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# Business & Technology Update

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## Cybersecurity Opportunities for Co-ops

NRECA has a variety of cybersecurity resources and opportunities for our members, some of which are highlighted below and others can be found in our [summary](#) on cooperative.com. Contact our team at [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop) with any questions.

### **Rural & Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity (RMUC) Proposals – Join by May 3!**

NRECA Research is excited to announce the potential opportunity for co-ops to enhance their cybersecurity posture through the RMUC Program, within the Department of Energy. NRECA Research has submitted two concept papers under the [RMUC](#) Advanced Cybersecurity Technology Funding Opportunity Announcement and is asking our members to consider joining us for the full application phase. **NRECA Research is only permitted to use awarded RMUC funding for cooperatives participating in the application. Sign-up today; don't miss this opportunity!**

- [Advisory with More Information](#)
- [Website with Sign-Up](#)

### **The Cyber Mutual Assistance (CMA) Program**

The CMA Program is a trusted community of utilities, including electric cooperatives, that share information, conduct exercises, and help each other. All electric cooperatives regardless of size are eligible to join the CMA Program. There is no cost to join. Participation is voluntary and at your discretion, and confidential information is protected by a mutual non-disclosure agreement (NDA). NRECA encourages cooperatives to consider joining the CMA Program to help enable Cooperation Among Cooperatives and improve preparation and response to cybersecurity threats to utilities.

- [More Information & Sign-Up](#)

## 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. Co-ops who complete all 10 goals by May 31 will be recognized in a special ceremony at this year's [Co-op Cyber Tech](#) conference in June.

- [More Information](#)

## Cybersecurity Special Report

First featured in the November issue of RE Magazine, our new cybersecurity special report takes an in-depth look at how one co-op responded to a devastating ransomware attack and how it came back from the incident stronger. We also highlight a trend among electric co-ops, their statewide associations and their G&Ts to join forces to strengthen end-to-end defenses against cyberthreats. You will also find a detailed infographic to help you visualize the universe of cyber risks for co-ops, as well as information on NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program and advice on managing the security of third-party systems and devices.

- [Report](#)

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## New Research & Resources

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### Distribution Automation Tool Survey – Deadline March 25

NRECA has started a Distribution Automation (DA) initiative that aims to develop a variety of resources that can be used by co-ops to create a DA strategy and process based on grid needs and co-op goals; evaluate DA technologies and plan for increased adoption; and implement DA and operate the grid in a safe, secure, and cost-effective manner. As a part of this initiative, we are developing a DA benefit-cost analysis tool that will analyze the revenue requirements over the expected life of a co-op investment to determine if the benefits achieved outweigh the total cost of ownership. **Co-ops are invited to participate in a survey by March 25 to provide input into the development of this tool.**

- [More Information & Survey](#)
- Contacts: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#) and [Ravindra Singh](#)

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### How Co-ops Use Federal Funding to Help Their Members

In our most recent RE Magazine issue, NRECA looks at how some co-ops throughout the country are using the influx of federal dollars to benefit their members. Among the included features, read the inspiring story of how, after a wildfire devastated its service area, Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative leveraged an \$11.3 million grant from the bipartisan infrastructure law's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program to launch a wildfire mitigation project that uses modern grid technologies to harden its system and quickly recover from power disruptions.

- [Article](#)
  - Contact: [Scot Hoffman](#)
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## Infographic: How an Eclipse Impacts the Grid

This year on April 8, a total eclipse will black out the midday sun in several U.S. states from Texas to Maine. As the nation's electric grid has grown more reliant on solar and wind energy over the past decade, experts are closely watching this event to see how it impacts reliability and how utilities plan and respond to the sudden ramp down and ramp up in power supply as the moon shadow moves across the country. This RE Magazine infographic provides details of the upcoming event and how an eclipse impacts the grid.

- [Infographic](#)
  - Contact: [Scot Hoffman](#)
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## Summary of 2023 Business and Technology Outreach and Reporting

Annually, NRECA issues a summary of the various business and technology articles and advisories issued for the benefit of our members. This summary provides an easy, comprehensive reference with quick links to the listed resources.

- [2023 Summary](#)
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## 2024 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 comprehensive salary information compiled from NRECA member electric cooperatives across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure cooperative.com login, our new 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 2024 Distribution NCS](#)
  - [Order the 2024 G&T NCS](#)
  - Contact: [Beth Wray](#)
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## Upcoming Webinars

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### Infrastructure Consortia Webinar Series

NRECA's series of webinars focused on specific infrastructure funding opportunities and the latest programs and resources for co-ops continues with the following sessions:

#### **GRIP Program Topic 1 Awards: Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants: March 26 - 2:00 pm ET**

This webinar will provide an overview from co-ops about funds they were awarded from DOE's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program for their projects. NRECA Natural Hazards Consortium lead, [Patti](#)

[Metro](#), will moderate the discussion.

### **Community Benefits Plan 101: Implementing Justice 40: April 10 - 2:00 pm ET**

Join us for discussion of CBP requirements and the eight policy priorities of Justice 40, DOE definition of disadvantaged communities, and how to identify disadvantaged communities in your service territories. NRECA Program Manager of Community Energy Programs, [Rajeena Shakya](#), is the instructor for this webinar.

### **Data Analytics: Lending Insight to Intuition: April 11 - 2:00 pm ET**

Learn about how analytical IT tools and services are evolving at a rapid pace, and the maturing and emerging options for cooperatives to gain insights from data for decision making. NRECA Principal of Analytical Tools & Software Products, [David Pinney](#), is the instructor along with Power System Engineering.

- [More Information and Registration](#)

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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](#)

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## **Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series: April 4**

Join us on **April 4 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 about budgets. Presenter for the April session is Anantha Narayanan, Data Scientist, Business Transformation Solutions. Subsequent sessions will be May 7 and June 18.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Anantha Narayanan](#)

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## **Conferences**

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### **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](#)
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## 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](#)
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## 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](#)
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## Professional Development Courses

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### 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. Several CCEP courses are offered as self-paced, on-demand, including:

- [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 – new for 2024](#)

The 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## 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.

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