



Business & Technology Update

New Resources

Gaining Value from Data Science

As rural electric cooperatives face increasing demands on planning, operations, and finance, data science offers the allure of quick, accurate insights that can inform critical decisions. The question is not whether data science can be valuable, but rather what it will take to obtain that value. NRECA's new report series examines how electric cooperatives can incorporate insights from data science into their operations through a practical, grounded approach. The first report, now available, explains data science, how it can support decision-making, and the conditions for project success.

[Read More](#)

FERC 2222 – Aggregating DER Into Organized Markets

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Order 2222 and progeny require wholesale electricity markets, operated by Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) and Independent System Operators (ISOs), to allow aggregated distributed energy resources (DER) to participate in the wholesale markets. With several RTO markets either up and running or scheduled to go live soon, there are key considerations for cooperatives. This new website explains FERC 2222, the roles of various industry stakeholders, and what co-ops need to know.

[Visit Website](#)

Co-op Fuel Mix and Renewables Growth Updates

Retail Fuel Mix

NRECA's most recent analysis of the cooperative retail fuel mix shows that electric cooperative retail sales grew by 4.1% in 2024, exceeding the average national growth rate of 2.5%. The mix of resources only shifted slightly from 2023 to 2024.

[Read More](#)

Renewable Capacity

Electric cooperatives have been involved with renewable energy since the very beginning of rural electrification and hydropower growth. In 2025, co-ops reached a new record for renewable capacity additions, including a record addition of new solar capacity.

[Read More](#)

A Guide to Battery Energy Storage Systems

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) have emerged as a potential option for electric cooperatives seeking to enhance grid reliability, manage costs, add capacity, and firm up intermittent resources. However, several important considerations determine if a BESS project will be successful and deliver the intended outcomes. This new report provides cooperative leaders and operational staff with a high-level understanding of BESS technologies, their applications, and full lifecycle. Lessons learned from three co-op case studies are included.

[Guide](#)

Survey on Pole Attachments and Broadband

NRECA is collecting data from cooperatives on the many issues they experience when dealing with communications attachers and the impact those issues have on the delivery of safe, affordable, and reliable electric service. Survey data will be compiled and used to counter constant claims from communications attachers that cooperatives are a barrier to broadband deployment. We encourage all co-ops to work with their cooperative attorney to complete the survey by July 16.

[Take the Survey](#)

2026 National Compensation System with 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. Order today for \$895.

[Distribution NCS](#)

[G&T NCS](#)

Engagement Opportunities

Startup Alley Opportunity at PowerXchange and TechAdvantage

After a successful debut this year, NRECA is continuing Startup Alley for the 2027 PowerXchange and TechAdvantage conference. This is an unparalleled opportunity for early-stage small companies to connect with over 8,000 conference attendees, including more than 2,000 co-op leaders and staff. Find out more information below and share this opportunity with startup businesses in your areas. Deadline for application is July 31.

[More Information](#)

Invitation to NRECA's Large Loads Task Force

The rapid expansion of data centers, advanced manufacturing, electrification of transportation fleets, and other large energy users is bringing new opportunities — and new complexities — to electric cooperatives. NRECA invites all co-op members to apply to join NRECA's Large Loads and Data Centers Task Force, a peer network focused on helping co-ops navigate the rapid growth of large commercial and industrial loads, particularly data centers.

[More Information](#)

Project Guardian 'Makes Sure That No Co-op Is Left Behind'

NRECA's inaugural class of 12 Cyber Champions aims to bolster co-ops' cybersecurity defenses by expanding their ability to identify, protect against, respond to and recover from cyberthreats. The program, the latest output of NRECA's Project Guardian, hopes to eventually have a Cyber Champion in every state. Learn more in this month's RE Magazine cover story.

[Cover Story](#)

Liberty Eclipse Cybersecurity Exercise for Co-ops

Earlier this month, co-ops gathered at NRECA's annual Co-op Cyber Tech to learn about the latest cyber challenges facing our industry. Read below about how AI is requiring co-op professionals to rely more heavily on trusted relationships and peer networks to strengthen their cyber defenses. Co-op attendees also heard about Garkane Energy's experience participating in Liberty Eclipse, the full-scale exercise organized by the Department of Energy in which utility teams battle to defend against cyberattacks. Co-ops are invited to Liberty Eclipse's first "co-op week" September 29 - October 2. More information below.

[Article on AI](#)

[Liberty Eclipse Information](#)

Invitation to Participate in Rural Energy Recovery from Waste

Project Planning for waste-to-energy projects is challenging, largely due to uncertainty surrounding waste streams. Their characteristics can be unique to specific regions of the country and dynamic, reducing the reliability of feasibility analyses and increasing project risk. To help address the uncertainty in the planning process surrounding potential waste streams, the REROW team is collaborating with co-ops and their

communities to create tools and resources for electric cooperatives. NRECA offers three ways that co-ops and other industry stakeholders can participate in this important initiative.

[More Information](#)

Discover the value of NRECA membership. [Learn More.](#)

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