

Business & Technology Update



Friday, May 20, 2022 | coop.com | [BTS Portfolio](#) | [Contact](#) | [Archive](#) |

Participate in NRECA's Co-op Technology Survey

NRECA, in coordination with CFC and NRTC, has developed a Cooperative Technology Survey to help cooperatives understand what technologies are currently or soon to be installed by their peers, how they are used, and what vendors and options are most widely-used. Data from the survey also helps NRECA, CFC and NRTC to target their research, development, financing, and consulting offerings to best meet the needs of cooperatives. We invite all cooperatives to participate. A copy of the 2022 full survey results will be available at no charge to co-ops who fill out the survey. Find more information, a copy of the survey questions for preview, and the participation link on our website:

- [Co-op Technology Survey Website](#)
- Contacts: [Mike Sassman](#) and [David Pinney](#)

June Webinars Kick-Off New Infrastructure Consortia

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. Examples of how co-ops are leveraging federal grants to support the communities they serve can be found in a [new RE Magazine article](#).

To maximize potential access to certain funding opportunities and build momentum for co-op efforts, NRECA is establishing co-op consortia around key areas based on opportunities and co-op interest. Sign-up for four consortia that are available now, and participate in three kick-off webinars happening next month:

- **Cooperative Approach to Vehicle Electrification (CAVE) Consortium**
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.
 - [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)
 - Contacts: [Brian Sloboda](#) and [Tolu Omotoso](#)
- **Microgrid Consortium**
A coalition of the nation's rural 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. Join us on **June 1, Noon-1:30 p.m. ET** for our webinar featuring speakers Gil Bindewald, DOE's Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, and Dr. James Nelson, Arizona State University's Director of Technology and Innovation for LEAPS.

- [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)

- [Webinar Registration](#)

- Contact: [Tolu Omotoso](#)

- **Natural Hazards Consortium**

A coalition of rural electric cooperatives seeking to build communities resilient to all hazards through holistic planning and risk assessment. The consortium partners with federal agencies, state and local governments, nonprofits and industry to identify funding opportunities and develop replicable pathways for all-hazards risk assessment for rural electric cooperatives and their members. Join us on **June 22, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** for our webinar.

- [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)

- [Webinar Registration](#)

- Contact: [Patti Metro](#)

- **Smart Grids and Data Consortium**

A coalition of the nation's rural electric cooperatives working to use digital technologies to modernize grid infrastructure and better serve their communities. The consortium partners with federal, state and local stakeholders to identify funding opportunities and develop replicable pathways for smart grid investment in rural America. Join us on **June 30, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** for our webinar.

- [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)

- [Webinar Registration](#)

- Contact: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

For More Information and Questions:

- [NRECA Infrastructure Consortia Website](#)

- **The System for Award Management: SAM.gov** - Registering your organization on SAM.gov is an essential first step in ensuring access to dedicated funding for electric co-ops in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

- [NRECA Infrastructure Resource Hub](#)

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

Updated Distributed Generation Toolkit for Cooperatives

NRECA created the Distributed Generation (DG) Toolkit originally in **2014** to help electric cooperatives address various considerations raised by consumer-owned generation. Due to the rapid increase in installing DG units by consumer-members, the update of the DER interconnection standard, and the increase in adoption of other technologies, such as battery energy storage, the Transmission and Distribution Engineering Committee (TDEC) System Planning Subcommittee worked to update the DG Toolkit. Find the new resources now available on [cooperative.com](#):

- [Updated DG Toolkit](#)

- [More information on the DG Toolkit](#)

- [Contacts: Fathalla Eldali and Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

Ensuring Reliability in the Harshest Conditions

All co-ops face occasional challenges from mother nature when providing service to members. For Golden Valley Electric Association, with its largest single source of generation in a town called North Pole, Alaska, operating under extreme weather conditions plays a major role in planning, maintenance, and day-to-day operations. It also means designing and building for contingencies to ensure that members have the electricity they need when they need it. Read in this new *RE Magazine* article about GVEA's extensive efforts to ensure reliability today and in the future.

- [Article](#)
- [Contact: Scot Hoffman](#)

RADWIND Report on the Business Case for Distributed Wind

Distributed energy resources (DER) are fast becoming an integral, reliable, and cost-effective source of power supply in most areas of the country. As DER deployments grow in rural areas, this transition of power supply from large central generation stations to smaller distributed power sources present rural electric cooperatives with an array of opportunities and challenges. NRECA Research's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND)* Project seeks to understand, address, and reduce the technical risks and market barriers to distributed wind adoption by rural utilities. As part of this effort, we have just published a new report, *Business Case for Distributed Wind in Rural Electric Cooperative Service Areas*, to identify and address market barriers to distributed wind adoption by laying out the business case for distributed wind in each use case established by the RADWIND project: front-of-the-meter, behind-the-meter, and off-grid. See our new advisory for a summary of the report and its sections, and the full report for details. Also view our recent RADWIND webinar *Modeling Tools for Distributed Wind Hybrid System Sizing, Integration & Optimization* on demand to learn about the fundamentals of hybrid system sizing and integration from an optimization perspective.

- [Advisory Summarizing Report](#)
- [Full Report](#)
- [On Demand Webinar](#)
- [RADWIND Website](#)
- [Contact: Michael Leitman](#)

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

Co-op Forum: Unexpected Ways Broadband Deployment Impacts Co-ops

Recently, *RE Magazine* asked co-ops for their insights on the unexpected ways that broadband deployment has impacted their companies. Read the responses from Steve Foshee, President and CEO of Tombigbee EC in Alabama; Stacy Cluff, Technology and Energy Services Manager of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative in Minnesota; John Lee, President and CEO of Mecklenberg EC in Virginia; and Brad Gibson, Chief Cooperative Business Officer of Middle Tennessee Electric.

- [Article](#)
- [Contact: Scot Hoffman](#)

Infographic: Hydrogen Fuel Cells

Fuel cells, which convert the chemical energy in hydrogen—the universe’s most abundant element—into electricity, are seeing a resurgence in interest after decades of unfulfilled promise. These innovative engines require no combustion, and most create only water vapor and heat as byproducts. They are quiet and scalable, but their uptake has been hindered by their cost and by difficulties associated with extracting and storing hydrogen. See in a new *RE Magazine* infographic how fuel cells work and some key applications.

- [Infographic](#)
- [Contact: Dan Walsh and Scot Hoffman](#)

Workshop: Introduction to Data Strategy/Analytics & MultiSpeak® - June 7

Learn how to turn your cooperative’s data into information that will help you manage your day-to-day operations more effectively and improve performance. Join us for a free, in-person workshop at Umatilla Electric Cooperative in Oregon on **June 7, 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m. PDT** for an introduction to the value of grid data analytics and data strategy followed by an in-depth training session focusing on the MultiSpeak specification and its uses in data acquisition. Actual use cases pertinent to extracting value of data acquisition and analytics will be demonstrated. Participants who complete the MultiSpeak specification training and pass an exam will achieve the designation “MultiSpeak® Integrator.” To register, please contact [Aliya Alimujiang](#).

- [Agenda](#)
- [Contact: Aliya Alimujiang](#)

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.**

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

Registration Open: 2022 Safety Leadership Summit

Join us **Aug. 17-19** in Austin, Texas for NRECA's premier industry, educational and networking event for co-op staff responsible for safety practices. The summit will be held in person with portions available for viewing via livestream as well. New this year: In-person and online registrants can also participate in our whole person health & wellness and concern for community activities.

- [Registration](#)
- Contact for questions: [Perron Nicholas](#)

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 Information](#)
- 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

Infrastructure Webinar Series:

- [Microgrid Consortium](#) – June 1
- [Natural Hazards Consortium](#) – June 22
- [Smart Grid and Data Consortium](#) – June 30

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar – June 15

Join us on **June 15 at 2:00 p.m. ET** for our 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

- [Co-op Economic Outlook](#) (May 2022)
- [RADWIND: Modeling Tools for Distributed Wind Hybrid System Sizing, Integration & Optimization](#)
- [Cybersecurity Incident Response Workshop](#)
- [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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