

Business & Technology Update



Thursday, October 21, 2021 | coop.com | [BTS Portfolio](#) | [Contact](#) | [Archive](#) |

Today: Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar

Join NRECA economic and investment experts **today, 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](#)

New Cybersecurity Awareness Month Offerings

Continuing our support of October's *Cybersecurity Awareness Month* with the National Cyber Security Alliance and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, NRECA has some new resources available:

- [Podcast: How to Avoid Being a Victim of Ransomware](#)

Ransomware became a household word earlier this year when the Colonial Pipeline, a major fuel delivery source on the East Coast, was shut down for several days after hackers attacked its billing system. With these highly disruptive and costly network intrusions on the rise, how can electric co-ops avoid becoming victims of this sophisticated malware? And what should they do if they are attacked? Hear from NRECA's principal of cybersecurity, Ryan Newlon, as well as Dave Eisenreich, an FBI special agent in the Cyber Division.

- [Podcast: Amid Rise in EVs, New Cybersecurity Considerations Emerge](#)

With the influx of electric vehicles into the U.S. market, utilities—including electric cooperatives—and other interests are working to build EV infrastructure that can keep pace with the expected demand, and this growing web of connected charging stations will create a host of new cybersecurity vulnerabilities. To learn more about what those vulnerabilities are and how to mitigate them, listen to this discussion between NRECA's director of consumer solutions, Brian Sloboda, and Shannon Murry of the FBI's Cyber Division.

- [Cybersecurity Information Sharing Advisory Series](#)

Information sharing regarding cybersecurity threats is of paramount importance. Based on input from cooperatives who participated in our Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Summits, we are publishing a series of advisories on what information to share, when and how, as well as common barriers facing cooperatives and how to alleviate them. Our first advisory explains what cybersecurity information

sharing is and why it is important.

- **[NRECA Winter School for Directors – New Course for Directors: Cybersecurity: The Board's Oversight Role \(BLC 927.1\)](#)**

As a result of a rapidly changing cyber-threat landscape and the growth of digitization, electric cooperative boards recognize the need to govern cyber risks effectively. Boards face a balancing act with cybersecurity and continued pursuit of digital innovation, transformation, and meeting member needs. Together with management, the electric cooperative board needs to carefully assess how much cyber risk it is willing to accept in order to pursue their overall strategy. This course is designed to help distribution cooperative directors find that balance and fulfil their cybersecurity oversight responsibilities. [Register here](#) and contact [Pat Mangan](#), NRECA director of governance education, with questions.

Visit our Cybersecurity Awareness Month website to find more information and resources for cooperatives to join in the effort.

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

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

2021 Electrify Alaska Conference – Oct. 25-28

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 and More Information](#)**
- **Contacts:** [Adaora Ifebigh](#) or [Keith Dennis](#)

Hands-On Drones Course

As unmanned aerial vehicles become more sophisticated and capable, some electric cooperatives are using drones for field operations. NRECA has partnered with a top drone service provider, PrecisionHawk, to offer utility-specific training designed to help co-ops get more value from their investments in the technology. A new *RE Magazine* article discusses this opportunity, and the schedule of dates and locations for the course is available on our website. In addition, NRECA offers a variety of UAS Flight Services to help utilities select the right drone technology and platform to meet their needs and to successfully integrate the technology into their inspection and assessment processes. Find out more through the links below:

- **[Article](#)**
- **[Course Schedule and Registration](#)**
- **[More Information on NRECA UAS Course and Flight Services](#)**
- **Contact:** [Stan McHann](#)

New NRECA Professional Community on Research Funding Opportunities

NRECA members who would like to hear about the various opportunities for NRECA Research projects available through federal and other funding sources are welcome to sign-up for our new professional community. As with all of NRECA's professional communities, this provides a member-only platform for co-op discussion and sharing of ideas. In addition, once a month, NRECA will be offering a webinar to share the latest information regarding new project funding to help ensure that members are up to date on the breadth of research being conducted for their benefit by NRECA and are aware of co-op participation opportunities. Members who are interested in joining this new professional community please contact Aceline Hyppolite at Aceline.Hyppolite@nreca.coop or Emma Stewart at Emma.Stewart@nreca.coop.

Find Out Your Co-op's Microgrid Potential with New Tool

NRECA Research developed a mapping tool, so that cooperatives and rural communities can answer some of their first big questions on what their options or pathways are to implementing a community microgrid. The tool brings together data about possible technology sources for a microgrid, as well as weather data to highlight areas of concern for resiliency. All data are federally sourced and selected based on available assumptions about source-specific capacity to support a microgrid.

- [Microgrid Potential Explorer Tool](#)
- Contact: [Katherine Loving](#)

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. This 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](#)

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 from 2-2:50 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 from 2-2:50 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: IEEE 1547 – What to Know About the New Standard – Nov. 2

Much has changed since the original IEEE 1547 DER interconnection standard was published in 2003. Join us **Nov. 2, at 2 p.m. ET** as NRECA experts discuss some of the more significant changes for those seeking to apply the standard. This free, 50-minute session is part of the *Grid Operations & Innovation* webinar series.

- [Register](#)
- [More Information on IEEE 1547](#)
- Contacts: [Fathalla Eldali](#) and [Robbin Christianson](#)

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
January 20: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
- [Emerging Tech Series: EVs: Innovations and How to Plan for Adoption](#)
Oct. 26: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
- [IEEE 1547 – What to Know About the New Standard](#)
Nov. 2: 2-2:50 p.m. ET
- [Emerging Tech Series: Electric School Buses: Collaborating with Communities](#)
Nov. 16: 2-2:50 p.m. ET

On Demand

- [Leading Through the Workforce Revolution](#)
- [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**
 - **Q3 - 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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