

Angela Strickland Named NRECA Senior Vice President of Business and Technology Strategies

NRECA has named electric utility and consulting leader Angela Strickland as senior vice president leading our Business and Technology Strategies department. Strickland's leadership in a variety of energy-related capacities at two energy consulting organizations and Southern Company provides the experience necessary to assess and engage the NRECA membership in the technology, operations, and business needs of electric cooperatives.

"I have had opportunities throughout my career to build a strong leadership base," Strickland said. "My experience in many different roles has given me a broad view of the industry and underscored the importance of collaboration and transparency in the work that we pursue. I look forward to deepening my relationships with electric cooperatives across the country and working with them in a member-centric approach."



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](#)

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. 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.

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

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:

- CAVE: Electric Vehicles
- Microgrids
- Natural Hazards
- Cyber and Physical Security, 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 three 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.

- [More Information and Registration for the Microgrid Consortium](#)
- [Registration for Webinar](#)
- Contact: [Tolu Omotoso](#)

- **Natural Hazards Consortium**

The Natural Hazards Consortium is 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. The consortium also serves as a forum for co-ops to share lessons learned, identify opportunities for collaboration, network and learn from all-hazards experts.

- [More Information and Registration for the Natural Hazards Consortium](#)
- Contact: [Patti Metro](#)

- **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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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

TODAY: Co-op Economic Outlook – May 5, 2:00 PM ET

Join NRECA economic and investment professionals today, **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

Microgrid Consortium Launch – June 1

Join us on **June 1, 12:00-1:30 p.m. ET** for this free webinar to learn more about NRECA's newly formed **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.

- **Registration for Webinar**
- Contact: [Tolu Omotoso](#)

ON DEMAND WEBINARS

- **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
4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203 | Tel: (703) 907-5500 | E-mail: nreca@nreca.coop

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 