NRECA
America's Electric Cooperatives

# Business & Technology Update

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## NRECA Electric Vehicle Service Equipment Survey

Enhancing the efficiency and reliability of electric vehicle service equipment (EVSE) interconnections is crucial, as our industry continues to respond to the growing EV market. NRECA is working closely with the Cooperative Advisory Board to survey co-op members about their interconnection experiences. The survey results will provide valuable insights about the needs for grid investments and support efforts by co-ops, your statewide organizations and NRECA in advocating for policies, incentives, investments and technologies that ensure a reliable power supply. An email inviting members to participate in our survey will be sent on **Monday, May 19 from** MarketResearch@nreca.coop. If you do not receive the survey and would like to provide feedback, please contact Jennah Denney or Mike Sassman and we will ensure that your co-op has the opportunity to participate. We greatly appreciate your feedback and time for this important initiative.

## New Resources

### How Co-ops Can Rejuvenate Residential Energy Efficiency Programs

In recent years, comprehensive residential energy efficiency services at electric cooperatives have become less common due to the retirement of staff experts or the diversion of staff to other projects. These staff, often called *energy advisors*, have historically conducted rigorous inspections at co-op member homes, made specific recommendations on energy efficiency upgrades and provided guidance on how to implement the recommendations. With the loss of this crucial expertise, co-ops may be missing a big opportunity to support their members' needs. This NRECA Surveillance article reviews various ways that co-ops can address this challenge and rejuvenate residential energy efficiency programs.

- Article
- Contact: Allison Hamilton

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## Podcast: Executive Actions Underscore Co-ops' Reliability Message

On April 8, at an event in the East Room of the White House, East Kentucky Power Cooperative President and CEO Tony Campbell joined President Donald Trump for a ceremony to sign four major actions to increase power reliability and affordability in the U.S. Campbell's invitation to speak at this event is a high-profile recognition of the role that co-ops have played in shaping the national conversation about the need for reliable and affordable power – and the actions signed by Trump are directly linked to the sustained message that co-ops have delivered about the dangers of poorly thought-out energy policies. Hear from Campbell as well as NRECA CEO Jim Matheson about the White House event and the impact these executive actions will have on co-ops, in this new *Along Those Lines* podcast.

- Podcast
- Contact: Scot Hoffman

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## Celebrating Lineworkers and a New Custom Indoor Training Facility

As we celebrate lineworkers this month, NRECA asked member co-ops to share stories of those nurturing the next generation. Lineworkers inspire their peers by squeezing in extra trainings, sharing their knowledge, especially with newer crews, and acting as role models to bolster a culture of safety in the workplace. The importance of lineworkers is continually recognized by co-ops, as showcased by Kootenai Electric Cooperative's recent efforts to build a custom indoor training facility. After visiting the Central Ohio Lineworker Training Center run by Ohio's Electric Cooperatives in Mt. Gilead, Kootenai EC moved forward with their idea of designing a new headquarters facility with an indoor space to train apprentices and refresh the skills of lineworkers. Read about this impressive effort in a new *RE Magazine* article, and see the gallery of pictures of lineworkers as mentors.

- Article
- Gallery of Photos
- Contact: Scot Hoffman

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## Cybersecurity Resources & Opportunities

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## Cautions Around Using AI Recording Tools

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not just a futuristic concept but a present reality that is reshaping how we interact with technology and the world around us. While AI meeting tools offer significant benefits, such as automated transcription, meeting summaries and real-time insights, they can also raise privacy concerns, potentially make meetings feel intrusive, and sometimes stifle open communication. Organizations handling sensitive or regulated data must be especially vigilant about these risks. This new advisory reviews the benefits and cautions around using AI cloud recording software.

- Advisory

- Contact: Wayne Koback

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## 2024 Threat Intelligence Year-In-Review

The NRECA Threat Analysis Center (TAC) and Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC), with contributions from Meridian Cooperative, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), and Federated Insurance, have published a joint report to provide an overview of major threat activities throughout 2024. Details on the various threats, along with high-impact mitigation techniques, are shared with the aim of assisting co-ops in advancing their cybersecurity.

- TAC Report
- Contact: TAC@nreca.coop

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## Co-ops Completing the Cyber Goals will be Recognized at 2025 Co-op Cyber Tech

More than 400 cooperatives are currently participating in NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program. This voluntary, self-paced program has 20 specific goals aimed at helping co-ops advance their cybersecurity. Participants that complete the 10 goals of Level One and/or Level Two will be recognized at this year's Co-op Cyber Tech conference in a special ceremony. Join today! Our team is available to answer questions and assist co-ops in completing the goals.

- Co-op Cyber Goals
- 2025 Co-op Cyber Tech Conference
- Contact: membersecurity@nreca.coop

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## Co-op Facts and Figures

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## Infographic: Kinds of Co-ops

According to the International Cooperative Alliance, there are more than 3 million cooperative enterprises worldwide representing some one billion members. Co-ops are active in a wide variety of industries, including agriculture, retail, banking, insurance, housing and health. Their structures and operations vary across industries and regions, but they are united by a broad set of co-op values that include democracy, equity and solidarity. Find out more in this new infographic:

- Infographic
- Contact: Scot Hoffman

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## Updated Co-op Retail Fuel Mix and Renewables Growth Analyses

NRECA provides annual analyses of the state of the cooperative retail fuel mix and the progression of renewable generation. In 2023, electric co-op retail sales grew by just 0.1%, while national sales declined by 1.4%. Co-ops reached new highs for natural gas and non-hydro renewables as a share of supply. A poll of G&T resource

planners indicates an expectation that energy and demand growth will accelerate in the coming years, driven in part by large users like data centers and manufacturers. Data for 2024 shows that co-ops added 1,150 megawatts of new renewable capacity, virtually all solar. Interconnection, permitting and supply chain challenges delayed many renewable projects. Renewable deployment is expected to grow significantly in the next few years, with an increase in proposed capacity at co-op-owned solar projects driven in part by the availability of direct-pay tax credits. These advisories provide further details:

- Advisory on Co-op Fuel Mix
- Advisory on Renewables Growth
- Contact: Michael Leitman

## Co-ops Continue to Lead Industry in AMI Deployment

As advanced communications have become increasingly important for electric system operations, cooperatives have continued to transition from Automated Meter Reading (AMR) to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). According to updated analysis by NRECA, adoption of AMI among electric co-ops has been steadily increasing, with an average of around 1.1 million meters added annually since 2013. Co-ops have deployed AMI meters to replace AMR and standard meters, as well as new meters to serve new consumer-members. Co-ops continue to lead the industry in AMI deployment, with 84% of co-op meters now using AMI, compared to 76% for the rest of the industry. Find out more in this advisory:

- Advisory
- Contact: Michael Leitman

## 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

## Upcoming Webinars

## TODAY: Cooperative Tech Insights Webinar Series

Join the Cooperative Tech Insights webinar **today, April 17 at 2 p.m. ET** as David Pinney, NRECA's Principal of Analytical Tools & Software Products, leads a discussion of project CIDER: Community Integrated Distributed Energy Resilience—Next Generation DERMS. This free monthly webinar series explores 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.

- More Information & Registration
- Contact: David Pinney

## Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar: May 13

Join NRECA economic and investment professionals **May 13, 2-3 p.m. ET**, as they highlight issues expected to be particularly impactful in shaping the economic health of electric co-op communities in 2025, including macroeconomic drivers and their implications for local economies, insights on economic growth and more. Don't miss this popular free series covering the latest trends and implications for rural areas and the broader U.S. economy.

- More Information & Registration
- Contact: Michael Leitman

## Cybersecurity Update Webinar: May 29

Join members of NRECA's cybersecurity team on **May 29 at 2 p.m. ET** as we continue our Cybersecurity Update Webinar Series — a free webinar series for insights into specific NRECA cybersecurity offerings. Each session highlights specific NRECA cybersecurity offerings for members, along with details on new opportunities and how interested members can participate. Our May session will provide an update on these cybersecurity efforts: NRECA's Threat Analysis Center, NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals, Project Guardian 61-7A, ICS-REC and GridEx.

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

## Upcoming Conferences

## 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: Florina Kelleher

## 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 and Registration
- Contact: Dan Walsh

## Co-op Cyber Tech: June 24-26

Join us, **June 24-26 in Denver, Colorado**, for NRECA's 2025 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 & Registration
- 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

- 5307.05 Improve Your Relationships: April 22, Noon-4 p.m. ET
- 745.1: Impactful Presentations Workshop: Techniques, Practice and Personalized Feedback: May 6 & May 20, 1-4 pm ET. Last day to register: May 4. (IMPORTANT: Note the 2-week break between sessions. Participants MUST attend both sessions to earn course credit.)
- 752.1: NEST Approach for Leading Others to Success: May 12 & 13, 1-4 pm ET. Last day to register: May 8. (NEST = Needs, Environment, Strategies, Trajectory)

- 5101.1 Cooperative Finance and Accounting for the Non-Accountant: May 13-14, 1-4 p.m. ET each day
- 5130.05 Effective Problem-Solving and Decision-Making: May 15, 12-4 pm ET
- 743.05: Mastering Authentic Feedback Conversations with Radical Candor: June 9, 1-4 pm ET. Last day to register: June 5. (Note that this course is a ½-credit course, so it consists of one session only.)
- 751.1: Creating and Supporting a Respectful Workplace: June 9 & 10, 1-4 pm ET. Last day to register: June 5.

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