

Business & Technology Update



Thursday, November 18, 2021 | [coop.com](#) | [BTS Portfolio](#) | [Contact](#) | [Archive](#) |

RADWIND Is Making Strides for Year 2

NRECA's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND)* project has received approval from the U.S. DOE for its second year, as we continue our work to understand, address, and reduce the technical risks and market barriers to distributed wind adoption by electric cooperatives and other rural utilities. Kicking off this next phase, we have two new case studies that highlight how San Isabel Electric Cooperative fulfills its state requirements and its mission with distributed wind, and Kotzebue Electric Association replaced diesel fuel with a wind hybrid system in Alaska's Arctic Tundra. NRECA is also seeking additional distribution and G&T members to participate as project advisors, and to share their own experiences and insights with distributed wind projects through case studies. Read more in this new advisory and case studies:

- [RADWIND Project Update and Member Advisor Participation Opportunity](#)
- [San Isabel EC Case Study](#)
- [Kotzebue EA Case Study](#)
- [RADWIND Website](#)
- Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#) and [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

New Research Funding Opportunities Webinar Series and Professional Community

Join us for NRECA's new monthly webinar series highlighting funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and other sources available for NRECA research with members. These **free**, 30-minute sessions focus on sharing current NRECA research initiatives and upcoming research funding opportunities in which cooperatives may want to participate. Our first webinar was November 17 and included over 55 participants. The recording will be available On Demand for members soon. The next dates are **Dec. 15 and Jan. 19**.

Also join our **new professional community** to stay up to date on research funding developments. Through this community, we will have member discussions and share ongoing updates on research and new funding opportunities as they become available.

- [Webinar Registration](#)
- **Sign-up for Professional Community:** Send an email to ResearchFunding@nreca.coop
- Contact: NRECA Team at ResearchFunding@nreca.coop

The Opportunities and Barriers with Cybersecurity Information Sharing

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

- [Cybersecurity Information Sharing Advisory Series](#)
- Contacts: [Emma Stewart](#), [Ryan Newlon](#), and [Will Hutton](#)

NRECA Winter School Provides Cybersecurity Training for Directors

Boards face a balancing act with cybersecurity and continued pursuit of digital innovation, transformation, and meeting member needs. NRECA's Winter School this December offers a new course taught by NRECA's director of governance education, Pat Mangan, designed to help distribution cooperative directors find that balance and fulfil their cybersecurity oversight responsibilities: [Cybersecurity: The Board's Oversight Role \(BLC 927.1\)](#).

- [Registration](#)
- Contact: [Pat Mangan](#)

Advancing Cybersecurity with the 100 Day Program

Through a cooperative agreement between NRECA and the DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), the "100 Day Program" was created to deploy cyber and cyber-physical solutions for rural electric cooperatives. The program, directed by NRECA's chief scientist, Emma Stewart, focuses on enabling a partnership with NRECA rural electric cooperative members and technology vendors to deploy technologies and systems that will provide cyber visibility, detection, and response capabilities for industrial control systems (ICS) of electric utilities. Read more about this program and DOE's recent award of \$10M to NRECA and APPA in support of this effort:

- [100 Day Program Website](#)
- [DOE Announcement](#)
- Contact: 100 Day Team at 100days@nreca.coop

Infographic: Co-ops Serving Military Bases

More than 125 electric co-ops throughout the U.S. serve defense installations. Beyond providing electricity, co-ops help these bases integrate resiliency, efficiency, renewable generation and other key systems and services. A new infographic featured in *RE Magazine* shows the various ways co-ops are working with military bases. Visit our website to find out more and read several case studies:

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

- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

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](#)

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.

- [Article Series](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

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

- [Research Funding Opportunities Series](#)
Nov. 17: 2:00 p.m. ET (On Demand Soon)
Dec. 15: 2:00 p.m. ET
Jan. 19: 2:00 p.m. ET

- **Co-op Economic Outlook Series**

Jan. 20: 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
4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203 | Tel: (703) 907-5500 | E-mail: nreca@nreca.coop

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 