



Business & Technology Update

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NRECA Response To EPA Power Plant Rule

On April 25, the EPA released its long-anticipated final rules aimed at carbon dioxide emissions from existing coal and new natural gas power plants. NRECA believes that the final rule is unlawful, unachievable and unrealistic. It mandates inadequately demonstrated technology for carbon capture, sets unachievable emissions limits on an unworkable timeframe in violation of the Clean Air Act and Supreme Court decisions, and forces premature plant closures while also making it harder to permit, site and build critical power plants. NRECA has filed a lawsuit with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to contest the rule on behalf of co-op interests, and has created a suite of resources for co-ops to use in communicating about the final rule.

- [Fact Sheet on the EPA Rule](#)
- [Fact Sheet on Carbon Capture](#)
- [Along Those Lines Podcast](#) – Immediate, Irreparable Harm: The Impacts of EPA's Power Plant Rule
- [Website with More Information and Resources](#)
- Contacts: [Dan Bosch](#) (Regulatory Affairs Director) and [Dan Walsh](#) (Senior Power Supply & Generation Director)

Co-ops Encouraged to Finish Cyber Goals for Recognition at June Co-op Cyber Tech Conference

Co-ops who complete all 10 goals of NRECA's [Co-op Cyber Goals Program](#) by **May 31** will be recognized during our annual [Co-op Cyber Tech conference](#) June 11-13. Complete your goals today so we can celebrate your achievement in helping to protect the national grid.

- [More Information](#)
 - Contact: [Cybersecurity Team](#)
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New Opportunities & Resources

Opportunity for Co-ops in AI and DER Cybersecurity Effort

The penetration of distributed energy resources such as photovoltaics, battery energy storage systems, and electric vehicles continues to increase nationwide. Smart inverters are also being deployed with the ability to be remotely controlled and updated. While these additional flexibilities offer big benefits to utilities, they can also present additional opportunities for cyber attackers. NRECA Research seeks co-ops to participate in a project with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) to develop new methods of detecting cyberattacks and immediately ameliorating their effects on grid stability. The Mitigation via Analytics for Grid-Inverter Cybersecurity (MAGIC) project trains artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to identify when an attack is occurring and, once detected, to utilize other controllable equipment to counteract it. **Deadline to express interest is June 7.**

- [More Information](#)
 - Contact: [Lisa Slaughter](#)
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Updated Co-op Retail Fuel Mix and Renewables Growth Analyses

Annually, NRECA provides analyses of the state of co-op retail fuel mix and the progression of renewable generation. Based on the latest available information, there was a significant growth for electric cooperative retail sales in 2022, rising by 4.8% over 2021 levels. For the same year, natural gas exceeded coal as the largest source of power for cooperatives, and the share of non-hydro renewable resources in the cooperative fuel mix set a new high. Data for 2023 for renewables shows that co-ops added over 1,350 megawatts of new renewable capacity in 2023 and co-op deployment is expected to continue to grow significantly. Supply chain and permitting challenges delayed several projects, which has been an issue lingering since the pandemic. Most capacity growth has been through power purchase agreements, rather than direct ownership, but the availability of direct pay tax incentives could spur increased co-op ownership. These advisories provide further details:

- [Advisory on Co-op Fuel Mix](#)
 - [Advisory on Renewables Growth](#)
 - Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)
-

Explaining Virtual Power Plants

A confluence of developments in behind-the-meter technologies and energy industry software have opened a promising opportunity for electric cooperatives that could be a major boost for demand response, load control, renewables integration and reliability. Often called “virtual power plants” (VPPs), the technology uses advanced software called distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS) to monitor, analyze and dispatch member devices like rooftop solar, grid-connectable water heaters, battery storage, home back-up generators, smart thermostats and advanced electric vehicle chargers. Read this new RE Magazine article featuring

NRECA's director of energy solutions, Tolu Omotoso, for explanation of VPPs and how utilities can use this real-time access and control to help with voltage regulation and frequency control, shave demand peaks, add power to the grid when needed and ride through outages. A related NRECA report provides further information on VPPs.

- [RE Magazine Article](#)
- [Report](#)
- Contacts: [Tolu Omotoso](#) and [Scot Hoffman](#)

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, electric co-ops continue to lead the industry in AMI deployment, with 83% of co-op meters using AMI as compared to 71% for the rest of the industry. Find out more in this advisory:

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

Data Submission Deadline Extended: 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. **Please submit your data by June 30.** 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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series

Join us **June 18 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 Principal for Analytical Tools & Software Products, David Pinney, will include a review of specialty forms in the application process.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [David Pinney](#)

NERC Focused Overview - Summer Reliability Assessment, Extreme Weather and Vegetation Standards

On **June 20 at 2 p.m. ET**, NRECA's Senior Director of Grid Operations and Reliability, Patti Metro, will present information about the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC's) Summer 2024 Reliability Assessment and the new electric reliability challenges facing the nation. The assessment covers a 4-month period (June - September) and provides an evaluation of generation resource and transmission system adequacy, as well as energy sufficiency to meet projected summer peak demands and operating reserves. In

addition, several Reliability Standards associated with extreme weather events and vegetation management will be reviewed.

- [Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Patti Metro](#)

Introducing Project Guardian: Latest Cybersecurity Program for Co-ops

Join us on **June 25 at 2 p.m. ET** to learn about NRECA's Project Guardian — the newest part of a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy for all member cooperatives. Project Guardian – 617A is a cooperative agreement between NRECA Research and the Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response funded under the Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance (RMUC) Program. This agreement provides \$4M of funding over five years (May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2029) to advance the cybersecurity posture of electric cooperative utilities.

- [Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Cybersecurity Team](#)

Upcoming Conferences

2024 Co-op Cyber Tech

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](#)

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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2024 AREGC Conference

Join us **June 16-19 in Little Rock, Arkansas** for the annual Association of Rural Electric Generating Cooperatives (AREGC) Conference—a national event designed to provide electric co-op power plant operations, maintenance and engineering personnel an opportunity to meet with experts, collaborate with peers, and gain knowledge and insight into new practices and technologies to enhance the effectiveness of electric generating co-ops. Presentation topic areas include Emerging Technology Use, Power Generation Safety, Asset Management, Energy Storage and more.

- [Information & Registration](#)
 - [More Information on AREGC](#)
 - Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)
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2024 G&T Resource Planning Association Conference

Save the Date for the [G&T Resource Planning Association Conference](#), **September 30-October 2 in Asheville, North Carolina**. Hosted by [North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives](#), presentation topics include modeling software, resource adequacy, carbon emissions accounting/reporting, how to place EV charging infrastructure and more. Network with co-op colleagues and gain insight into the top issues within the G&T industry.

- [Website](#)
 - Contact: [Allison Hamilton](#)
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2025 TechAdvantage Call for Presentations

Co-ops are invited to submit a proposal to present at 2025 TechAdvantage, **March 9-12, 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia**. 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. **Deadline is June 15, 2024.**

- [Learn more](#)
 - Contacts: [Alison Kent](#) and [Kelly Starzec](#)
-

Career and Development Courses for Cooperatives

NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for cooperatives' career development. The schedule is available for the 2024 [Supervisor and Manager Development Program](#) (SMDP) and [Cooperative Career Essentials Program](#) (CCEP) online courses. Both programs offer self-paced, on-demand courses, 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](#)

The schedule also includes the dates and location 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. [SMDP](#) focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others.

- [Full 2024 Course Schedule](#)
- Contact for SMDP: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)
- Contact for CCEP: [Alison Kent](#)

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](#)

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.

Newsletter provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203 | 703-907-5500

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