

Business & Technology Update



Thursday, April 7, 2022 | coop.com | [BTS Portfolio](#) | [Contact](#) | [Archive](#) |

Join NRECA Consortia for Infrastructure Bill Opportunities

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. To support our members, NRECA is establishing co-op consortia to maximize potential access to certain funding opportunities and build momentum behind co-op efforts. Recognizing that electric co-ops are stronger together, this collaboration provides an advantage in pursuit of infrastructure funds. Initially, five specific consortia are being developed based on currently identified opportunities and co-op interest: Electric Vehicles, Microgrids, Cybersecurity, Grid Resilience and Reliability, and Smart Grids and Data. More may be added at a later time. Find out further details about this opportunity and how you can join the consortia in the document linked below, and visit our Infrastructure Resources Hub for additional information.

- [Consortia Details](#)
- [Infrastructure Resource Hub](#)
- Contacts: [Paul Breakman](#) and [Emma Stewart](#)

New Cyber Incident Response Plan Development Resources

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

- **Instructional Workshop:**
Join NRECA's Cybersecurity Principal, Ryan Newlon, next week for this free, 4-hour online workshop covering various response plan standards that can help you get started. Registrants will learn the components of a cyber incident response plan, steps to create a cyber incident response plan, and how to test your plan and make improvements. **April 14, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. ET.**
 - [Registration](#)
- **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. To date, there is Guidebook published for Attorneys, Members of the Board, and now one on Incident Response. Upcoming, Guidebooks will be added for CEOs, HR, and E&O.
 - [Guidebook on Incident Response](#)
 - [Guidebook Series](#)

- Contact: [Ryan Newlon](#)

Business Insights Webinar – TODAY

Join us for our next Business Insights webinar today: *Market Segmentation: Amplifying Your Message for Success* - **April 7, 2-2:50 p.m. ET**. NRECA's Director, Consumer Analytics & Market Research, Mike Sassman will help us understand how to use consumer segmentation to align your programs and communications to your consumer-members' motivations.

- [More Information](#)
- Contact: [Mike Sassman](#)

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](#)

Webinar: 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 27 at 1 p.m. ET**. This informational webinar will introduce participants to the fundamentals of hybrid system sizing and integration from an optimization perspective. Use the calendar invitation below to sign-up, or contact Michael Leitman at Michael.Leitman@nreca.coop.

- [Calendar Invitation](#)
- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

New Resources through NRECA's ACCESS Project 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 will be developed to assist electric co-ops and the broader industry deploy 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](#)

NCEMC 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 believed to be a key technology addition to maintain reliable and affordable electric service throughout rural America. Our latest RESDP case study highlights an effort led by North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) to install and own a solar photovoltaic system on land leased by a local farm, and share the system benefits between the farm and their distribution cooperative, Tideland EMC.

- **Case Study**

- **RESDP Website**

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

Improving Cyclic Performance of Natural Gas Power Plants

The rise of competitive power markets together with growing variable renewable generation are forcing natural gas combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plants into a reactionary posture, where they operate in a cycling manner instead of running as baseload. CCGT power plants accumulate damage and degradation in key components during every start-up and shutdown – eventually leading to failure and reduced availability. This new NRECA *Surveillance* series summarizes CEATI's report *Optimization of Natural Gas Fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbines Power Plant Modifications to Improve Cycling Performance*, reviewing the adaptations that electric cooperatives can make to natural gas CCGT power plants to decrease failure mechanisms and improve their availability, and to rank those adaptations in terms of cost effectiveness.

- **Article Series**

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

New OASIS Program Provides Energy Storage Resources for Cooperatives

Electric cooperatives operate a large number of fossil power plants in the U.S. and can greatly benefit from advanced energy storage technologies but face various technical and financial barriers. Through a cooperative agreement between NRECA and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), the new *Outreach for Advance Storage Integration and Support* (OASIS) program is aimed at overcoming these barriers, increasing the adoption of storage technologies and contributing to the nation's power security and economic growth. Through OASIS, NRECA will provide its members with access to educational resources, to help empower them to integrate new energy storage technologies with their generation systems. Find out more at our new website:

- [OASIS Website](#)
- Contacts: [Dan Walsh](#), [Anantha Narayanan](#), and [Tolu Omotoso](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar – Apr. 20

Join us on **April 20 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. Subsequent sessions are scheduled for May 18 and June 15. 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

Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar: 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](#)

Technology Planning and Decision Making Course 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.**

- **Registration**
- Contact: [Brienne McIntyre](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Cyber Incident Response Plan - Instructional Workshop**
Online
April 14
- **Cooperative University**
Nashville, TN
June 20-24

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

Webinars & Virtual Seminars

- **Business Insights: Market Segmentation: Amplifying Your Message for Success**
April 7, 2-2:50 p.m. ET
- **Federal Funding Opportunities Series**
April 20, 2:00 p.m. ET
- **Modeling Tools for Distributed Wind Hybrid Systems**
April 27, 1:00 p.m. ET
- **Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar**
May 5, 2:00 p.m. ET

On Demand

- **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**
- **Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar Series: July 22, 2021**
- **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**
- **New Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities**
- **The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 1**
- **The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 2**
- **Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items**
- **RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program**
- **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
4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203 | Tel: (703) 907-5500 | E-mail: nreca@nreca.coop

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 