## Oklahoma Electric Partners with Local Community to Provide Solar Energy Access

*Achieving Cooperative Community Equitable Solar Sources (ACCESS)*, the flagship project of NRECA's **Advancing Energy Access for All** initiative, aims to improve the affordability, performance, and value of solar technologies on the grid for low- to moderate-income (LMI) consumers. Our latest case study provides example of how one cooperative, Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (OEC), is leveraging existing programs and community partnerships to provide solar affordability benefits to LMI communities in its service area.

Also, join us for the second part of our ACCESS "The Power of Partnership" webinar series on **June 15 and 22** to hear about the current solar market and how cooperatives are working together to explore innovative financing

options to make solar energy accessible to all.

- [OEC Case Study](#)
- [Power of Partnership Webinar Series](#)
- [ACCESS Website](#)
- Contacts: [Adaora Ifeigh](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#) (ACCESS) and [Katherine Loving](#) (Case Study)

## Improving Plant Performance with Transformative Digital Solutions and Operational Technologies

The rapidly evolving digital and operational technologies available to a range of industries are fundamentally changing and reshaping how companies operate. Our new *Surveillance* article series summarizes the CEATI Thermal Generation Interest Group's (TGIG) report: *Technologies to Improve Plant Performance: An Industry-Wide Review*. It relays some of the relevant transformative digital solutions and operational technologies identified by CEATI as available to the thermal power generation industry and focuses on those that CEATI has determined offer measurable and immediate improvement to plant performance. This article, the second in the series, addresses inspection and repair, and training as they apply to the thermal power industry.

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

## Beneficial Electrification League Grants for Low Income and Agricultural Sectors

The Beneficial Electrification League ([BEL](#)) has awarded grants for five projects across the U.S. in partnership with local utilities, consumers, and farmers. The projects highlight electrification of agricultural operations, and/or electrification that benefitted low income or underserved communities. They were selected to showcase new electric technologies that have the potential for wide adoption that will promote the efficient and effective use of electricity. This is the first round in what BEL hopes to be many more grant opportunities.

- [Press Release](#)
- Contact: [Keith Dennis](#)

## Webinar June 3: Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Summit

Join us for the *Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Summit* on **Thursday June 3 from 12:15 – 5 p.m ET**, brought to you by NRECA and NRTC. We are bringing together experts from some of the biggest names in the broadband industry for an exclusive, half-day online event to deliver thought leadership and insight to cooperatives who are considering or in the process of deploying broadband.

- [Learn More and Register](#)
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

## Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Innovative Wind-Solar Hybrid Project

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. The distributed wind project of Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) profiled in this new case study is an innovative front-of-meter wind-solar hybrid system, connected to the co-op's distribution grid. In conjunction with this project, LREC is also piloting an electric thermal storage (ETS) program utilizing grid-interactive electric water heaters in members' homes on the same distribution feeder.

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

## Colorado Co-op Harnesses the Power of Partnership to Make Affordable 'Homes of the Future'

Holy Cross Energy's Basalt Vista housing development is home to 27 all-electric, net-zero residences, providing a path to home ownership for the local workforce. Outfitted with rooftop solar panels and on-site battery storage, these smart homes utilize innovative technology and partnerships to advance community solutions for NRECA members — a hallmark of NRECA's **Advancing Energy Access for All** initiative. Holy Cross Energy's partners include Habitat for Humanity, the Roaring Fork School District, Pitkin County, the Basalt town government, and various solar manufacturers.

- [Article](#)
- [Advancing Energy Access for All](#)
- [Contact: Adaora Ifebigh](#)

## RUS Design Guide for Rural Substations

The Transmission Distribution Engineering Committee (TDEC) Substation Subcommittee completed a revision to RUS Bulletin 1724E-300 Design Guide for Rural Substations. The Guide is intended to be used by cooperatives, their consulting and staff engineers, and others interested in rural substation design and construction, concerns, and considerations. NRECA made the draft guide available as a reference document for NRECA members until such time that RUS publicly posts a final version.

- [Draft Design Guide](#)
- [Contact: Patti Metro](#)

## TechAdvantage® Opportunities

- **TechAdvantage® 2022 Call for Presentations is Now Open**

If you want to share your solutions or insights with CEO's, engineering, operations, energy services, supply management, and IT professionals who serve more than 900 rural electric cooperatives, this is your chance.

TechAdvantage® is now seeking proposals for presentations at the TechAdvantage® 2022 Experience, March 6-9, 2022 in Nashville. Go to [Cooperative.com](https://www.cooperative.com) to review the topics of interest and submit your proposal. Submission deadline is June 23, 2021, 5:00 pm EST.

- **2021 TechAdvantage® Sessions Available On Demand with ENCORE**

If you missed the 2021 TechAdvantage Experience, you can still benefit from the event's 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.

- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

## WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

### Podcasts:

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

### Webinars

- [Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Summit](#)
  - June 3: 12:15–5:00 p.m.
- [Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 2](#)
  - June 15: 3-4 p.m.
  - June 22: 2-3 p.m.

### On Demand:

- [FY21 – The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program \(DCIP\)](#)
- [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:

- **2021 U.S. Economic Outlook: A Focus on Rural America**  
Contact: Joe Goodenbery
- 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](mailto:nreca@nreca.coop)

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 