

Business & Technology Update



Thursday, December 2, 2021 | coop.com | [BTS Portfolio](#) | [Contact](#) | [Archive](#) |

Research Funding Opportunities Webinar – Dec. 15

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 next dates are **Dec. 15 and Jan. 19 at 2:00 p.m. ET**. Past sessions are available to members [On Demand](#).

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. To participate, send an email request to ResearchFunding@nreca.coop.

- [Webinar Registration](#)
- Contact: NRECA Team at ResearchFunding@nreca.coop

Risk to the Co-op as a Barrier to 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. Our latest advisory in the series focuses on 'risk to the co-op' as a barrier to information sharing.

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

Cybersecurity Training for Directors at NRECA Winter School – Dec. 12

Boards face a balancing act with cybersecurity and continued pursuit of digital innovation, transformation, and meeting member needs. NRECA's 2021 Winter School 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. Join us on **Dec. 12 at 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** for **Cybersecurity: The Board's Oversight Role (BLC 927.1)**.

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

RADWIND Seeking Additional Co-op Advisors 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. NRECA is 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 on our website:

- [RADWIND Project Update and Member Advisor Participation Opportunity](#)
- [RADWIND Website](#)
- Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#) and [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

Next Session of Hands-On Drones Course: Georgia – Jan. 10

NRECA has partnered with a top drone service provider, PrecisionHawk, to offer utility-specific training focused on developing pilot capabilities for operation of a UAV in a complex flight environment. The schedule of dates and locations for the course is available on our website, with the next session in **Georgia, Jan. 10-21**. 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:

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

NRECA's Newest Distribution Co-op Focuses on Infrastructure and Member Relations

Block Island District Utility transitioned from a small investor-owned utility and faced daunting challenges of repairing an early 20th century electric system and poor consumer relations. Read this new story in *RE Magazine* to learn how their president, Jeffrey Wright, worked with NRECA and neighboring cooperatives to transition their utility to a successful, modern system.

- [Article](#)
- Contact: [Scot Hoffman](#)

The Many Ways Cooperatives Work with Active and Veteran Military

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 shows the various ways co-ops are working with military bases, and our website shares several co-op case studies. In addition, a new *RE Magazine* article shares the reflections of several cooperatives on how their veterans hiring programs have brought essential skills and other benefits to their companies.

- [Infographic](#)
- [Website](#)
- [RE Magazine Article](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Scot Hoffman](#)

Registration for 2022 TechAdvantage Experience Opening Mid-December

Registration is opening in just a few weeks for the 2022 [TechAdvantage Experience](#), March 6-9, 2022 at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tennessee. In addition to three days of technology-focused sessions and pre-conference training, the TechAdvantage Expo is coming back with more than 275 exhibitors, as well as TechTalks from industry experts.

- [More Information](#)
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

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)
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
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