NRECA
America's Electric Cooperatives

Business & Technology Update

In This Issue

BTS at TechAdvantage & PowerXchange
New Resources and Opportunities
Webinars and Conferences
Professional Development Courses

TechAdvantage & PowerXchange - Business and Technology Highlights

---

NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies team will be at next month's TechAdvantage and PowerXchange, offering learning opportunities on a variety of topics. Be sure to join us **March 9–12 in Atlanta, GA** to hear about cybersecurity, AI, data centers, telematics, smart inverter testing, electric vehicle grid integration, wood utility poles update, and much more! The following are also some highlights of pre-conference opportunities:

- Metrics, Data Analytics and Best Practices from Co-ops to Enhance Grid Reliability
- Distribution Automation Solutions for Electric Co-ops
- Managing EV Adoption and Smart Inverter Challenges in Cooperative Systems
- NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- How to use MultiSpeak for Interoperability and Data Acquisition

  More information:

  - TechAdvantage
  - PowerXchange
  - Contacts: Alison Kent (TechAdvantage) and Kristen Wheeler (PowerXchange)

New Resources & Opportunities

Choosing the Right Distribution Communications Options

Electric cooperatives are experiencing a rapidly evolving communications landscape, driven by advances such as Private LTE, Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, enhanced cellular reliability, broadband deployments, and FCC

updates on frequency sharing. These developments have expanded the range of viable connectivity options for utilities, improving performance, security, and cost-effectiveness, while adding complexity to decision-making. This new report reviews these developments and how co-ops need to carefully evaluate trade-offs in performance, cost, and long-term viability for a holistic approach to communications planning.

- Report
- Contact: David Pinney

Survey Insights on Electric Vehicles Programs

Electric cooperatives have been active in developing programs to meet the needs of their members as they increasingly electrify their modes of transportation, whether that be residential consumers with light duty vehicles or their commercial and industrial consumers that are electrifying fleets. This new report explores the impacts and opportunities presented by electric vehicles (EVs), drawing on existing research and insights from a recent survey conducted among our cooperative members and other electric cooperatives.

- Report
- Contact: Jennah Denney

Resilience Planning Playbook for Electric Cooperatives

Electric cooperatives across the U.S. are navigating an evolving energy landscape as they strive to meet the surging demand for electricity and address the challenges of increased electrification, integration of distributed energy resources, and extreme weather events, all while maintaining reliability and serving their communities. Recognizing the evolving energy landscape, NRECA and the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) developed the Resilience Planning Playbook for Electric Cooperative Utilities as a resource for other electric cooperatives to navigate new approaches to resilience planning. This report includes case studies, best practices, and real-world insights from cooperative utilities developed through a workshop and several interviews.

- Report
- Contact: Allison Hamilton

Updated Co-op Cyber Goals Program

NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program provides clear guidelines for basic security integration and actionable steps to advance your cybersecurity posture. Our cybersecurity team has just released updated reference sheets for each of the program's 20 goals, to address an ever-changing cybersecurity landscape and to allow cross-reference of goals within the program for a more comprehensive approach. These enhancements do not change the intent of the goals, and co-ops who have already completed a goal do not need to repeat it (although reviewing it on a regular basis to confirm your co-op still meets the goal and to recommit to its intent is a good exercise). We encourage all co-ops to participate in this voluntary, self-paced program, so together we can help protect co-ops and our industry grid.

- Cyber Goals Program
- Contact: membersecurity@nreca.coop

Infographic: Co-op Innovation

Creative problem-solving comes naturally to co-ops, given their local focus, their mission to meet members' needs, their culture of collaboration and the challenges presented by the rural territories they serve. As the energy industry rapidly transforms, co-ops are leading in several areas of technological innovation. Find out more in this new RE Magazine infographic:

- Infographic
- Contact: Scot Hoffman

Invitation to Join the New Cooperative Engineering Standards Interest Group

NRECA is launching a new working group, the Cooperative Engineering Standards Interest Group (CESIG), to provide visibility to the standards-making process across the cooperative community and to ensure that our voice is represented consistently in the various entities tasked with electric utility standards development. We are soliciting interest from people willing to participate in CESIG and contribute to the standards development process. This interest group's work complements but is separate from NRECA's other work on generation standards and the North American Electric Reliability Committee (NERC) process for standards development. Find out more in this new advisory.

- Advisory
- Sign-Up Form
- Contact: David Farmer

Webinar TODAY

TODAY: Cooperative Tech Insights Webinar Series

Join us today, **February 20 at 2 p.m. ET** for this free, monthly webinar series to explore the latest NRECA business and technology solutions and resources available to our members. Led by NRECA staff, each session focuses on a specific business and technology topic, such as Microgrids, Safety, Workforce and Cybersecurity. We'll also discuss related NRECA research projects and any federal funding opportunities that could support your cooperative's technology initiatives. This session will feature Michael Leitman, Director, NRECA Strategic Analysis, with a review of Distributed Wind Resources, the RADWIND Project, and a look to the future.

- More Information & Registration
- Contact: Michael Leitman

Upcoming Conferences

TechAdvantage and PowerXchange is Two Weeks Away

This year's PowerXchange and TechAdvantage conferences, happening **March 9-12, 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia**, come amid a period of unprecedented disruption for co-ops, many of whom are facing soaring demand from data centers and other major load drivers, shrinking supply caused by misguided federal and state emissions policies, and increasing changes in co-op leadership and work culture. Listen to our new Along Those Lines podcast to hear from Erin Pressley, NRECA's senior vice president for Education, Training and Events, as she gives a behind-the-scenes look at how PowerXchange and TechAdvantage come together, and how this year's events will help attendees confront today's challenges.

- Podcast
- More Information & Registration
- Contacts: Alison Kent (TechAdvantage) and Kristen Wheeler (PowerXchange)

Safety Leadership Summit: April 22-24

Join us April 22-24 in Arlington, Texas for 2025 Safety Leadership Summit, where co-op leaders have the opportunity to strengthen their commitment to safety by learning from each other and networking with other professionals from across the country who are also working on making significant safety improvements.

- More Information & Registration
- Contact: Rebecca Bittle

Save the Date: Co-op Cyber Tech

Join us, **June 24-26 in Denver, CO**, for NRECA's Co-op Cyber Tech. This 3-day technical conference is for all NRECA members and supporting organizations with the goal of addressing cybersecurity in the cooperative space. Conference content specifically highlights co-op cyber and is designed to provide opportunities for peer-to-peer and industry-to-peer collaboration, skills development, and advancement. Registration opens soon!

- More Information
- Contact: membersecurity@nreca.coop

Career and Development Courses for Cooperatives

NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for cooperatives' career development. Some upcoming highlights include:

- 5130.05 Effective Problem-Solving and Decision-Making: 2/25, 12-4:00 p.m. ET
- 5132.05 Mastering Presentation Skills: Engage, Inspire and Influence with Confidence: 2/27, 1-4 p.m. ET
- 720.1 Transforming Your Team from Dysfunction to Cohesion: 3/10-11, 1-4 p.m. ET. Last day to register: March 6
- 5201.1 Creating a Culture of Accountability: March 11-12, 1-4 p.m.
- 742.05 Accountability at Your Co-op: Inspiring Ownership and Driving Results: March 17, 1-4 p.m. ET. Last day to register: March 13. (Note: that this course is a ½-credit course, so consists of one session only.)
- 721.1 Productive Conflict for Supervisors: March 24-25, 1-4 p.m. ET. Last day to register: March 20.
- 735.1: Developing Others Through Servant Leadership – New course! 4/15-16, 1-4 p.m. ET. Last day to register: April 10.

The full schedule is available for the 2025 Supervisor and Manager Development Program (SMDP) and Cooperative Career Essentials Program (CCEP) online courses. The schedule also includes the dates for the annual Cooperative University event, where SMDP and CCEP courses are held in-person.

The CCEP focuses on the core skills that all employees need, regardless of their title or tenure. The SMDP focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others.

- Full 2025 Course Schedule

- Contact for SMDP: Diane Rhodes-Michaely
- Contact for CCEP: Alison Kent