

Planning and Implementing Public Charging Station Programs for Electric Vehicles

Interest in building additional public electric vehicle charging is growing, as is the number and type of vendors offering these services as turnkey solutions to co-ops. There are several key points when exploring a public charging program that are important to consider in the planning stage and at various points during the project. This new advisory reviews these considerations and provides information on useful resources for cooperatives.

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

Improving 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 third article in this series has just been published and examines balance-of-plant modifications.

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

2021 Electrify Alaska Conference

Calling on our Alaskan community to join us on **Oct. 25-28** in Cordova, Alaska for a 4-day meeting and networking conference for electric cooperative management teams interested in the rapidly evolving market opportunity of Beneficial Electrification in Alaska. Help meet the responsible and cost-saving electrical technologies of today and tomorrow for all-electric aviation, boating, vehicles, and home heating. This event, hosted by Cordova Electric Cooperative, is part of a nationwide effort by the [Beneficial Electrification League](#) (BEL), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting beneficial electrification of the economy. NRECA is part of the Leadership team for BEL and proud to be a co-partner of this event.

- [Registration](#)

- [Contacts: Adaora Ifebigh or Keith Dennis](#)

Smart Inverters as a Grid Asset

With the recent rapid growth of inverter-based distributed energy resources and related standards being updated, cooperatives may need to adopt alternative settings for smart inverters. NRECA is working with co-ops and NEETRAC to conduct and analyze field tests to demonstrate compliance with the standards and how to achieve the benefits of grid services. Read more about our research on our website and join us, **Oct. 12 at 2:00 p.m. ET**, to learn about this field testing and the potential of inverter-based DER to enable grid optimization. This **free** session is part of the Grid Operations & Innovation webinar series.

- [Webinar Registration](#)
- [Smart Inverter Research Information](#)
- [Contacts: Fathalla Eldali and Robbin Christianson](#)

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](#)

Webinar: Stewardship, Partnerships, and Innovation with Vegetation Management – Sept. 29

Some necessary tactics for utility vegetation management – like tree removal and herbicide – can distress some consumer-members. Join us on **Sept. 29, 1:00 p.m. ET** for a **free** webinar developed by NRECA with the Utility Arborist Association, and hear Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative share their story of how their vegetation management and public relations departments united to overcome the challenges of the necessary work to keep powerlines clear and safe. SVEC's innovative Utility Vegetation Management PR team constructed a variety of tools to educate members, alleviate concern, and improve community relations.

- [Registration](#)
- Contact: [Elise Laarman](#)

Webinar: Leading Through the Workforce Revolution – Oct. 19

A revolution is underway in the world of work, and it is changing how to lead. Join Delaine Orendorff, NRECA's Director of Human Capital Planning & Compensation, for our next Business Insights webinar, *Leading Through the Workforce Revolution*. Gain insights into how culture influences motivation and productivity in the workplace. Delaine will be joined by Schamra Detheridge, Vice President of Human Resources at Midwest Energy. **Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET.**

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Delaine Orendorff](#)

Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar Series – Oct. 21

Join NRECA economic and investment experts on **Oct. 21, 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 – labor market conditions, inflation, retail sales and more.

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Joseph Goodenbery](#) and [Robbin Christianson](#)

Emerging Tech Webinars: EV Innovations and Electric School Buses

Join NRECA's Director of Consumer Solutions, Brian Sloboda, for the next two sessions of our Emerging Tech Webinar Series. In *EVs: Innovations and How to Plan for Adoption* (Oct. 26 at 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET), Brian and Robert Wallace of WyEast Resource Conservation and Development will cover some emerging transportation options and guidance on how to plan to introduce them in your service territory. In *Electric School Buses: Collaborating with Communities* (Nov. 16 at 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET), Brian, Travis Mathes of Lewis County REC and Andy Turgeon of the Knox County School District will discuss how co-ops are working with school districts to deploy electric buses and the value they bring to their communities.

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

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 Series: Leading Through the Workforce Revolution](#)
Oct. 19: 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET
- [Co-op Economic Outlook Series](#)
Oct. 21: 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET
Jan. 20: 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET
- [Emerging Tech Series: EVs: Innovations and How to Plan for Adoption](#)
Oct. 26: 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET
- [Emerging Tech Series: Electric School Buses: Collaborating with Communities](#)
Nov. 16: 2:00-2:50 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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