



Business & Technology Update

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TechAdvantage and PowerXchange Highlights

NRECA's premiere event for technology professionals to explore the solutions and strategies shaping and driving the future of the electric cooperative industry is coming soon! Join us in **San Antonio, Texas on March 3 – 6** and participate in the many offerings from our Business and Technology Strategies team. We look forward to seeing you!

[BTS Sessions at TechAdvantage and PowerXchange](#)

New Articles & Reports

ACCESS Project Resources for Solar Planning

In 2019, through a project called [ACCESS](#), the U.S. Department of Energy awarded NRECA with funding to research ways to ensure that solar generation is available and affordable for consumers who have low- to moderate-income levels (LMI). ACCESS has been the flagship project of NRECA's [Advancing Energy Access for All](#) initiative. As the ACCESS Program comes to a close, two final reports have been published to assist co-ops with their plans and deployment of solar resources: A Quick Start Guide and Community Outreach and Marketing Guidance. These and other resources can be found on cooperative.com, and hear more about ACCESS in the related [Along Those Lines](#) podcast.

- [Quick Start Guide](#)
- [Community Outreach and Marketing Guidance](#)
- [Along Those Lines Podcast](#)

- [ACCESS Website](#)
 - Contacts: [Lisa Slaughter](#) and [Rajeena Shakya](#)
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Invitation to NRECA's Transmission & Distribution Engineering Committee

NRECA's Transmission and Distribution Engineering Committee (TDEC) is a group of volunteers, including engineers, operations, and supply chain professionals from electric cooperatives along with engineering consultants who work with electric co-ops to address the emerging challenges of the electric grid. The Committee also assists, upon request, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) on the development, analysis and updates on technical standards, guidelines and specifications. NRECA facilitates the activities of the TDEC and invites interested co-ops to join.

- [Additional Information and Invitation to Join](#)
 - Contacts: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#) and [Patti Metro](#)
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Co-op Cyber Goals

NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program provides 10 cybersecurity goals aimed at helping co-ops work toward achieving high priority security measures and creating a benchmark for the implementation of basic cybersecurity fundamentals. Since its debut in 2023, over 290 co-ops have joined this voluntary program to complete the goals at their own pace. NRECA encourages all members to participate and complete the goals, and will be adding 10 more goals later in 2024 to provide additional ways for co-ops to protect their organizations and the industry grid.

- [More Information](#)
 - Contact: [Cybersecurity Team](#)
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Generation Community Resources

NRECA offers two professional communities to share resources and discussion regarding opportunities and challenges for cooperatives in the generation space. Our primary community "Generation Member Advisory Group (MAG)" includes publications and discussion on a variety of generation topics, while our "Decommissioning" community focuses specifically on co-ops transitioning their fossil fuel generation assets. NRECA members are welcome to participate in one or both of the communities, although permission to access must be obtained from NRECA. Members are also invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the GMAG for live discussion, peer-to-peer learning, and occasional educational tours of generation and technology facilities.

Interested members please contact Dan Walsh at: Daniel.Walsh@nreca.coop.

- [NRECA Generation Work Group Website](#)
 - Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)
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Distribution Automation Roadmap for Electric Cooperatives

The cooperative energy landscape is transforming with the advent of Distributed Energy Resources, and advanced energy technologies such as distribution automation (DA). This transformation presents an attractive opportunity for co-ops to enhance their energy resilience, sustainability, and cost-efficiency. NRECA's new report

explains the need for DA in a changing grid paradigm, the value of DA through various objectives and goals, components for successful implementation of DA technology and applications, and details of a DA initiative by NRECA with electric cooperatives.

- [Report](#)
- Contacts: [Ravindra Singh](#) and [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

Infographic: AMI 2.0

Advanced metering infrastructure or AMI has been the state of the art for utilities for the past 20 years, and electric cooperatives have been among its earliest and most aggressive adopters. Now, as those first-generation meters begin to age out, highly advanced AMI 2.0 systems are set to revolutionize the industry, with new edge-computing and data collection and analysis capabilities that promise to enable multiple new applications and improve the reliability and flexibility of the grid. NRECA's new RE Magazine infographic explains some of the benefits of AMI 2.0.

- [Infographic](#)
- Contacts: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#) and [Scot Hoffman](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series: March 12

Join us on **March 12 at 2 p.m. ET** as NRECA staff continues to keep you up to date on the latest research and funding programs in which cooperatives may want to participate—including NRECA research initiatives, federal and other FOAs, and new opportunities with the infrastructure law. This year, learning opportunities in each session will focus on the full application process (from writing a concept paper, to project management, execution and reporting). Next month, registrants will learn more about writing a full application. Presenter for the March session is Leslie Tate, NRECA Project Coordinator for Research & Development.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Leslie Tate](#)

E-ISAC Cybersecurity Offerings for Small and Medium Utilities: March 19

Join NRECA Principal of Cybersecurity Solutions, Justin Luebbert, and Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) Intelligence Analyst, Hayley Floyd, **March 19 at 2 p.m. ET** as they lead an hour-long webinar providing an overview of the E-ISAC and the products and services available to small and medium utilities. Registrants will learn about the top cyber and physical threats facing the industry, the resources available to stay ahead of them and more.

- [Information and Registration](#)
 - Contact: [Justin Luebbert](#)
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Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar: March 25

Join NRECA economic and investment professionals **March 25, 2-3 p.m. ET**, as they lead the first session of the year highlighting the issues that are shaping the economic health of electric cooperative communities, including economic growth and sentiment, inflation drivers and labor market conditions. Don't miss this popular free series covering the latest trends and implications for rural areas and the broader U.S economy.

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

Conferences

BTS Offerings at NRECA's PowerXchange and TechAdvantage

PowerXchange, NRECA's annual meeting of members, will once again occur alongside TechAdvantage, the premier industry technology event for electric co-op professionals, **March 3 – 6 in San Antonio, Texas**. Discover solutions and strategies that promise to drive your cooperative forward while exploring the Expo, featuring more than 300 technology vendors.

NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies team will be offering a variety of pre-conference workshops and breakout sessions at TechAdvantage and PowerXchange on topics including electric vehicles, system integration, cybersecurity, data analytics, and more. Find out details in this summary and plan to visit with our BTS subject matter experts to discuss your particular business and technology needs:

- [Summary of BTS at TechAdvantage and PowerXchange](#)
- [Conference Information and Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Alison Kent](#) (TechAdvantage) and [Kristen Wheeler](#) (PowerXchange)

2024 Safety Leadership Summit

Join us **April 30 – May 3 in Kansas City, Missouri** for NRECA's premier industry, educational and networking event for co-op staff responsible for safety practices. The in-person event includes a full day of pre-conference workshops, four high-profile keynote speakers, breakout sessions and more. Teams from all parts and levels of the cooperative are encouraged to attend so that they can learn together to bring about real, lasting safety improvement.

- [Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Rebecca Bittle](#) and [Perron Nicholas](#)

2024 Co-op Cyber Tech Registration and Science Fair

Join us on **June 11-13 in person in Arlington, Virginia or June 12-13 virtually** for NRECA's 2024 Co-op Cyber Tech, a 3-day technical conference 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

includes engaging opportunities for peer-to-peer and industry-to-peer collaboration with Interactive hi-tech badges and an ICscape – Blackstart Escape Room. The program will also include a Science Fair to showcase the latest in cybersecurity research, resources, projects and innovation from government, university, nonprofit, and co-op organizations. A call for poster proposals for the Science Fair is now open **through April 1**.

- [Co-op Cyber Tech Information & Registration](#)
- [Additional Information on Science Fair Participation](#)
- Contact: [Coco Hemenway](#)

NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit

Save the Date! Mark your calendar for **June 12 – 14 in Washington, D.C.** for the NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit. A free benefit of NRECA Broadband participation, this event will provide critical updates on the issues impacting broadband deployment and offer meaningful engagement with peers, NRECA leaders, federal agency staff and other key contacts. Registration opens in early April.

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

Professional Development Courses

Communicating Technical Information to Boards and Consumer-Members

Co-op staff often needs to relay complex technical information so that a non-technical audience can understand it. Regardless of whether the subject matter is engineering, finance/accounting, cyber-security, public safety or government regulations, this course provides practical techniques and tools for communicating effectively with those who have limited technical knowledge or experience. Join us **March 25 and 26 at 1:00-4:30 p.m. ET** to learn to recognize natural “tech-speak” tendencies and approaches for relaying complex technical concepts clearly—without patronizing or alienating your audience. Note that participants must attend both sessions to earn course credit towards the [Supervisor and Manager Development Program \(SMDP\)](#) certificate. Registration is required for participation in this course. **Deadline for registration is March 20.**

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)

Calendar of NRECA’s 2024 Career and Development Courses for Cooperatives

NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for cooperatives’ career development. The schedule is now available for the 2024 [Supervisor and Manager Development Program \(SMDP\)](#) and [Cooperative Career Essentials Program \(CCEP\)](#) online courses. This schedule also includes the dates and location 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. [SMDP](#) focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others.

- [Schedule](#)
- Contact for SMDP: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)
- Contact for CCEP: [Alison Kent](#)

NRECA's Infrastructure Funding Consortia

Members are invited to sign-up to participate in [NRECA's consortia](#) focused on five key areas of co-op interest related to infrastructure funding opportunities. Find out more and sign-up through the links below, and view our past related webinars [On Demand](#):

- [Cooperative Approach to Vehicle Electrification \(CAVE\) Consortium](#)
- [Cyber and Physical Security Consortium](#)
- [Microgrid Consortium](#)
- [Natural Hazards Consortium](#)
- [Smart Grids and Data Consortium](#)

- [Infrastructure Resource Hub](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

ON DEMAND WEBINARS

Many NRECA Webinars are offered On Demand after the live events, to continue as resources to benefit our members. Here is just a sample. Find many more on [cooperative.com](#).

- [Federal Funding Webinar Series](#)
- [Economic Outlook Webinar Series](#)
- [Infrastructure Consortia Webinar Series](#)
- [Cybersecurity Update Webinar Series](#)

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn More.

Newsletter provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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