

DOE Funding Opportunity for Connected Communities

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Building Technology Office (BTO) has announced its "Connected Communities" funding opportunity announcement (FOA) to expand grid-interactive efficient building communities nationwide. A total of approximately \$65 million of federal funding will be available for six to eight awards in total. Cooperatives may be interested in applying for funds under the FOA, and NRECA is evaluating submitting an application on behalf of cooperatives and technology partners. **Interested cooperatives are asked to contact Brian Sloboda (brian.sloboda@nreca.coop) by November 16.** The following advisory provides additional details:

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

Webinars Nov. 12 and 18: Solar Energy Affordability for Consumers in Need

Join us on **November 12 and 18** for "The Power of Partnership" webinar series to hear firsthand from Anza Electric Cooperative and Roanoke Electric Cooperative about their efforts to provide solar energy programs to low- to moderate-income communities. 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. Anza Electric and Roanoke Electric efforts are also featured in the following case studies:

- **Webinar Series: The Power of Partnership**
- **Case Study: Anza Electric Cooperative**
- **Case Study: Roanoke Electric Cooperative**
- **ACCESS Website**
- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

Opportunities for Co-ops to Work with the Military

- **Case Studies on Utility Privatization Contracts**

Utility Privatization (UP) contracts between cooperatives and military bases provide many advantages for both parties. The military sees lower energy prices, responsive service, collegial working relationships with transparent communication, and dedicated cooperative professionals to serve each base. For cooperatives, UP contracts bring in a

long-term source of revenue, usually for 50 years. NRECA is featuring a series of case studies on cooperatives' work with military bases. Our two most recent case studies highlight the efforts of Rio Grande Electric Cooperative in making energy efficiency, infrastructure, and system reliability improvements for Fort Bliss, a large Army training and deployment complex in El Paso, Texas; and Verendrye Electric Cooperative's work with Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota to achieve significant reliability and resilience improvements.

- [Case Study: Rio Grande Electric Cooperative](#)
- [Case Study: Verendrye Electric Cooperative](#)

• **Webinar Dec. 3: Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities**

The Defense Community Infrastructure 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. 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. Join us for a free webinar on **December 3, 1-2 p.m. EST** to learn more.

- [Webinar Registration](#)
- [More Information about DCIP](#)

More Information

- [Website: Electric Co-ops and The Military](#)
- [Contacts: Lauren Khair and Maria Kanevsky](#)

ASCE Standard for Overhead Utility Structures

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is starting an effort to write a Design Standard for overhead utility structures including distribution. The effect of the Standard could ultimately be to supersede the NESC District Loading rule 250B and require all distribution structures to be built to existing transmission standards. Cooperatives are encouraged to participate in this effort either with their own staff representation, through their G&T, and/or through NRECA, to ensure sufficient representation of distribution engineering. The following advisory provides additional information:

- [Advisory](#)
- [Contact: Robert Harris](#)

MultiSpeak® Guide Specifications and Online Training

The NRECA MultiSpeak® team is now offering Guide Specifications written around the business processes that co-op vendors are encouraged to support. These easy-to-use guide specifications are free with your MultiSpeak Subscription, and can be added directly to your RFI, RFQ and PO to help ensure critical interfaces are specified correctly from the start. Online training is also available from our MultiSpeak team for a modest fee. For more information, please contact: support@MultiSpeak.org.

- [List of Guide Specifications](#)
- [Online Training](#)

- Contact: [Tony Thomas](#)

“Go Electric!” New Resources to Support Beneficial Electrification Efforts

NRECA and Touchstone Energy® now offer a variety of new actionable resources to help co-ops highlight the benefits of using electric products and services, and effectively communicate how electricity can be a preferred energy source to members and the community. Co-ops can add their logos to the available graphics, articles and social media resources and use them in their own print and digital member communications. These offerings are intended to position electric co-ops as trusted sources of electrification information and resources for electric consumer goods, such as EVs, hot water heaters, household appliances, tools, and others.

- [Beneficial Electrification Resources](#)
- [Beneficial Electrification Website](#)
- Contacts: [Keith Dennis](#), [Mary Ann Cristiano](#), [Anne Prince](#)

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 second 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 recommended mitigation strategies to help close gaps in OPGW knowledge and experience, a proposed hypothetical OPGW and hardware material specification, and a case study workflow of a project implementing an OPGW along a high voltage overhead transmission line.

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

NRECA Expands Consulting Services

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](#)

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. Find out more in the resources below:

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

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

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

Webinars:

- [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

- [New Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities](#)
December 3, 1-2 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](#)

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, safety, broadband, and other areas. Below are links:

- 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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