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# Business & Technology Update

## In This Issue

*Last Call: Cybersecurity RMUC Funding Opportunity  
New Reports and Resources  
Upcoming Webinars, Conferences & Workshops  
Professional Development Courses  
Infrastructure Funding Consortia  
On Demand Webinars*

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## Last Call... Cybersecurity Funding Opportunity for Co-ops

NRECA Research is excited for the potential for co-ops to enhance their cybersecurity posture through the U.S. Department of Energy Rural & Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity (RMUC) Program. NRECA Research's two concept papers proposing funding to support a secure cybersecurity community and provide co-op staff training have been invited by DOE to advance to full applications. Co-ops can sign-up until **May 3** to participate in the applications. **NRECA Research is only permitted to use awarded RMUC funding for cooperatives participating in the applications. Sign-up today; don't miss this opportunity!** We are offering a webinar on April 29 to review this opportunity and answer questions.

- [Website with Sign-Up](#)
- [Advisory with More Information](#)
- [Webinar Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [NRECA Cybersecurity Team](#)

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## New Reports & Resources

### Data Analytics – Adding Insight to Intuition

For decades, information technology (IT) has been a crucial component of utility operations. Analytical IT tools and services are evolving at a rapid pace, and there are a number of maturing and emerging options for co-ops to gain insights from the large volumes of system and member data to be used for strategic decision-making. This new report explains how data analytics can provide benefits to co-op operations and includes case studies on five co-ops who are exploring and applying data analytics today.

- [Report](#)
  - Contact: [David Pinney](#)
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## Serving Data Centers

Growing computing demands are driving rapid deployment of large data centers worldwide, including in rural America. Today's data centers run 24-7, have massive electric loads, and facility owners consider reliable electric service as essential to continuous operation. This evolving industry brings opportunity for additional electric sales, high load factors, grid infrastructure investments, and economic development. However, it also presents challenges for co-ops with the uncertainty of how to supply massive new loads that can be difficult to forecast. This new report reviews the impact of data centers on co-ops and features case studies of how some co-ops are creating standardized, efficient processes for responding to data center requests and inquiries.

- [Report](#)
  - Contacts: [Allison Hamilton](#) and [Tolu Omotoso](#)
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## Co-ops Are Encouraged to Complete Cyber Goals

NRECA is proud to have over 300 co-ops participating in our [Co-op Cyber Goals Program](#). Through this voluntary program, co-ops are working toward achieving high priority security measures and implementing basic cybersecurity fundamentals. We encourage all co-ops to sign-up to participate. Those who complete the 10 goals by May 31 will be invited to be recognized at the [2024 Co-op Cyber Tech](#) conference in a special ceremony.

- [More Information](#)
  - Contact: [NRECA Cybersecurity Team](#)
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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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## Closing Soon: 2024 National Directors Survey

Time is running out to participate in the [National Directors Survey \(NDS\)](#)—a comprehensive survey pertaining to cooperative governance. Conducted every other year, the NDS provides benchmark data regarding board compensation, along with board practices and policies. But we can't do this without you. Your co-op's participation helps to ensure that the NDS provides member co-ops with the most comprehensive governance benchmark data available. An email with a unique link to participate was sent to the CEOs of all NRECA member

cooperatives from [MarketResearch@NRECA.coop](mailto:MarketResearch@NRECA.coop). **Please submit your data by April 22.** By doing so, you will not only receive a complimentary executive summary report, but will also receive a \$700 discount on the full survey report (participant price \$295; non-participant price \$995).

- Contact: [Beth Wray](#)

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## CEATI Engagement Opportunities for Co-ops

NRECA has been a member of CEATI international for years, representing cooperatives' interests and sharing the research and insights for the benefit of all NRECA members. In addition, through an agreement between NRECA and CEATI, cooperative representatives can be directly involved in CEATI research. Find out more in this advisory:

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)

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## NRECA Resources on Electric Vehicles for Co-ops

As the nation's transportation sector transitions to electric power, success will hinge on the buildout of robust electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure nationwide, including rural America. This will require creative tools and resources to help cooperatives better prepare for this transition. NRECA has a variety of electric vehicle (EV) resources and engagement opportunities available for members to gain an understanding of the electrification trends in our industry and take steps to advance EV readiness. This new summary provides an overview of resources and opportunities regarding electric vehicles, with links to further information.

- [Summary](#)
- Contact: [Jannah Denney](#)

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## Upcoming Webinars, Conferences & Workshops

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### Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series: May 7

Join us **May 7 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 session, NRECA's Electric Vehicle Strategy & Solutions Manager, Jannah Denney, will include a review of standard forms in the application process. The following session on June 18 will complement this discussion with a focus on specialty forms.

- [Information and Registration](#)
  - Contact: [Jannah Denney](#)
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## 2024 MultiSpeak® Workshop

MultiSpeak is the worldwide leading software interoperability standard and solutions for electric distribution utilities. MultiSpeak facilitates data sharing between independent systems in a seamless, cyber secure, cost effective, and standardized way. Join us **May 14-15 in Murray, Kentucky or online** for a workshop aimed at familiarizing attendees with the various aspects of MultiSpeak, starting with its evolution, how it works, the various versions available and their attributes, and how MultiSpeak can be used to integrate utility software platforms. Interfaces that may be discussed include AMI to CIS, AMI to OMS, GIS – CIS, SCADA – OMS, AVL to OMS, and others.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

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## 2024 Co-op Cyber Tech Registration and Science Fair

Join us **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.

- [Co-op Cyber Tech Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Coco Hemenway](#)

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## NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit

The NRECA Broadband Leadership Summit will take place **June 12-14 in Washington, D.C.** 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.

- [More Information](#)
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

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## Career and Development Courses for Cooperatives

NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for cooperatives' career development. The [Supervisor and Manager Development Program \(SMDP\)](#) focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others, while the [Cooperative Career Essentials Program \(CCEP\)](#) focuses on the core skills that all employees need regardless of their title or tenure.

One course highlight is [732.1 Values-Based Leadership](#) happening **April 30 - May 1** online and again in person at [Cooperative University](#) in New Orleans, LA this fall. This course will explain key organizational values that create supportive environments to attract, develop and retain employees.

Those who prefer a convenient self-paced, on-demand format, will find many courses to choose from, 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](#)
- [760.05 The Science of Emotional Intelligence](#)
- [762.05 Co-op Members, Boards, CEOs and Employees: Building a Strong Foundation for Success](#)

View the entire schedule to find courses to meet your specific needs:

- [Full 2024 Course 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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