



Business & Technology Update

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New Resources and Opportunities

Demystifying DERMS

As electric cooperatives modernize their grids, the growth of Distributed Energy Resources continues to reshape how electricity is managed. These resources present significant opportunities, as well as operational complexity and increase visibility gaps, potentially requiring new approaches to coordination and cybersecurity. Co-ops are adopting Distributed Energy Resource Management Systems to navigate this transition. Our new report and three accompanying primers demystify DERMS architectures by breaking down their capabilities and enabling infrastructure. They provide practical, architecture-specific analysis designed to help co-ops evaluate options, prepare internal teams, and build the foundational infrastructure required to deploy DERMS. Also visit our new DERMS topic website for more resources.

- [Demystifying DERMS Report and Primers](#)
 - [DERMS Website](#)
 - Contact: [Anthony Buckley](#)
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PowerXchange Panel Weighs Nuclear's Promise Against Cost and Deployment Risks

During this year's PowerXchange conference, NRECA's senior director of power supply and generation, Dan Walsh, led a panel to share insights and perspectives on the state of nuclear energy with Oglethorpe Power Corp.'s Rich Wallen, Tennessee Valley Authority's Scott Hunnewell, Southern Co.'s Lauren Lathem and the Savannah River National Laboratory's Rob Hovsopian. Read about the discussion in this new article, and how the panelists relayed that the growing need for reliable, carbon-free power is renewing electric cooperatives' interest in nuclear energy, but they want more certainty around costs and deployment timelines to pursue new

investments, especially in emerging nuclear technologies. Find additional resources regarding nuclear energy on our cooperative.com website.

- [Article](#)
- [Nuclear Power Website](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Molly Christian](#)

Vehicle-to-Grid Technology Insights

The electric vehicle (EV) charging landscape is evolving from unidirectional charging, where power flows only from the grid to the vehicle, toward bidirectional technologies that enable energy to flow both to and from the grid. Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) introduces the potential for electric vehicles to function as distributed energy resources under specific technical, regulatory, and operational conditions. For electric co-ops, this transition presents both a strategic opportunity and a planning challenge. Our new report outlines the current state of V2G technology, the regulatory and operational considerations specific to electric co-ops, and a set of potential lower-risk use cases. It also includes insights and lessons learned from La Plata Electric Association, one of the first co-ops to demonstrate V2G integration through a school bus pilot. Find more resources about EVs on our [website topic page](#).

- [Report](#)
- [EV Topic Webpage](#)
- Contact: [Jennah Denney](#)

Join the Large Loads & Data Centers Task Force

Electric cooperatives are entering a new era of large-scale electric load growth, driven by data centers, industrial development, and electric vehicle (EV) transportation. To help our members navigate this transition, NRECA has developed a number of resources about serving large loads, with particular focus on the impacts, opportunities and challenges for electric co-ops. Visit our [Serving Large Loads and Data Centers topic website](#) on cooperative.com to find information and resources. We are also now launching a new Large Loads & Data Centers Task Force, a peer network focused on helping co-ops navigate the rapid growth of large commercial and industrial loads, particularly data centers. We invite our members to join. Read about this opportunity in our new advisory and submit an application through the links below:

- [Advisory: Large Loads & Data Centers Task Force](#)
- [Application Form to Join Task Force](#)
- [Serving Large Loads and Data Centers Website](#)
- Contacts: [Allison Hamilton](#) (Data Centers), [Jennah Denney](#) (EVs), [Jeffrey Groenewold](#) (Industrial Loads)

Identifying AI Use Cases at Co-ops

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to transform the way we use information, NRECA is working with our members to explore use cases to gain insights into related opportunities and challenges. We invite all our co-op members to take this brief 5-question survey to let us know your current AI applications at your organization, as

well as your interest in exploring opportunities for applications with NRECA. Also, visit our new webpage on cooperative.com for information and resources on this topic.

- [AI Use Cases - Co-op Brief Survey](#)
- [AI Website](#)
- Contact: CoopAI@nreca.coop

Podcast: Co-op Safety Conversation Evolves as Annual Summit Draws Record Interest

In a new episode of Along Those Lines, hear from NRECA Director of Safety Programs Ken Macken and Johnie Hendrix, vice president of risk management and training for the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. Ken and Johnie talk about new ways that NRECA, statewide organizations and co-ops are working to improve safety. They also give program highlights of the upcoming NRECA Safety Leadership Summit happening **April 14-16 in St. Louis, Missouri**, which is smashing past registration records.

- [Podcast](#)
- [Safety Leadership Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Ken Macken](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Safety Leadership Summit

Safety Leadership Summit provides co-op leaders 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. Join us on **April 14-16 in St. Louis, Missouri** for NRECA's premier industry, educational and networking event for electric co-op staff responsible for safety practices.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Ken Macken](#) and [Rebecca Bittle](#)

NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit

Register today for the NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit, **June 1-3, Washington, D.C.** A free benefit of NRECA Broadband participation, this annual 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.

- [More Information and Registration](#)
 - Contact: [Lorlane Ngarambe](#)
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AREGC Conference

Celebrating 75 years of cooperative collaboration, the Association of Rural Electric Generating Cooperatives (AREGC) provides opportunity for industry stakeholders to discuss generation challenges and solutions with their peers. This year's milestone event, happening **June 1-4 in Branson, Missouri**, is hosted by Associated Electric Cooperative and will feature a technical program developed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Join more than 200 cooperative and industry professionals for focused discussion on the most pressing issues facing generation. Each day will center on a critical industry priority, with expert-led sessions and panel discussions designed for practical application. Prior to the kick-off Welcome Reception on June 1, there is opportunity to participate in a golf outing at Big Cedar's premier course, [Ozarks National](#), or enjoy a golf cart tour through the [Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail](#).

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- [AREGC Website](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

2026 Co-op Cyber Tech

Join us for NRECA's Co-op Cyber Tech from **June 3-5 in Indianapolis**. This three-day conference brings together IT, security and technology professionals from electric cooperatives to explore the latest cybersecurity challenges and solutions facing electric cooperatives. Attendees will gain practical strategies to strengthen systems, safeguard critical infrastructures and build stronger cyber resilience. The conference also offers an opportunity to collaborate with peers, connect with industry experts and discover tools designed specifically for the electric cooperative network. Register today!

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: membersecurity@nreca.coop

Professional Development Courses

Career Essentials and Management Development Programs

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

Live, online courses:

- [5301.1 Customer Service Essentials](#) March 25-26, 1–4 pm ET
- [744.05 Coaching Your Team Members](#) April 13, 1 –4 pm ET. Last day to register: April 9
- [722.1 Deliberate Decision Making](#) April 14 & 15, 1-4 pm ET. Last day to register: April 12
- [5310.1 Embracing Disagreements: Building Productive Conflict Skills](#) April 14-15, 1–4 pm ET
- [745.1 Impactful Presentations Workshop: Techniques, Practice and Personalized Feedback](#) (Note the week between session dates. Attendance in both sessions is required for course credit.) April 20 & 27, 1-4 pm ET. Last day to register: April 16

LMS-based courses/ Self-paced, instructor-guided:

- [713.1: Engaging and Developing High-Performing Employees: Bringing Out Their Best](#). Access Dates: April 1 – April 30 (30 days). Last day to register: March 30

- [714.1 Change Is Hard: Guiding Your Team Through Complex Times](#). Access Dates: April 1 – April 30 (30 days). Last day to register: March 30

Self-Paced, On-Demand Courses:

Available for 30 days from date of purchase. Group rates are available.

- [\(760.05\) The Science of Emotional Intelligence](#)
- [\(762.05\) Co-op Members, Boards, CEOs and Employees: Building a Strong Foundation for Success](#)

The [full schedule](#) is available for the 2026 [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.

- Contact for SMDP: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)
- Contact for CCEP: [Danielle Jackson](#) and [Ashley McCants](#)

Discover the value of NRECA membership. [Learn More.](#)

Newsletter provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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