

Smart Inverters as a Grid Asset

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 and conducting field tests; and working with NEETRAC to analyze the test data. This new report provides NEETRAC's analysis of the data from the first field test with Central Electric Power Cooperative and Black River Electric Cooperative.

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

New Distributed Wind Toolkit

There are many important aspects to consider when exploring distributed wind projects. NRECA Research has published a new Distributed Wind Toolkit on cooperative.com as part of the *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND)* project. The toolkit is intended to help electric cooperatives determine when distributed wind or wind hybrid projects make sense, and provides resources to evaluate, scope, plan for, and execute distributed wind projects, or advise their consumer-members in doing so. Find out more in this new advisory:

- [Advisory](#)
- [Toolkit](#)
- Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

Decommissioning Library for Coal-Fired Power Plants

Economic, social, and environmental pressures are spurring the retirement of coal-fired power plants, including those operated by cooperatives. Some co-ops are considering the option of decommissioning a retired coal-fired plant. To provide information on how to proceed with decommissioning and the options available to co-ops, NRECA has created a library with a wide range of documents on what is involved in decommissioning and how to proceed. This new advisory explains more:

- [Advisory](#)

- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative Assists Tyndall Air Force Base in Storm Restoration

The Department of Defense (DoD) is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the United States. Co-ops work closely with U.S. military installations, providing electricity and partnering on projects. Our latest case study highlights this partnership, explaining how Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative serves Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida through its Utility Privatization (UP) contract, where the cooperative owns, operates, and maintains the electric distribution grid and manages the water distribution system on the base. Through this well-established partnership – and mutual aid with neighboring co-ops – Gulf Coast was ready and able to come to the base's aid when Category 5 hurricane Michael brought devastating damage to the area in 2018.

- [Gulf Coast EC Case Study](#)
- [Working with the Military Case Study Series](#)
- Contacts: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

Financing Methods for Distributed Wind Projects

Finance is a crucial component of distributed wind development. Because renewable energy projects are more capital-intensive than conventional fossil fuel generation projects, their long-term financial performances are sensitive to cost of capital and how their financing is structured when the project is undertaken. This new report from NRECA's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Development (RADWIND)* project looks at various types of financing, incentives, and business models that can be used by electric cooperatives and other rural utilities to deploy distributed wind projects, or to support their members in doing so.

- [Report](#)
- [RADWIND Website](#)
- Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#), [Venkat Banunarayanan](#), and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

New Podcast: Understanding Essence, a Co-op-Created Cyber-Defense System

As utilities have deployed new connected technologies to monitor the grid, the need for strong cybersecurity on the operations technology side has grown exponentially. The latest episode of *Along Those Lines* takes a deep dive into Essence, a unique co-op-built tool for detection, visualization and reporting of potential cyberattacks. This new diagnostic tool accelerates detection of malicious cyber threats on systems **from months to seconds**. Listen to this podcast to hear from Emma Stewart, NRECA's chief scientist, about Essence and how it can help cooperatives.

- [Podcast](#)
- [Essence website](#)
- Contacts: [Emma Stewart](#) and [Doug Lambert](#)

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.** Discounted hotel rate ends Sept. 13.

- [Register](#)
- [Book Hotel](#)
- Contact: [Brianna McIntyre](#)

Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar Series: October 21

Join NRECA economic and investment experts on **Oct. 21 at 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET** as they continue to discuss the issues they see shaping the economic health of communities served by electric co-ops. This free quarterly series covers key economic indicators, insights on economic growth, and the latest trends and implications for rural areas and the broader U.S. economy. Discussion will align with topics covered in the latest U.S. Rural Economic Outlook report – unemployment updates, inflation, retail sales and more.

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

Meet the RE Magazine Co-op Rising Stars!

When *RE Magazine* asked for candidates for its first-ever list of “Co-op Rising Stars,” the response was overwhelming, with more than 80 nominations. From that list, a panel of judges narrowed it down to 20 standouts who will shape the industry's future. And more than HALF the winners are in technology-related positions. Meet the Stars!

- [RE Magazine Article](#)
- Contact: [Scot Hoffman](#)

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

- [Co-op Economic Outlook Series](#)
Oct. 21: 2-2:50 p.m. ET

Jan. 20: 2-2:50 p.m. ET

On Demand

- [Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar Series: July 22, 2021](#)
- [Grid Operations & Innovation Series: Wood Pole Production and Quality Assurance](#)
- [Grid Operations & Innovation Series: Wood Poles: The Growing Need for a Supply Chain Strategy](#)
- [Business Insights Series: Enterprise Risk Management: It's a Good Fit for Your Co-op](#)
- [Business Insights Series: Market Segmentation](#)
- [Business Insights Series: Using Performance-Based Frameworks to Deliver Consumer Value](#)
- [Emerging Tech Series: Wind Hybrid Power Plants as an Emerging Energy Resource Option](#)
- [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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