

NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies Team wishes all of our members a healthy and happy Holiday Season and New Year.

Using NRECA's Reliability Benchmarking Group WebApp To Improve Reliability & Efficiency

Electric cooperatives are committed to providing safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost. However, reliability is much less intuitive than either safe or low cost, as it is measured in cryptic indices and calculated with complex mathematics. Through NRECA's Reliability Benchmarking Group, cooperatives are using a WebApp to help understand their reliability ratings and trends. Find out about the experiences and benefits gained by four cooperatives detailed in this new case studies report.

- [Report](#)
- [Reliability Benchmarking Group Website](#)
- Contact: [Tony Thomas](#)

Final Set of RC3 Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Scenarios Now Available

NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (**RC3**) Program has released the final three scenarios in its series of 12 tabletop exercises for cooperatives to use in gaining insights about their ability to respond to a cybersecurity incident. The new scenarios focus on extreme weather impacts, remote worker compromises, and inadvertent malicious software installation. The RC3 tabletop exercise scenarios are offered in three levels of complexity to fit the various cybersecurity capabilities at cooperatives. All of the exercises can be conducted in person or virtually with your co-op staff.

- [RC3 Tabletop Exercises](#)
- [RC3 Website](#)
- Contacts: [Cynthia Hsu](#) and [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

Case Study: Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and Its Members Develop a Portfolio of Distributed Resource Projects

The fuel mix for electric generating units is significantly and rapidly changing, incorporating more renewable generation, both utility-scale and behind-the-meter. This, in turn, is affecting how consumers interact with the generation resources, such as electric vehicles and smart meters, and consumers' relationship with their utility, including innovative rate structures. NRECA's new case study series explores the impact of these changes on the relationship between wholesale power suppliers and their distribution members, as they adapt to this new industry model and manage associated business disruption challenges. Read our most recent case study highlighting how a G&T cooperative, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), is working closely with its members to transition its power supply toward sustainable, low-carbon resources by building a portfolio of distributed solar projects across three states.

- [Case Study: ODEC](#)
- [New Energy Resource Model Initiative Website](#)
- Contact: [Paul Breakman](#)

Optimizing Solar PV Plus Battery Energy Storage

The cost for solar PV systems continues to decrease, such that now in many locations in the United States, utility solar PV levelized cost of electricity can compete with total operating costs for fossil generation. In addition, the installation of distributed solar PV for industrial and commercial customers is growing. Since solar PV is intermittent, the value can be significantly improved, optimized and maximized, if the solar PV can be stored. This new *Surveillance* article looks at opportunities for improving solar PV benefits by incorporating battery energy storage systems.

- [Article](#)
- Contacts: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Jan Ahlen](#)

Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Cannabis Production

The legalization of recreational cannabis in some U.S states and the expanded use of cannabis for medicinal purposes has generated a new sector with significant energy needs. This growing industry is creating a need for utilities to better understand the energy requirements of the sector and find ways to manage demands on energy systems. NRECA partnered with CEATI to analyze the energy impacts of cannabis production, including energy consumption and best practices for saving energy. The outcome of this work will form an important base of industry knowledge and bridge the gap in information on energy use in cannabis facilities, from which future efficiency and demand reduction programs might be developed. This advisory previews some of the report findings.

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

CEATI Membership Benefits for Cooperatives – An Update

NRECA has been a member of CEATI International for many years, representing cooperatives' interests and sharing the research and insights for the benefit of all NRECA members. This involvement has provided members access to leading-edge technology research that otherwise would have been cost-prohibitive for individual cooperatives. Recently, NRECA entered into a new membership agreement with CEATI, to continue co-op access to their valuable research and to expand the participation opportunity. This advisory provides

details:

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

Technology Trends: 'Co-ops 2045'

In the December issue of *RE Magazine*, futurists and industry experts weigh in on how electric co-ops are likely to change over the next 25 years. While much is unknown, it is expected that electric co-ops and an entire power sector will be transformed by technological innovation, robust research and data, and changing public priorities and expectations. Read about how rapid changes in the industry today will result in a grid that is radically different and will change how electric co-ops serve their members.

- [Article](#)
- Contacts: [Craig Miller](#) and [Scot Hoffman](#)

Save the Date for the 2021 PowerXchange and TechAdvantage® Experience

This coming year [NRECA PowerXchange and TechAdvantage Experience](#) will be offered online—together. While 2021 won't offer the in-person experience we expected, you will have the unique opportunity to attend NRECA's two largest events via one registration fee! Over two weeks (**Feb 23-24 and March 2-4**) you will be able to access content for both events through one platform, so mark your calendar for this unmatched opportunity and plan to attend. More information will be coming your way in early January.

Webinars On Demand

- **Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities**

On December 3rd, NRECA offered a webinar to discuss the Defense Community Infrastructure Program ([DCIP](#)) and NRECA's new customized services to assist cooperatives maximize the opportunity to potentially receive funds through DCIP. In Fiscal Year 2020, \$50 million was appropriated to DCIP to help address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation. Only state, local governments and rural electric cooperatives are eligible to receive the grant awards.

- [Webinar On Demand](#)
- [More Information about DCIP](#)
- [Website: Electric Co-ops and The Military](#)
- Contacts: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

- **The Power of Partnership – Solar Affordability Initiatives**

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. As part of this initiative, we recently highlighted the efforts of Anza Electric

Cooperative and Roanoke Electric Cooperative through our “The Power of Partnership” webinar series.

- [Webinar Series On Demand: The Power of Partnership](#)
- [ACCESS Website](#)
- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

- **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. DOE anticipates up to six recipients for this opportunity. Full applications by interested applicants are due January 15, 2021. [An informational webinar](#) was provided in early November and is now available On Demand with the link below and using **password: nSFav3Qy**

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

Updated Co-op Network Map Now Available

NRECA recently published the America’s Electric Cooperative Network map, which includes all changes to co-op service through 2020. This valuable resource is available to members at a discounted rate. The order form, and other updated cartographic resources, can be found on Cooperative.com on the [Maps, Facts and Figures](#) page.

- [Order Form](#)
- Contacts: [Katherine Loving](#) and [GIS Team](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

- [What is the Beneficial Electrification League?](#)
- [How Data Is Revolutionizing the Electric Utility Industry](#)

Webinars - On Demand:

- [New Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities](#)
- [The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series](#)
- [DOE Hydro - Informational Webinar](#)

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

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