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# Business & Technology Update

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## In This Issue

*New Operational Resources*  
*Cybersecurity Resources and Opportunities*  
*Upcoming Webinars and Conferences*  
*Professional Development Courses*

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## New Operational Resources for Cooperatives

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### The State of Nuclear Power

Responding to rising energy demand and greater interest in nuclear power, the nuclear industry has recently taken actions to rejuvenate the existing U.S. nuclear fleet. Meanwhile, numerous U.S. companies are developing advanced nuclear reactor technologies, including small modular reactors and microreactors. In our new Surveillance article, learn more about the current state of nuclear power and how it offers an important option for co-ops to consider in their long-range resource planning.

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

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### NRECA Resources for Building an Effective EV Strategy

As electric vehicle adoption grows, electric co-ops must prepare to support transportation electrification while maintaining reliable and affordable power for their members. A clear, data-driven EV strategy helps minimize grid disruptions, reduce unnecessary infrastructure costs, and align programs with member needs. This new advisory outlines practical steps to help your co-op build a durable, system-aware EV strategy, drawing on guidance and tools featured in NRECA's [EV Resource Summary](#), as well as insights from DOE, EPRI, NREL, SEPA and other industry partners.

- [Advisory](#)
- [NRECA EV Resources Summary](#)
- Contact: [Jennah Denney](#)

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## Podcast: Electric Co-ops Confront Growing Threat of Wildfires

Drier and hotter weather conditions are creating longer wildfire seasons in many parts of the country, and even regions not typically at risk of wildfires are vulnerable. In this episode of *Along Those Lines*, learn how co-ops are dealing with this growing threat and how a bill in Congress, the Fix Our Forests Act, could help with mitigation efforts. Hear from NRECA's Erin Kelly and Hannah Hardin, as well as West Oregon Electric Cooperative's Billi Kohler. Also, view our recent webinar On Demand, [Advanced Solutions to Address Wildfire Threats at Cooperatives](#).

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

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## NRECA Distribution Automation Toolkit Helps Co-ops With Cost-Benefit Analysis

Electric co-ops considering automated devices and processes to boost reliability have a new tool from NRECA to help them select distribution automation technologies and make the investment while protecting their bottom line. NRECA's new Distribution Automation Toolkit assists co-ops in conducting cost-benefit analysis of proposed DA project technologies and provides valuable insights to assess the value of projects and facilitate demonstrations with vendors. Find out more in this new article and on our project website.

- [Article](#)
- [DA Toolkit Website](#)
- Contact: [Ravindra Singh](#)

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## 2025 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 the most comprehensive co-op-specific salary information compiled from NRECA member electric co-ops across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure cooperative.com login, our 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 2025 Distribution NCS](#)
- [Order the 2025 G&T NCS](#)
- Contact: [Beth Wray](#)

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## New Cybersecurity Resources & Opportunities

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### Three Ways to Participate in 2025 GridEx

GridEx is a 2-day cybersecurity distributed-play exercise implemented by the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) every other year. In the exercise, security professionals engage in a complex and demanding scenario, often customizing the exercise to fit their specific organizational requirements. This year, E-

ISAC and the NRECA Threat Analysis Center (TAC) are collaborating to make it easier for co-ops to participate. Learn more about the three ways you can join GridEx November 18-19.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop)

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## Third-Party Hacks: Cyber Attackers Are Reaching Co-ops Through Their Vendors

Third-party cybersecurity breaches are on the rise for utilities, both on the information technology side and the operational technology side. In this RE Magazine June cover story, learn how co-ops are staying vigilant.

- [Article](#)
- Contact: [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop)

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## Infographic: Cyberattack Recovery

The very nature of cyberattacks is their unpredictability and their adaptability to circumvent protective measures. The impact of a breach can vary widely depending on multiple factors, including type of attack, targeted systems, response time and what defenses were in place. But the recovery process is more structured, with multiple benchmarks to restore operations, secure systems and protect against future incidents. Learn about key steps in cyberattack recovery in this new RE Magazine infographic:

- [Infographic](#)
- Contact: [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop)

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## Federal Funding for Cybersecurity for Operational Technology

NRECA still has funding available for member co-ops in the Industrial Control Systems for Rural Electric Cooperatives (ICS-REC) program. This \$15M program funds the rapid deployment of technologies that protect, defend or harden Operational Technology (OT) in your network. If your organization's 2025 roadmap includes OT cybersecurity activities and/or enhancements, the ICS-REC program may be able to fund some of your planned projects.

- [Questionnaire to Find Out More](#)
- Contact: [Adrian McNamara](#)

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*More information on NRECA cybersecurity resources is available in our [new brochure](#), in our [updated Summary](#), and at [cooperative.com/cybersecurity](https://cooperative.com/cybersecurity). Members are welcome to contact our team with questions or for help with their cybersecurity efforts: [membersecurity@nreca.coop](mailto:membersecurity@nreca.coop).*

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## Upcoming Webinars

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## Cooperative Tech Insights Webinar Series

Register to attend next month's Cooperative Tech Insights webinar **July 17 at 2 p.m. ET** to hear Jennah Denney, NRECA's Electric Vehicle Strategy & Solutions Manager, lead a discussion about project Rural Electric Workflow Improvements for Rapid Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Deployment (REWIRE). This free monthly webinar series explores the latest NRECA business and technology solutions and resources, including federal funding opportunities that could support your co-op's technology initiatives. Save the date for **August 21 at 2 p.m.** for the following session where David Farmer, NRECA Principal of Distribution Grid, will talk about distribution grid standards.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [Jennah Denney](#)

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## Professional Skills Development Webinars

NRECA offers a variety of professional development opportunities, including these upcoming webinars:

- [Building Bulletproof Spreadsheets](#) - September 9 at 2 pm ET
- [Automation in Excel: Macros, Shortcuts, and Hacks](#) - October 1 at 2 pm ET
- [Better Data and Reporting with Excel Functions](#) - October 22 at 2 pm ET
- Contact: [Alison Kent](#)

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## Upcoming Conferences

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### Registration Open: 2025 Cooperative University

Join us **October 6-10 in Plano, Texas** for the professional development and networking event for all electric co-op employees. With courses offered across three NRECA professional programs (SMDP, CCEP and CKAE®), you can select from various co-op-specific courses based on core, role-specific and supervisory, management and leadership competencies to enhance your business and technology skillset all in one location—minimizing cost to your co-op. View our [full schedule](#) of courses.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)

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### 2025 G&T Resource Planning Association Conference

Save the date for the [G&T Resource Planning Association Conference](#), **October 14-16 in Denver, Colorado**. Hosted by [Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association](#), presentation topics include long duration energy storage, small modular reactors, resource adequacy, emerging tech, and more! Network with co-op colleagues and gain insight into the top issues within the G&T industry.

- [More Information](#)

- Contact: [Allison Hamilton](#)

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## Professional Development Courses for Cooperatives

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NRECA offers an extensive variety of courses, online and in-person, for cooperatives' career development. Some upcoming highlights include:

### Live, online courses:

- [722.1: Deliberate Decision Making](#) - July 14 & 15 at 1-4 pm ET each day. Last day to register: July 10.
- [\(5302.1\) Navigating Emotions in the Workplace](#): July 22 & 23 at 1-4 p.m. ET each day. Last day to register: July 20.
- [723.1: Team Dynamics](#) - July 28 & 29 at 1-4 pm ET each day. Last day to register: July 24.
- [\(5308.05\) Getting Comfortable Giving & Receiving Feedback](#): July 29 at 12-4 p.m. ET. Last day to register: July 27.
- [724.1: Restoring Emotional Safety and Trust in the Workplace](#) - August 11 & 12 at 1-4 pm ET each day. Last day to register: August 7.
- [\(5306.05\) Communicating to Influence](#): August 19 at 12-4 p.m. ET. Last day to register: August 17.
- [753.1: Emotional Intelligence Essentials for Supervisors and Managers](#) - August 25 & 26 at 1-4 pm ET each day. Last day to register: August 21

### Learning Management System online courses:

- [710.1: Stepping into Your Supervisory Role: Learning to Lead](#) Access Dates: July 1 – July 30 (self-paced, instructor-facilitated); Last day to register: June 29
- [711.1: Everyone Communicates; Few Connect: Tools for Bridging the Gap](#) Access Dates: July 1 – July 30 (self-paced, instructor-facilitated); Last day to register: June 29
- [712.1: You Can't Do It Alone: Building a Strong Team](#) Access Dates: July 1 – July 30 (self-paced, instructor-facilitated); Last day to register: June 29

**Self-paced, on-demand courses** – available for 30 days from date of purchase. Group rates are available.

- [\(5104.05\) Electric Cooperative Fundamentals](#)
- [\(5105.05\) Electric System Fundamentals](#)
- [\(5112.05\) The Data-Driven Electric Co-op: Using Analytics to Make Better Decisions](#)
- [\(5113.05\) Ratemaking for Electric Cooperatives](#)
- [\(5135.05\) Project Management Basics](#)
- [\(760.05\) The Science of Emotional Intelligence](#)
- [\(762.05\) Co-op Members, Boards, CEOs and Employees: Building a Strong Foundation for Success](#)

The [full schedule](#) is available for the 2025 [Supervisor and Manager Development Program](#) (SMDP) and [Cooperative Career Essentials Program](#) (CCEP) online courses. The schedule also includes the dates 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. The [SMDP](#) focuses on the specific skills needed to supervise and manage others.

- [Full 2025 Course Schedule](#)
  - Contact for SMDP: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)
  - Contact for CCEP: [Alison Kent](#)
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**Discover the value of NRECA membership.** [Learn More.](#)

Newsletter provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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