

Battery Energy Storage Procurement Framework and Best Practices

The foundation of a successful battery energy storage system (BESS) project begins with a sound procurement process. This new report provides insights into the art of assessing the need for and value of BESS and presents a procurement framework. It is intended for electric cooperatives which have limited experience with BESS deployment.

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

Podcast: Co-op EVolution – A Blueprint for Rural Electric Vehicle Adoption

CoBank recently hosted the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' Regi Goodale and NRECA's Brian Sloboda to discuss how electric vehicles are and will impact electric cooperatives. This short podcast covers topics ranging from educating members and staff to planning for EV growth and the practical steps that co-ops can and are taking to embrace this new technology.

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

Join the Conversation about Distributed Wind

There are several opportunities for cooperatives to explore and learn about distributed wind within our industry.

- **Distributed Wind Professional Community**

NRECA has recently launched a new professional community for members interested in discussion about distributed wind and how it is progressing in our industry. We welcome all members to join the community and share their thoughts and experiences.

- [Join](#)

- **Podcast: Harnessing Distributed Wind – Inside the RADWIND Project**

NRECA's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND)* Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, aims to clarify the benefits and opportunities for distributed wind on our networks, reduce the technical risks, and identify and address the knowledge and resource needs of members so as to facilitate the adoption of distributed wind by rural utilities. In a new "Along Those Lines" podcast sponsored by RE Magazine, we talk about the broad potential of wind power with Michael Leitman, NRECA's system optimization director and the RADWIND project manager, and Aaron Ruschy, vice president of operations and engineering at Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.

- [Podcast](#)

- **New NRECA Reports**

Two of our most recent RADWIND reports are a [Value Case Report](#) focusing on the value case for distributed wind in cooperative service areas, and a [Case Study](#) highlighting Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative in Illinois and profiling their front-of-meter GobNob wind turbine, connected to the co-op's distribution grid.

- [Value Case Report](#)
- [Case Study](#)
- [RADWIND Website](#)

- **DOE Wind Integration Workshop – June 30**

The U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) is hosting a webinar workshop to gather input from industry stakeholders, particularly those with wind generation experience, to help shape WETO's near-term research priorities supporting wind integration at both the distribution and transmission levels. NRECA's members (both distribution and G&T) are invited to attend, along with equipment manufacturers, ISOs, utilities, national lab researchers, university researchers, developers, and consultants. The final day of the 3-day workshop will be held **June 30**.

- [More Information](#)

- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

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.

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

ODIN Provides A Comprehensive Map of Outages for First Responders

The *Outage Data Initiative Nationwide* (ODIN) was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, with contribution by NRECA, NISC and other vendors. With ODIN, data from utility outage management systems create a comprehensive, standardized digital map of power outages for actionable updates to benefit utilities, first responders, federal agencies, and the public. There is no cost to cooperatives to participate in ODIN, but permission needs to be given to OMS vendors to provide data to ODIN. This new advisory provides further details.

- **Advisory**
- Contact: [Tony Thomas](#)

New NEETRAC Report About Temperature Impact on Conductor Performance

Overhead line designers typically assume the conductor temperature is homogeneous through the thickness of a conductor and use the surface temperature to calculate the sag of a line. If the core temperature of the conductor is significantly hotter than the surface temperature, then this assumption is invalid and the lines will sag more than predicted. Thus, it is important and useful to know if this core-to-surface exists and if it is large enough to affect the sag calculations. In this project, NEETRAC conducted experimental studies to evaluate the effects of a wide number of factors (current, tension, conductor type, aluminum area, percent steel and odd/even layers) on the core-to-surface temperature differences of conductors. This research was a follow-on to an earlier report on an initial small sample size and diversity of constructions.

- **Report**
- Contact: [Robert Harris](#)

TechAdvantage® 2022 Call for Presentations – Deadline Extended to June 30

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 has been extended to **June 30, 2021, 5:00 pm EST**.

Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

'Co-op Rising Stars' – Call for Nominations

Do you know a co-op colleague who deserves national attention for the work they do? RE Magazine is looking for standout co-op employees to feature in an upcoming cover story titled, "Co-op Rising Stars." Nominations only take a few minutes. Help get your colleague the recognition they deserve. **Submissions open until July 11.**

- [Nominate a Rising Star](#)

Webinar: Wood Pole Production & Quality Assurance – July 13

Being an educated buyer is central to saving on overhead line maintenance – and to meeting your reliability goals. NRECA's Wood Quality Control (WQC) team has decades of combined experience with more than 16 million WQC poles installed in utility lines throughout the United States and abroad. Join Will Cox, Director of NRECA's WQC Program, and the WQC team for practical advice on procuring and inspecting wood poles. **July 13, 2 p.m. ET.**

- [Register](#)
- Contact [Robbin Christianson](#) or [Will Cox](#)

Webinar: Co-op Economic Outlook – July 22

Join NRECA experts on **July 22, 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET** for a discussion of the key economic indicators, insights on economic growth and the latest trends and implications for rural areas and the broader U.S. economy. This free event also offers follow on conversation about the topics covered in the latest [U.S. Rural Economic Outlook](#) report.

- [Register](#)
- Contacts: [Joseph Goodenbery](#) and [Robbin Christianson](#)

New “Emerging Tech” Webinar on EV Trends – July 27

As our industry and the needs of our consumers continue to evolve, it is critical that co-ops understand emerging technologies and how they can impact your business — whether it is to help solve a current problem or help prepare for future challenges. Tune in to NRECA's new “Emerging Tech” webinar series to see how these technology advances may offer a helping hand and where the impacts may be felt. Join us on **Tuesday, July 27 at 2:00–2:50 p.m. ET** for our next sessions focused on EV Trends, and view our related [Infographic on how EVs impact the grid](#).

- [Registration](#)
- [Infographic](#)
- Contacts: [Robbin Christianson](#) and [Renee Garver](#)

Registration is Open – 2021 Safety Leadership Summit

Join us in Orlando, **August 9-11** for the **2021 Safety Leadership Summit** – NRECA's premier industry, educational and networking event for electric co-op staffers responsible for safety. This event will be held in person and portions will be available for viewing via livestream as well. In-person capacity is limited, with priority registration being extended to individuals from NRECA member co-ops and statewide associations, so register early.

- [Registration](#)

- Contact for questions: [Perron Nicholas](#)

Hold the Date: Cybersecurity Summit and Tabletop Exercise – August 26

NRECA's *Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3)* Program will be hosting a virtual Cybersecurity Summit on **August 26**. The Summit will include a morning session of speakers, an afternoon session with a 2-hour mini-CyberSEEC distributed play cybersecurity exercise, and a late afternoon session with speakers. Registration will open in a few weeks. RC3 Cybersecurity Summits are open to all co-op staff and do not require any advanced skills training. Any staff responsible for cybersecurity, including those who are not IT professionals, are encouraged to attend.

- Contact: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

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

Webinars

- [Wood Pole Production and Quality Assurance](#)
July 13: 2 p.m. ET
- [Co-op Economic Outlook Series](#)
July 22: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
October 21: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
January 20: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
- [Emerging Tech Series: EV Trends & Consumer Perspectives](#)
July 27: 2-2:50 p.m. ET

On Demand:

- [Emerging Tech Series: Utility Uses for Augmented and Virtual Reality](#)
- [Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Summit](#)
- [New Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities](#)
- [The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 1](#)
- [The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 2](#)
- [Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items](#)
- [Aligning Compensation with Your Business Strategy](#)
- [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**

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
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