

Business & Technology Update



Thursday, October 7, 2021 | coop.com | [BTS Portfolio](#) | [Contact](#) | [Archive](#) |

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and NRECA has once again joined with the National Cyber Security Alliance and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency as a Champion of this year's program. Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and to ensure that everyone has the information and tools they need to be safer online. Visit our website to learn more and find information and resources for cooperatives to join in the effort.

- [NRECA's Cybersecurity Awareness Month Website](#)

Virtual Conference Opportunity: GridSecCon – Oct 18-20

GridSecCon brings together cyber and physical security leaders from industry and government to deliver expert training sessions, share best practices, present lessons learned, and share effective threat mitigation programs. Join to hear NRECA's Emma Stewart and Doug Lambert speak about the Essence program and the cyber initiatives at NRECA, along with Bridgette Bourge on the how trade associations are working with their members to be secure.

- [Information and Registration](#)

NRECA Cybersecurity Resources for Members

Below are some resources from NRECA to help members assess and improve their cybersecurity:

- **Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Program**

Through the multi-year, public-private funding of our RC3 program, a variety of resources were developed to assist cooperatives in understanding and advancing their cybersecurity posture. Access the resources on our website, and read about the program in this *RE Magazine* article:

 - [RC3 Website](#)
 - [RE Magazine Article](#)
- **Essence Threat Detection Tool**

NRECA's Essence diagnostic tool advances detection of malicious cyberthreats on systems from the typical months to just seconds. Read about it on our website and see how it works in our new infographic in *RE Magazine*:

 - [Essence Website](#)
 - [Essence Infographic](#)

Contacts: [Emma Stewart](#), [Doug Lambert](#) and [Will Hutton](#)

TechConnect and Resilience Conferences – Oct. 18-20

Three major conferences on grid technology and resiliency are happening later this month. *TechConnect World Innovation Conference & Expo* is in-person in Washington, DC and brings together top applied research and early-stage innovations from universities, labs, and startups with industry end-users and prospectors. *Defense TechConnect* will be part of the in-person program and focus on innovation for national security. Concurrently, Idaho National Labs will be offering *Resilience Week*, a virtual program focused on transforming the resilience of critical infrastructure systems and communities. NRECA will be participating in the Resilience Week program with Sandia National Laboratories, PNNL, Cordova Electric, and many others on panels to discuss workforce development initiatives, community efforts in persistent poverty counties, and project collaborations in energy storage. Members of NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies group, Adaora Ifebigh, Lauren Khair, Ryan Newlon, Delaine Orendorff and Emma Stewart, will be presenting and chairing these sessions. In addition, Defense TechConnect will feature an award pitch presentation for NRECA's Essence program, which provides a threat detection tool for cybersecurity. NRECA members who are attending the in-person conference can contact [Emma Stewart](#) for a complimentary VIP pass to the Defense TechConnect expo. More information and registration is available through the following links:

- [TechConnect – in-person](#)
- [Defense TechConnect – in-person](#)
- [Resilience Week – virtual](#)
- Contact: [Emma Stewart](#)

Use and Storage of Captured Carbon

Interest in technologies associated with carbon capture has been growing rapidly in both the public and private sectors in recent years, as government and industry grapple with how to move cost effectively to a low-carbon future. Through its National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is supporting the testing of a wide range of technologies. Our latest *Surveillance* article, the second of two, examines what is involved in the use and storage of captured carbon dioxide and discusses related co-op activities.

- [Article](#)
- Contacts: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Will Morris](#)

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](#)

Webinar: Smart Inverters as a Grid Asset – Oct. 12

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](#)

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, 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 – Oct. 26 & Nov. 16

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, 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, 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

- [Grid Operations and Innovation: Smart Inverters as a Grid Asset](#)
Oct. 12: 2:00-2:50 p.m. ET
- [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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