Business & Technology Update

In This Issue

New Resources and Opportunities
Webinars and Conferences
Professional Development Courses

New Resources & Opportunities

Energy Storage Technology Update

Energy storage is becoming increasingly important to our industry and can be used to firm renewable resources to maximize their value to the grid. It can also reduce the cost of electricity by using stored electricity when it is most needed, as well as increase the reliability of the grid while easing pressure on adding generation and transmission resources. But, adding energy storage to systems also imposes costs. This new Surveillance article series reviews the state of energy storage technology, including lithium-ion, advanced battery, and alternative energy storage technologies. Also, join us **today at 2 p.m. ET** for our latest Cooperative Tech Insights webinar, in which Anantha Narayanan, NRECA's Senior Data Scientist, will discuss several NRECA programs focused on advancing energy storage technologies.

- Article Series
- Related Webinar – Today 2:00 p.m. ET
- Contact: Dan Walsh

CEATI's Thermal Generation Interest Group is Open to All NRECA Co-ops

Through an agreement between NRECA and the Center for Energy Advancement for Technology Innovation (CEATI), co-op representatives have opportunities to be involved directly with CEATI leading-edge research. For 2025, co-op organizations have been granted access to CEATI's Thermal Generation Interest Group (TGIG), which provides resources designed to support thermal generation operations and maintenance. Find out more in this new advisory and join TGIG today to benefit from this opportunity.

- More Information

- Contact: Dan Walsh

NRECA Resources for Co-op Cybersecurity

NRECA offers a wide array of resources and engagement opportunities for co-ops to advance their cybersecurity. Our new brochure highlights key current offerings, including:

- Threat Analysis Center (TAC) – a technology platform that empowers a co-op community to focus on high-impact cyber threats, respond quickly with the necessary expertise and engage with the broader intelligence community without sacrificing privacy. Existing TAC users are invited to our webinar "Malware Triage" on **March 28 at 12 p.m. ET**. If you are interested but not yet a TAC user, contact TAC@nreca.coop.
- Co-op Cyber Goals – providing clear guidelines for basic security integration and actionable steps to advance your cybersecurity posture. Over 400 co-ops currently participate in this voluntary, self-paced program. Join today!

In addition, NRECA's new advisory on Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) explains the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) CMMC rule that requires all DoD contractors to implement CMMC to safeguard Federal Contract Information (FCI) and Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). We review how cooperatives with DoD contracts must implement CMMC, and how NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals provide an on-ramp for cooperatives serving military organizations.

- Advisory
- Contact: Adrian McNamara

2025 National Compensation System Available: Same-day Access to Data

One of the most useful salary benchmarking resources in the industry, the National Compensation System (NCS) provides the most comprehensive co-op-specific salary information compiled from NRECA member electric co-ops across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure cooperative.com login, our point-of-sale feature allows access to the data within minutes. Simply place your order online and pay with a credit card. Order today for $795.

- Order the 2025 Distribution NCS
- Order the 2025 G&T NCS
- Contact: Beth Wray

Webinars

TODAY: Cooperative Tech Insights Webinar Series

Join us **today, March 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 Anantha Narayanan, NRECA's Senior Data Scientist, with a review of energy storage technologies including NRECA's Outreach for Advanced Storage

Integration and Support (OASIS), Rural Energy Storage Deployment Program (RESDP) and Energy Storage for Rural Resilience (ES42R).

- More Information & Registration
- Contact: Anantha Narayanan

Cybersecurity Program Update: March 27

Join us, **March 27 at 2 p.m. ET** for this hour-long webinar for updated and new information on NRECA's Cybersecurity Program and how the Business and Technology Services (BTS) cybersecurity team is supporting members in securing their critical infrastructure. The team will discuss updated information related to ongoing federal funding efforts and other programs related to current federal funding efforts meant to enhance the cybersecurity of electric cooperatives. Utilities of all sizes are encouraged to attend this webinar to hear the latest on NRECA's cybersecurity efforts.

- More Information & Registration
- Contact: membersecurity@nreca.coop

Malware Triage Webinar: March 28

Offered for participants in NRECA Research's Threat Analysis Center (TAC), this webinar will discuss basic steps for evaluating suspicious files, how to gather basic indicators, and how to share them. Join us for this instructional webinar on **March 28 at 12 p.m. ET**, led by NRECA's Threat Analysis Center Analyst, Kirk Koelzer. If you are interested but not yet a TAC user, contact TAC@nreca.coop.

- TAC Website
- Contact: TAC@nreca.coop

Upcoming Conferences

Innovative Rate Design for Electric Cooperatives: Online April 2-3

NRECA's Markets and Rates Director, Allison Hamilton, will be speaking at EUCI's conference on Innovative Rate Design for Electric Cooperatives to share how NRECA member innovators solved rate design challenges. Join us for this online conference on **April 2-3**.

- More Information and Registration
- Contact: Allison Hamilton

Safety Leadership Summit: April 22-24

Join us April 22-24 in Arlington, Texas for the 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

NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit: June 4-6

Registration is open for the NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit, **June 4-6 in Washington, D.C**. An exclusive benefit for NRECA Broadband participants, this event brings together industry leaders and experts to drive the future of broadband in rural America. It offers broadband-specific education, peer-to-peer discussions, and presentations by federal agency staff. **Hotel deadline is May 13.**

- More Information & Registration
- Contact: Mary Ackleson

AREGC Conference: June 15-18

The Association of Rural Electric Generating Cooperatives (AREGC) provides opportunity for industry stakeholders to discuss generation challenges and solutions with their peers. Today's issues shaping discussions include the deployment of renewables, energy storage, carbon capture, hydrogen as a fuel, and fleet transformation-related topics – and how these developments impact the cost and reliability of existing plants. Join us **June 15-18 in San Antonio, Texas** for this year's conference, hosted by Golden Spread Electric Cooperative. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with experts, collaborate with peers, and acquire knowledge and insights into new practices and technologies to enhance the effectiveness of electric generating cooperatives.

- More Information on AREGC
- Conference Information
- Contact: Dan Walsh

Co-op Cyber Tech: June 24-26

Join us, **June 24-26 in Denver, Colorado,** 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.

- More Information
- Contact: Heather Nelson

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:

Live, online courses:

- 721.1 Productive Conflict for Supervisors: March 24-25, 1-4 p.m. ET. Last day to register: March 20.
- 5302.1 Navigating Emotions in the Workplace: April 1-2, 2025 | 1-4 p.m. ET each day
- 5308.05 Getting Comfortable Giving & Receiving Feedback: April 8, 2025 | 12-4 p.m. ET
- 735.1: Developing Others Through Servant Leadership – New course! 4/15-16, 1-4 p.m. ET. Last day to register: April 10.
- 5306.05 Communicating to Influence: April 16, 2025 | 12-4 p.m. ET

LMS-Based online courses:

- 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, 2025
- 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, 2025
- 717.1: Know the Rules: Legal Responsibilities and Liabilities for Supervisors. Access Dates: April 1 – April 30 (30 days). Last day to register: March 30, 2025

Self-paced, on-demand courses – available for 30 days from date of purchase. Group rates are available.

- 5105.05 Electric System Fundamentals
- 5112.05 The Data-Driven Electric Co-op: Using Analytics to Make Better Decisions
- 5113.05 Ratemaking for Electric Cooperatives

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