

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and below are a few key resources from NRECA to help members assess and improve their cybersecurity posture:

- **RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment – Last Chance to Participate**

Cooperatives have one final opportunity to receive multi-year access to the Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (**RC3**) Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment, learn about their current cybersecurity posture, and gain insights for developing action plans for further improvements. Join the more than 480 member cooperatives who are already using this tool. The final round for applications to participate is available to all NRECA member co-ops and the **deadline is October 30**.

- [Advisory](#)
- [RC3 Self-Assessment Website](#)
- Contacts: [Cynthia Hsu](#) and [Valerie Sayd](#)

- **DOE-funded \$6M Essence Project for Cyber Incident Detection**

NRECA has received \$6 million in a cooperative agreement with the Department of Energy to further develop its groundbreaking cybersecurity tool for cyber incident detection known as Essence and deliver it to co-ops nationwide. NRECA will be testing Essence at 55 cooperatives. Interested cooperatives may contact: Doug.Lambert@nreca.coop.

- [Article](#)
- [Website](#)
- Contact: [Doug Lambert](#)

- **RC3 Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Scenarios Available**

NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (**RC3**) Program has nine different tabletop exercise scenarios for cooperatives to use in gaining insights about their ability to respond to a cybersecurity incident. The scenarios are based on real-world events, offered in three levels of complexity to fit the various cybersecurity capabilities at cooperatives, and can be conducted virtually with your co-op staff.

- [RC3 Tabletop Exercises](#)
- [RC3 Website](#)

- Contact: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

- **Article: Smart Devices Extend Cybersecurity Concerns from IT to OT**

As smart devices proliferate on the grid, cybersecurity practices, once largely focused on IT, are now increasingly also concerned with operational technology. Our new *RE Magazine* article discusses this issue and highlights co-op experiences:

- **Article**
- Contact: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

Distributed Wind Research Project Seeking Cooperative Advisors

Join our new research project to explore opportunities for deployment of distributed wind generation across rural America. The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded a research grant to support a two-year, \$3 million research initiative spearheaded by NRECA, the *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development* (RADWIND) project, and we are seeking cooperatives to participate in a Member Stakeholder Group.

Expressions of interest are requested to be sent to RadwindProject@nreca.coop by October 30, 2020.

Find out more in the resources below:

- **Website**
- **Advisory**
- **FAQ**
- **Article**
- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

Co-op Case Studies on Solar Energy Affordability for Consumers in Need

NRECA's **ACCESS** project, supported by the U.S. DOE, is working with an extensive cooperative and industry stakeholder group to explore various technology and financing models to help make solar affordable to communities in need. Below are two case studies, highlighting Anza Electric's work with Tribal communities and Roanoke Electric's effort to leverage existing energy programs to support increased participation in new solar offerings. Join us on **November 12 and 18** for "The Power of Partnership" webinar series to hear firsthand from these co-ops about their efforts and their lessons learned. Two news articles are also below, emphasizing the importance of this initiative.

- **Case Study: Anza Electric Cooperative**
- **Case Study: Roanoke Electric Cooperative**
- **Webinar Series: The Power of Partnership**
- **Article: DOE Grant Will Help Co-ops Bring Solar Power to Low-Income Members**
- **Article: Report Sheds Light on Energy Burdens for Low-Income, Minority Households**

- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

New NRECA Services for Co-ops Interested in Military Project Funding

The *Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program* (DCIP) is designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation in order to enhance the military family quality of life, resilience, or military value. This program authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Defense to make grants, conclude cooperative agreements, and supplement funds available under other Federal programs. In Fiscal Year 2020, **\$50 million was appropriated to this program**. Only state, local governments and rural electric cooperatives are eligible to receive the grant awards. In support of this effort, NRECA has just announced new customized services to assist cooperatives maximize the opportunity to potentially receive funds through DCIP.

- [More Information](#)
- [Working with the Military - Website](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

U.S. Department of Energy Technical Assistance to Support Hydropower Decision Making

The U.S. Department of Energy's Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) recently announced a **Notice of Opportunity for Technical Assistance** (NOTA) to provide hydropower decision makers with National Lab expertise and capabilities to address current challenges and capture new opportunities for their systems. Five areas of technical assistance interested stakeholders can apply into include: 1) Participation in Energy Imbalance Markets, 2) Value of Inflow Forecasting Tools and Practices, 3) Hydropower in Integrated Resource Planning, 4) Optimization of Hybrid Hydropower and Storage Systems, and 5) Open Topic. DOE anticipates up to six recipients for this opportunity. Interested applicants must submit initial concept papers **by November 30, 2020**, and full applications by January 15, 2021. **An informational webinar** will take place on **November 4 at 2pm ET**.

- [Informational Webinar](#)
- Contact: [Jan Ahlen](#)

Guidelines for Optical Groundwire Technology

Since the widespread installation of overhead optical groundwire (OPGW) technology in the 1980s, the utility industry has learned much about deploying OPGW. However, there are still knowledge gaps related to the types and reasons for utilizing this communication technology, as well as the design, testing, installation, commissioning and ongoing maintenance of OPGW systems. This article is the first of a two-part series summarizing the CEATI Transmission Overhead Design & Extreme Event Mitigation Interest Group's report: *Guidelines for Optical Groundwire Technology*. It provides utilities with valuable information on current OPGW practices, as well as gaps in knowledge and experience and how to mitigate them.

- [Article](#)
- Contact: [Patti Metro](#)

NRECA Expands Consulting Services: Appointments Available

Need help with critical infrastructure maintenance, grid status or unmanned aerial systems? NRECA has expanded its consulting services, collaborating with co-ops to address their **technology management** needs. Services include: Technology Planning, Data Strategy Planning, Grid Data Analytics, Technology Evaluation and Deployment, Operations Analysis and Effectiveness and Unmanned Aerial Systems. **Contact us** today to learn how we can help your co-op develop a technology plan to maximize your investments and overcome a variety of industry challenges.

- **Website**
- Contacts: [Henry Cano](#) and [Tony Thomas](#)

“Future Of...” Webinar Series: Now On Demand

Did you miss any of our recent “*Future Of...*” webinars about technology, market advances and new services that are shaping the business of electric cooperatives? Our webinars in Volume 1 highlighted the momentum in electrification of trucking and commercial transportation, the implications of battery energy storage and the future of grid analytics, using AMI data for actionable insights. Volume 2 explored plans and steps you can take to get more from technology – and how to gain actionable insights from data. You can watch these webinars at your convenience now On Demand:

- **Volume 1 webinars**
- **Volume 2 webinars**
- Contact: [Robbin Christianson](#)

New Resources from the Beneficial Electrification League

During this very challenging time, the Beneficial Electrification League continues to bring together diverse stakeholders and advance our mission to increase understanding of electrification’s economic, consumer and environmental benefits. Several new resources are now available for cooperatives. Two new videos, focusing on business and residential consumer groups, can be branded and used by cooperatives with their members. In our recent *Along Those Lines* podcast, leaders of the Beneficial Electrification League discuss their goals for the group and how co-ops are getting involved.

- **Video: Businesses Choose Electricity!**
- **Video: Residential Consumers - Electrify Your World!**
- **Podcast**
- **Beneficial Electrification Website**
- Contact: [Keith Dennis](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

- **[What is the Beneficial Electrification League?](#)**

Webinars:

- **U.S. Department of Energy Technical Assistance to Support Hydropower Decision Making - Informational Webinar**
November 4 at 2 p.m. ET
- **The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series**

The Solar Energy “Cause”: Helping Members Save Through Philanthropy
November 12, 2-3 p.m. ET

Solar Energy Accessibility: Bringing the Power of Solar Energy to Tribal Communities
November 18, 2-3 p.m. ET

On Demand Webinars:

- **Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items**
- **Future Of... Volume 1: EVs, Battery Energy Storage, and Grid Analytics**
- **Future Of... Volume 2: UAS, Analytics, and Distributed Operations**
- **Aligning Compensation with Your Business Strategy**
- **Broadband as an Essential Service**
- **DOE Wind Energy Webinar**
- **RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program**
- **Impacts of COVID-19 on Renewable Energy and Storage Development**
- **Impacts of Postponing or Canceling Annual Meetings and Director Elections due to COVID-19**
- **Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)**
- **Series: Mitigating Bird Issues**

Additional Resources Regarding the Impact of COVID-19 on Co-ops

- RE Magazine Article: **The Covid Effect: Contact Injuries**
Contact: Bud Branham
- **Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items**
Contact: Mike Sassman

- **Report: Mid-Year 2020 U.S. Economic Outlook: A Focus on Rural America**
Contact: Joe Goodenbery
- **Paycheck Protection Program: Loan Forgiveness**
Contacts: Allison Hamilton and Joe Goodenbery
- **Financial Impact Report**
Contacts: Russell Tucker and Joe Goodenbery
- **Financial Impact and Pathways to Relief**
Contact: Allison Hamilton
- **At Risk Job Sectors Report**
Contact: Michael Leitman
- **Impacts on Generation and Transmission Cooperatives**
Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman
- **How COVID-19 Is Impacting Electricity Industry Sectors**
Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman
- **Tools to Help Manage Energy Expenses**
Contact: Brian Sloboda
- **The Criticality of Broadband**
Contact: Paul Breakman
- **Business and Technology Resources to Use Virtually**
- **NRECA COVID-19 Hub**
- **Special Edition: Business and Technology Update**

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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