

Increasing Resiliency at Critical Infrastructure with Energy Storage Systems

NRECA's new *Rural Energy Storage Deployment Program (RESDP)* focuses on the successful deployment of battery energy storage systems at rural critical infrastructure served by rural electric cooperatives for resiliency and sharing best practices and lessons learned. Electric cooperatives proudly serve over 125 military facilities in 41 states across the country. Battery energy storage is believed to be a key technology addition to maintain reliable and affordable electric service throughout rural America. Read more about this initiative on our website, including our first case study, featuring Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's installation of a battery energy storage system as part of a multi-service microgrid serving a remote mountain community.

- [Website](#)
- [Case Study](#)
- Contacts: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

Fox Islands' Distributed Wind Project Provides Energy and Resiliency

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. Through project case studies, we highlight the innovative ways our members are advancing wind generation in our industry. The distributed wind project profiled in our latest case study is part of a front-of-meter community wind farm connected to the Fox Islands Electric Cooperative's distribution grid. This project provides the majority of power supply to the co-op, which serves two islands off of Maine's southern coast.

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

Major Equipment Modifications to Improve Cyclic Performance of Coal-Fired Power Plants

The rise of competitive power markets together with growing variable renewable generation are forcing coal-fired

power plants into a reactionary posture, where they operate in a cycling manner instead of the traditional lengthy runtimes at or near rated load. Coal-fired power plants accumulate damage and degradation in key components during every start-up, shutdown, and ramping between load states – eventually leading to failure and reduced availability. This new NRECA *Surveillance* series summarizes CEATI's report *Optimization of Coal-Fired Power Plant Modifications to Improve Cyclic Performance*, providing guidance on the adaptations that electric cooperatives can make to coal-fired power plants to improve their availability. The second article in this series discusses modifications of major equipment, some of which could require the involvement of original equipment manufacturers or third-party specialists.

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

Electric Vehicles Challenges, Opportunities and Trends

The adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) is continuing at varying rates across the country. EVs present a major opportunity to electric cooperatives to grow their load after a decade or more of stagnant or declining load, and to establish or expand their roles as their members' trusted energy advisors by engaging them about and preparing them for EVs. This report takes a look at EV opportunities, challenges and trends for electric cooperatives.

- [Report](#)
- Contacts: [Brian Sloboda](#), [Mary Ann Ralls](#), and [Stephanie Crawford](#)

2021 National Benefits Survey Results Now Available

Conducted bi-annually, the National Benefits Survey (NBS) collects data from NRECA member distribution systems, G&Ts and Statewide Associations to help benchmark benefits provided by NRECA member cooperatives and the costs associated with those benefits. In addition to the comprehensive data included in previous editions, the 2021 NBS also contains data on incentive compensation and changes to benefits made as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. NRECA members that participated in the survey received a complimentary Executive Summary and are eligible to purchase the full NBS results at a discounted rate of \$395. Non-participants may purchase the results for \$595.

- [More Information & Order Form](#)
- Contacts: [Delaine Orendorff](#) and [Beth Wray](#)

Upcoming Business Insights Webinars: Aug. 17 and Sep. 2

Change is coming to every aspect of business at a level not experienced in generations — from changing business models to our changing workforce and consumer-members. Join NRECA for our Business Insights webinar series to gain perspectives that can help you navigate transformations facing your cooperative. Upcoming sessions will focus on Market Segmentation and Enterprise Risk from **2–2:50 p.m. ET on Tues. Aug. 17, and Thurs. Sep. 2**, respectively.

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

Webinar Aug. 24: Wood Poles – The Growing Need for a Supply Chain Strategy

Do you feel confident in your plan for working with your suppliers of wood pole and cross arms? WQC Director, Will Cox, and Executive Director of Southern Pressure Treaters Association, Kevin Ragon, will offer practical advice on where to access technical resources on new preservatives, the latest updates to RUS standards and guidance, and more to help you navigate new supply chain needs and keep your pole maintenance budgets and work plans on track: **Aug. 24 at 2-2:50 p.m. ET.**

- [Register](#)
- Contacts: [Will Cox](#) and [Robbin Christianson](#)

RC3 Cybersecurity Summit: Aug. 26

Cybersecurity is a continual challenge for all businesses including electric utilities. Join us on **Aug. 26** for a one-day online **RC3 Cybersecurity Summit** to learn more about what you can do to improve your co-op's cybersecurity posture. Any co-op staff responsible for cybersecurity, including those who are not IT professionals, are encouraged to attend. No prior cybersecurity skills training is required.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Emma Stewart](#)

Webinar Aug. 31: Renewable Hybrid Power Plants

Renewable hybrid power plants using complementary technologies can greatly reduce the challenges of intermittency. Join us on **Aug. 31 at 2-2:50 p.m.** for our next "Emerging Tech" webinar, **Wind Hybrid Power Plants as an Emerging Energy Resource Option**, and hear from NRECA's Director of System Optimization, Michael Leitman, and two cooperatives about their pioneering wind hybrid projects at the distribution and transmission scales. The first, Lake Region EC's hybrid in Minnesota, combines a 2.5 megawatt wind turbine with 500 kilowatts of solar and a community thermal storage pilot using grid-interactive electric water heaters. The second, Western Farmers EC's Skeleton Creek Project in Oklahoma, combines 250 megawatts of wind with 250 megawatts of solar and a 200 megawatt battery storage system in what will be the largest project of its kind in the U.S. when completed in 2023.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Robbin Christianson](#) and [Renee Garver](#)

Technology Planning and Decision Making Course at 2021 Cooperative University: Oct. 7

This newly revised and streamlined one-day course helps attendees develop an understanding of, and gain practice with, the core competencies now required of everyone in the cooperative organization to ensure that technology is applied effectively. It introduces a proven technology planning process, best management practices, tools, and resources crucial for effective technology planning and decision making. **Thurs., Oct. 7, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.**

- [Register](#)

- Contact: [Brienne McIntyre](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

- [‘A Cultural Reset’ — How the Pandemic Has Elevated the Value of Soft Skills at Co-ops](#)
- [What is the Beneficial Electrification League?](#)
- [How Data Is Revolutionizing the Electric Utility Industry](#)

Webinars

- **Business Insights Webinar Series**
 - Market Segmentation: Tools and Research to Understand Your Members
Aug. 17: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
 - Enterprise Risk Management: It's a Good Fit for Your Co-op
Sep. 2: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
- **Wood Poles – The Growing Need for a Supply Chain Strategy**
Aug. 24: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
- **Emerging Tech Series:** Wind Hybrid Power Plants as an Emerging Energy Resource Option
Aug. 31: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
- **Co-op Economic Outlook Series**
Oct. 21: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
Jan. 20: 2-2:50 p.m. ET

On Demand:

- **Emerging Tech Series: Utility Uses for Augmented and Virtual Reality**
- **Emerging Tech Series: EV Trends and Consumer Perspectives**
- **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**
- **RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program**
- **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, and broadband. The following are some resources that cooperatives may find helpful as our industry continues to address the challenges of the pandemic.

- **Podcast: 'A Cultural Reset' — How the Pandemic Has Elevated the Value of Soft Skills at Co-ops**
- **2021 U.S. Economic Outlook: A Focus on Rural America**
 - **Q1 - 2021**
 - **Q2 - 2021**
 - Contact: [Joe Goodenbery](#)
- **Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items** (webinar)
 - Contact: [Mike Sassman](#)
- **Tools to Help Manage Energy Expenses**
 - Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)
- **The Criticality of Broadband**
 - Contact: [Paul Breakman](#)
- **NRECA COVID-19 Hub**

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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