



Business & Technology Update

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New Articles & Reports

Distribution Automation Roadmap for Electric Cooperatives

The cooperative energy landscape is transforming with the advent of Distributed Energy Resources, and advanced energy technologies such as distribution automation (DA). This transformation presents an attractive opportunity for co-ops to enhance their energy resilience, sustainability, and cost-efficiency. NRECA's new report explains the need for DA in a changing grid paradigm, the value of DA through various objectives and goals, components for successful implementation of DA technology and applications, and details of a DA initiative by NRECA with electric cooperatives.

- [Report](#)
- Contacts: [Ravindra Singh](#) and [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

Opportunity to Participate in IEEE Working Group for a Virtual Power Plant Guide

NRECA has been an active member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standards Committees for many years, representing cooperatives' interests and contributing to standardization process for the benefit of all NRECA members. Our involvement has provided members access to industry specific insights, leading-edge technology research, and a framework for consistent and reliable practices, promoting interoperability, efficiency, and safety within cooperative operations. This advisory highlights a new opportunity for cooperatives to be involved in the IEEE P2030.14 Working Group that will develop of guide for virtual power plant functional specification for alternate and multi-source generation.

- [Advisory](#)

- Contacts: [Ravindra Singh](#) and [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)
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Cybersecurity Guidebook for Electric Cooperative Human Resources and Benefits Administration Professionals

Like safety, cybersecurity is a concern for everyone at a cooperative. However, each job role in a co-op may have unique cybersecurity responsibilities. NRECA has developed a series of cybersecurity guidebooks to provide information pertinent to specific job roles within a cooperative. The most recent guidebook focuses on Human Resources and Benefits Administration Professionals.

- [Guidebook for HR](#)
 - [Series of Guidebooks](#)
 - Contact: [Cybersecurity Team](#)
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ACCESS Co-op Case Studies on Solar for LMI Communities

In 2019, through a project called [ACCESS](#), the U.S. Department of Energy awarded NRECA with funding to research ways to ensure that solar generation is available and affordable for consumers who have low- to moderate-income levels (LMI). ACCESS has been the flagship project of NRECA's [Advancing Energy Access for All](#) initiative. As the ACCESS Program comes to a close, the team has updated a series of co-op case studies and added a new one. These and other resources from the ACCESS project can be found on [cooperative.com](#):

- [ACCESS Website](#)
 - Contacts: [Lisa Slaughter](#) and [Rajeena Shakya](#)
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Upcoming Webinars

TODAY: Broadband Infrastructure Funding Programs and Opportunities in 2024

The bipartisan infrastructure law included \$65 billion for various broadband infrastructure funding programs, the largest of which, called the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, will open for applications in 2024. Other programs, such as the annual Smart Utility Loan Program at USDA, assists rural utilities such as co-ops seeking to modernize and integrate new technologies to their systems. Join NRECA Broadband on **January 25 at 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET** for this free webinar presenting an overview of the various funding programs available to electric co-ops both for retail broadband as well as electric operations, and what opportunities might exist in the coming year in the broadband space.

- [More Information and Registration](#)
 - Contacts: [Katie Culleton](#) and [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)
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Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series

Join us on **February 6 at 2:00 pm ET** as NRECA staff continues to keep you up to date on the latest research and funding programs in which cooperatives may want to participate—including NRECA research initiatives, federal and other FOAs, and new opportunities with the infrastructure law. This year, learning opportunities in each session will focus on the full application process (from writing a concept paper, to project management, execution and reporting). Presenters for the February session are Patti Metro, Senior Director of Grid Operations & Reliability, and Allison Hamilton, Director of Markets and Rates.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Patti Metro](#) and [Allison Hamilton](#)

Conferences

BTS Offerings at NRECA's PowerXchange and TechAdvantage

PowerXchange, NRECA's annual meeting of members, will once again occur alongside TechAdvantage, the premier industry technology event for electric co-op professionals, **March 3 – 6 in San Antonio, Texas**. Discover solutions and strategies that promise to drive your cooperative forward while exploring the Expo, featuring more than 300 technology vendors.

NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies team will be offering a variety of pre-conference workshops and breakout sessions at TechAdvantage and PowerXchange on topics including electric vehicles, system integration, cybersecurity, data analytics, and more. Find out details in this summary and plan to visit with our BTS subject matter experts to discuss your particular business and technology needs:

- [Summary of BTS at TechAdvantage and PowerXchange](#)
- [Conference Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Alison Kent](#) (TechAdvantage) and [Kristen Wheeler](#) (PowerXchange)

2024 Safety Leadership Summit

Join us **April 30 – May 3 in Kansas City, Missouri** for NRECA's premier industry, educational and networking event for co-op staff responsible for safety practices. The in-person event includes a full day of pre-conference workshops, four high-profile keynote speakers, breakout sessions and more. Teams from all parts and levels of the cooperative are encouraged to attend so that they can learn together to bring about real, lasting safety improvement.

- [Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Rebecca Bittle](#) and [Perron Nicholas](#)

NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit

Save the Date! Mark your calendar for **June 12 – 14 in Washington, D.C.** for the NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit. A free benefit of NRECA Broadband participation, this event will provide critical updates on the issues impacting broadband deployment and offer meaningful engagement with peers, NRECA leaders, federal agency staff and other key contacts. Registration opens in early April.

- [More Information](#)
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

Professional Development Courses

Managing Cooperative Projects and Programs

Successful projects and programs are critical to electric cooperatives' mission and purpose. No matter if the effort is large or small, internal or consumer-facing, the co-op staff leading the effort need specific knowledge and skills to successfully plan, manage and execute the project or program. In this course, participants will learn how to initiate, plan, and manage projects and programs to achieve the desired results and meet stakeholder needs. Join us live online on **February 20 – 23 at 1:00 – 4:30 pm ET** for NRECA Course 730.2 - *Managing Cooperative Projects and Programs*. Note that participants must attend all four sessions to earn course credit towards the [Supervisor and Manager Development Program \(SMDP\)](#) certificate. Registration is required for participation in this course. **Deadline for registration is February 14.**

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)

Calendar of NRECA's 2024 Career and Development Courses for Cooperatives

NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for cooperatives' career development. The schedule is now available for the 2024 [Supervisor and Manager Development Program \(SMDP\)](#) and [Cooperative Career Essentials Program \(CCEP\)](#) online courses. This schedule also includes the dates and location for the annual [Cooperative University](#) event, where SMDP and CCEP courses are held in-person. The [CCEP](#) focuses on the core skills that all employees need, regardless of their title or tenure. [SMDP](#) focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others.

- [Schedule](#)
- Contact for SMDP: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)
- Contact for CCEP: [Alison Kent](#)

NRECA's Infrastructure Funding Consortia

Members are invited to sign-up to participate in [NRECA's consortia](#) focused on five key areas of co-op interest related to infrastructure funding opportunities. Find out more and sign-up through the links below, and view our past related webinars [On Demand](#):

- [Cooperative Approach to Vehicle Electrification \(CAVE\) Consortium](#)
- [Cyber and Physical Security Consortium](#)
- [Microgrid Consortium](#)
- [Natural Hazards Consortium](#)
- [Smart Grids and Data Consortium](#)

- [Infrastructure Resource Hub](#)
- [Contact: Lauren Khair](#)

ON DEMAND WEBINARS

Many NRECA Webinars are offered On Demand after the live events, to continue as resources to benefit our members. Here is just a sample. Find many more on [cooperative.com](https://www.cooperative.com).

- [Federal Funding Webinar Series](#)
- [Economic Outlook Webinar Series](#)
- [Infrastructure Consortia Webinar Series](#)
- [Cybersecurity Update Webinar Series](#)

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn More.

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