

Infrastructure Law Opportunities for Cooperatives

NRECA secured important wins for electric cooperatives in the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package, including nearly 30 funding opportunities for which electric co-ops can apply.

- **Where to Start: SAM.gov**

Registering your organization on SAM.gov is an essential first step to access dedicated funding for electric co-ops in the infrastructure law. Find our fact sheet on SAM.gov on the Infrastructure Resource Hub on [cooperative.com](#).

- [Fact sheet](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

- **Join NRECA Consortia**

NRECA is establishing co-op consortia to maximize potential access to certain funding opportunities and build momentum for co-op efforts. Recognizing that electric co-ops are stronger together, these consortia provide an advantage in pursuit of infrastructure funds.

NRECA is developing five specific consortia based on opportunities and co-op interest:

- Electric vehicles
- Microgrids
- Cybersecurity
- All-hazard mitigation, and
- Smart grids and data.

The consortia serve as forums for co-ops to identify opportunities for collaboration, network with other co-ops, share lessons learned, and learn from experts. Additionally, these consortia will allow cooperatives to partner with NRECA for funding opportunities.

Sign-up for two consortia that are available now, and find out more about NRECA consortia in [our recent fact sheet](#):

- **Cooperative Approach to Vehicle Electrification (CAVE) Consortium:**

NRECA has developed a network of electric cooperatives that have implemented or are planning to implement electric transportation programs. The consortium seeks to work with federal agencies, foundations and vendors to provide grassroots electric transportation solutions for rural America.

- [More Information and Registration for the EV Consortium](#)

- [Contacts: Brian Sloboda and Tolu Omotoso](#)

- **Microgrid Consortium**

The Microgrid Consortium is a coalition of electric cooperatives seeking to develop resilient, reliable, and economically beneficial microgrid and storage projects for their communities. The consortium will partner with federal, state, and local stakeholders to identify funding opportunities and develop replicable pathways for advanced microgrid deployment in rural communities. NRECA will host a kickoff webinar on **June 1, noon EDT**. Participants will learn from industry experts about the newly formed consortium and the fundamentals of a microgrid – from planning, design and operation to available funding opportunities via the infrastructure funding bill. *Save the date*; registration to open soon.

- [More Information and Registration for the Microgrid Consortium](#)

- [Contact: Tolu Omotoso](#)

- **Webinar – FCC Broadband Initiative: May 16**

The Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program, created by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is a historic investment in broadband affordability for families in need. This new program will help your broadband customers get connected. Join NRECA and staff from the FCC on **May 16, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT** to learn more about how the Affordable Connectivity Program works, barriers that are keeping families from accessing broadband, and how co-ops can help their members benefit from the program.

- [Registration](#)

- [Contact: Brian O'Hara](#)

For More Information and Questions:

- [NRECA Infrastructure Resource Hub](#)

- [Contacts: Lauren Khair, Paul Breakman and Emma Stewart](#)

Growth Continues in Cooperative Renewable Generation

NRECA's most recent analysis of co-op renewable generation resources found that in 2021, co-ops added nearly 1.4 gigawatts of new renewable capacity and deployment is accelerating, with solar dominating planned capacity. Furthermore, most capacity growth has been through power purchase agreements, rather than direct ownership. Hybridization of renewables with battery energy storage is becoming more common. Read more in this new advisory:

- [Advisory](#)

- [Contact: Michael Leitman](#)

Enterprise Risk Management Tool for Cooperatives

The electric industry is changing rapidly, and with that change comes risk. While cooperatives have a long history

of managing risk, the scope of challenges posed from more complicated business operations is expanding.

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) provides an opportunity to have a more comprehensive view of the cooperative and its major issues, improve governance, create a more productive culture, and improve communication pathways. Our new series of advisories discusses ERM and how it can address risk in every cooperative, no matter what size or level of operational complexity. Our latest advisory, the second in the series, explains how Enterprise Risk Management can be an effective business tool for cooperatives.

- [Advisory](#)
- [ERM Advisory Series](#)
- [Contacts: Kim Christiansen and Ginny Beauchemin](#)

AREGC Promotes Exchange of Knowledge and Experience Among Members

When it was founded more than 70 years ago, the Association of Rural Electric Generating Cooperatives (AREGC) provided an opportunity for the personnel who operated REA-financed power plants to discuss operational and maintenance challenges and solutions with their peers. Today, its purpose has not changed, although additional topics—such as management challenges, EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) and state and federal environmental regulations—have been added to the meeting discussions.

Read more about the value AREGC provides for NRECA members and about the upcoming annual conference in **St. Petersburg, Fla., June 12-15**. NRECA will be participating, including sharing information about the OASIS project that facilitates member access to NETL energy storage resources.

- [Advisory](#)
- [AREGC Conference Information and Registration](#)
- [AREGC Website](#)
- [OASIS Website](#)
- [Contacts: Dan Walsh, Anantha Narayanan and Tolu Omotoso](#)

Segmentation Improves Consumer Engagement

When deciding which programs to promote to consumer-members, it is helpful to have insights about their priorities and concerns. Consumer segmentation is the practice of dividing a customer base into groups of individuals that are similar in specific ways, such as age, gender, interests, values or spending habits.

Read about NRECA's consumer segmentation efforts to support cooperatives, as well as how Inland Power & Light, Beartooth Electric Cooperative, and Sioux Valley Energy have used consumer segmentation to shape their programs and interactions with their consumer-members.

- [Article](#)
- [Contact: Mike Sassman](#)

Infographic: Power Plant Emissions Control

Fossil-fuel power plants have been getting exponentially cleaner as co-ops have spent billions on equipment that scrubs combustion gas of compounds like mercury, non-mercury metals, and gases like nitrous oxides (NOx) and sulfur oxides (SOx) and particulate. NRECA's new infographic provides explanation of some of the key devices used to clean emissions.

- [NRECA Infographic](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

New Cyber Incident Response Plan Development Resources

Need a cybersecurity incident response plan but don't know where to start? NRECA has two new resources to help:

- **Instructional Workshop – On Demand:**

Nearly 500 cooperative members attended NRECA's recent Incident Response Plan Workshop. This 4-hour online workshop led by NRECA Cybersecurity Principal Ryan Newlon is available to members on demand. Watch at your convenience to learn the components of a cybersecurity incident response plan, steps to create an incident response plan, and how to test your plan and make improvements.

- [On Demand](#)

- **Guidebook:**

NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies team has published our next volume in the series of Cybersecurity Guidebooks, concerning Incident Response. Each guidebook focuses on an area within a co-op organization and relevant cybersecurity issues and responsibilities. There are guidebooks published for attorneys, co-op directors, and Incident Response. Upcoming guidebooks will be added for CEOs, human resources, and engineering and operations.

- [Guidebook on Incident Response](#)
- [Guidebook Series](#)

- Contact: [Ryan Newlon](#)

Automated Load Forecasts for Better Demand Management

Energy storage deployments continue to rise at cooperatives as hardware prices fall. Reducing peak demand, also known as peak shaving, is one of the most popular uses for energy storage and has the potential to significantly reduce demand costs for cooperative members. To fully realize the potential of energy storage, an accurate forecast of future load is needed to determine the best time to charge and discharge the storage. This new *Surveillance* article explains how NRECA has worked with its members to develop a load forecasting application, "CoopForecast," which has been successfully deployed by Burt County Public Power District in Nebraska to predict its day-ahead load for insights into how best to control its 6 MWh storage system.

- [Article](#)
- Contact: [David Pinney](#)

New ACCESS Project Resources for Solar Advancement

The **Achieving Cooperative Community Equitable Solar Sources** (ACCESS) project, the flagship project of NRECA's initiative **Advancing Energy Access for All**, aims to improve the affordability, performance, and value of solar technologies on the grid. Through this project, tools and resources are being developed to assist electric co-ops and the broader industry in deploying solar projects to benefit low-to-moderate-income (LMI) consumers. Two new resources are now available for cooperatives:

- **Community Solar Business Case Tool**

NRECA collaborated with Cliburn and Associates through the **National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP)** Technical Assistance program to develop a tool for evaluating the business case of community solar for LMI members at Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO). This tool is a generalized version of the output from that effort and is intended to provide insight to other cooperatives considering similar projects.

- **Advisory: Performance Testing for Battery Energy Storage Systems**

As part of the ACCESS Project, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is studying the proposed co-op projects integrating Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) with PV to understand if and how the integrated PV/BESS assets can be utilized to achieve additional benefits. This new advisory provides PNNL-developed methodology for assessing and characterizing battery performance characteristics for inclusion in financial models.

- **Contacts:** [Lisa Slaughter](#) and [Tolu Omotoso](#)

North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives Partnership for Utility-Scale Energy Storage and Renewable Power

NRECA's *Rural Energy Storage Deployment Program* (RESDP) focuses on the successful deployment of battery energy storage systems at rural critical infrastructure served by rural electric cooperatives for resiliency and sharing best practices and lessons learned. Battery energy storage is a key technology addition to maintain reliable and affordable electric service throughout rural America.

The latest RESDP case study profiles an effort led by North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives to install and own a solar photovoltaic and BESS system on land leased from a local farm and share the system benefits between the farm and their distribution cooperative, Tideland EMC.

- **Case Study**

- **RESDP Website**

- **Contact:** [Lauren Khair](#)

Technology Planning and Decision Making Available at 2022 Cooperative University

This one-day course helps attendees develop an understanding of, and gain practice with, the core competencies now required of everyone in the cooperative organization to ensure that technology is applied effectively. It introduces a proven technology planning process, best management practices, tools and resources

crucial for effective technology planning and decision making. Join us on **Wednesday, June 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

- [Register](#)
- Contact: [Brienne McIntyre](#)

National Directors Survey: Deadline Extended to May 3

The **National Directors Survey (NDS)** is open and collecting data now. The NDS collects information on Board governance and compensation. This is valuable information that assists Boards in innumerable ways. We have had excellent response, but want to ensure all members have the opportunity to participate. The original deadline of April 19 has been extended to May 3. If you need your cooperative's unique link to submit data, please contact Kim Christiansen.

- [Website](#)
- Contact: [Kim Christiansen](#)

2022 National Compensation System Available

One of the most useful salary benchmarking resources in the industry, the **National Compensation System** provides comprehensive salary information compiled from NRECA member electric cooperatives across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure cooperative.com login, it allows users to customize their data search and export individual reports into a variety of formats. Order today for \$595.

- [Order](#)
- Contact: [Beth Wray](#)

2023 TechAdvantage® Experience Call for Papers is Open

You're invited to submit a proposal to present at 2023 TechAdvantage Experience, March 5-8, 2023 in Nashville, Tennessee. Submit a proposal today to highlight your expertise and share solutions and industry insights at the premier conference for technology leaders in the electric cooperative industry.

- [Learn more](#)
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#) and [Kelly Starzec](#)

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

Modeling Tools for Distributed Wind Hybrid Systems – Apr. 27

Distributed wind projects continue to offer unique, local benefits where the correct combination of resource, land, electrical load, policy, and rates intersect. When combined with other distributed generation resources, such as solar and batteries, these benefits can be expanded. The NRECA **RADWIND** Project Team invites you to attend a webinar on Modeling Tools for Distributed Wind Hybrid System Sizing, Integration & Optimization on **April 27th at 1 p.m. ET**. This informational webinar will introduce participants to the fundamentals of hybrid system sizing

and integration from an optimization perspective. Speakers will include: David Pinney – Analytics Research Program Manager, NRECA; Peter Lilienthal – Founder, HOMER Energy, Global Microgrid Lead, UL; Zachary Pecenek – Lead Engineer, XENDEE; and Amanda Farthing – Research Engineer, NREL.

- [Calendar Invitation](#)

- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

Co-op Economic Outlook – May 5

Join NRECA economic and investment professionals **May 5, 2 p.m. ET**, as they continue their quarterly discussion highlighting the latest issues expected to shape the economic health of electric cooperative communities in 2022. This free series covers key economic indicators, insights on economic growth, and the latest trends and implications for rural areas and the broader U.S. economy. Discussion will align with topics covered in the latest U.S. Rural Economic Outlook report – labor market conditions, supply chain issues and more.

- [More Information and Registration](#)

- U.S. Economic Outlook Report: [Q4 - 2021](#)
- Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

FCC Broadband Initiative – May 16

The Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program, created by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is a historic investment in broadband affordability for households in need. This new subsidy program will help your broadband customers get connected. Join NRECA and staff from the FCC on **May 16, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET** to learn more about how the Affordable Connectivity Program works, barriers that are keeping families from accessing broadband and how co-ops can help their customers benefit from the program.

- [Registration](#)

- Contact: [Brian O'Hara](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar – May 18

Join us on **May 18 at 2:00 p.m. ET** for the next session in our free monthly webinar series highlighting federal grant and other funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and opportunities available to NRECA members. Formerly called the Research Funding Opportunities webinar series, these 30-minute sessions share information on NRECA research initiatives and upcoming funding opportunities in which cooperatives may want to participate, including new opportunities with the infrastructure law. Past webinars are available to members [On Demand](#).

Also join our new professional community to stay up to date on research funding developments. Through this community, we will have member discussions and share ongoing updates on research and new funding opportunities as they become available. To participate, send an email request to ResearchFunding@nreca.coop.

- [Webinar Registration](#)

- Contact: NRECA Team at ResearchFunding@nreca.coop

ON DEMAND WEBINARS

- [Cybersecurity Incident Response Workshop](#)

- **ENCORE On Demand Offering for TechAdvantage Experience 2022**
Online Until: April 30
- **Federal Funding Opportunities Series** (formerly Research Funding Opportunities series)
- **Leading Through the Workforce Revolution**
- **Grid Operations & Innovation Series: Wood Pole Production and Quality Assurance**
- **Grid Operations & Innovation Series: Wood Poles: The Growing Need for a Supply Chain Strategy**
- **Business Insights Series: Enterprise Risk Management: It's a Good Fit for Your Co-op**
- **Business Insights Series: Market Segmentation**
- **Business Insights Series: Using Performance-Based Frameworks to Deliver Consumer Value**
- **Emerging Tech Series: Wind Hybrid Power Plants as an Emerging Energy Resource Option**
- **Emerging Tech Series: Utility Uses for Augmented and Virtual Reality**
- **Emerging Tech Series: EV Trends and Consumer Perspectives**
- **Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Summit**
- **The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 1**
- **The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 2**
- **Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)**
- **Series: Mitigating Bird Issues**

See past issues of *Business and Technology Update* in our [archive on cooperative.com](#).

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
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