

NRECA Broadband Supports Cooperatives' Expansion Efforts

NRECA's mission has always been to promote, support and protect the community and business interests of electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. As part of a new program of services to represent these vital efforts, NRECA Broadband is a new opt-in level of service supporting America's electric cooperatives that are committed to bringing reliable, high-speed internet to their communities. NRECA Broadband provides exclusive access to specific resources to help cooperatives succeed as community-focused telecommunications providers. Read more about – and sign-up for – this new effort and the resources and opportunities for participating cooperatives in a recent article and our website on cooperative.com:

- [Article](#)
- [NRECA Broadband Website](#)
- [Sign-up to Participate](#)
- [Additional Broadband Resources](#)
- **Contacts:**
 - Our Team: NRECABroadband@nreca.coop
 - [Paul Breakman](#), Business & Technology Strategies
 - [Brian O'Hara](#), Regulatory Affairs
 - [Katie Culleton](#), Legislative Affairs

Applicable Standards for Small and Medium Wind Turbines

While less common than solar PV in recent years, small- and medium-scale wind turbines have been widely deployed in behind-the-meter applications across the U.S. Understanding standards applicable to small- and medium-size wind turbines is important, as a variety of designs are available in the market. This new advisory, issued through NRECA's [RADWIND](#) project, reviews these standards and opportunities for cooperatives to act as the Trusted Energy Advisor for member-owners interested in deploying wind as a distributed energy resource.

- [Advisory](#)
- [RADWIND Website](#)
- **Contacts:** [Fathalla Eldali](#) and [Michael Leitman](#)

Infographic: Utility Robots

Robots are beginning to make inroads in several industries, including the electric utility sector. These specially designed machines are ideal for mitigating safety risks for human crews, taking on dangerous tasks like surveying storm damage, troubleshooting equipment failures and inspecting systems in confined spaces and other hard-to-reach areas. Future utility robots will function autonomously, using machine learning and artificial intelligence to install, maintain and repair components in power plants and on the grid. This new *RE Magazine* infographic shows some of the various robots utilities will use and the functions they will serve:

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

How to Manage Your Service Provider for Cybersecurity

Managed Service Providers (MSPs) are external third-party companies that provide various services, including specialized security services. MSPs are important vendors for cooperatives, to provide an array of services when co-ops do not have the resources to do the tasks themselves, including cybersecurity. It is important for cooperatives to practice due diligence in selecting MSPs, and to conduct regular cybersecurity checks with the MSPs' operations and systems. This new advisory reviews the role of MSPs and key issues cooperatives should consider when selecting and contracting with MSPs.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts: [Ryan Newlon](#) and [Justin Luebbert](#)

NREL Research on Wind and Solar Hybrid Power Plants for Energy Resilience

There is an increased interest in wind-solar hybrid power plants due to decreasing costs for these technologies. NRECA's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND)* project has identified wind-solar complementarity as a major topic of interest because co-location of these technologies on the same distribution grid can deliver significant advantages. Our new advisory summarizes a report published this past January by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) entitled *Wind and Solar Hybrid Power Plants for Energy Resilience*, which looks at this topic.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#) and [Tolu Omotoso](#)

New Web Portal: Grant Writing Assistance

A grant writing assistance portal was added to NRECA's infrastructure [Hub](#). The portal provides NRECA voting members access to grant writing resources to support their efforts to seek federal funding. To get a better understanding of what member co-ops need to successfully pursue federal funding, interested co-ops are invited to visit the portal and complete the questionnaire. NRECA, through its vendor, will use this information to assist co-ops with getting access to grant writing resources, namely access to an established bench of grant writers.

- [Grant Writing Assistance Web Portal](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

New Resources to Help Members Seeking Infrastructure Funding Opportunities

Fact Sheet: Common Federal Grant Data Requirements

The inclusion of key data and metrics in grant applications can greatly enhance the chances of success. This new fact sheet provides insights into common data requirements of grant-making programs.

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series and Professional Community

These free 30-minute sessions share information about funding opportunities in which cooperatives may want to participate, including new opportunities with the infrastructure law. Join us for our next sessions: **July 20 & August 17 at 2:00 p.m. ET**. Past webinars are available to members [On Demand](#). Also NRECA members are invited to join our new professional community to stay up to date on research funding developments, by sending a request email to: ResearchFunding@nreca.coop.

- [Webinar Registration](#)
- Contact: NRECA Team at ResearchFunding@nreca.coop

Co-op Consortia Opportunities

NRECA has established co-op consortia around five key areas of co-op interest related to infrastructure funding opportunities. Members are invited to sign-up to participate and join in the associated webinars:

- **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.
 - [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)
 - [Webinar – On Demand](#)
 - 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.

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

- [Webinar – On Demand](#)

- 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.

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

- [Webinar – On Demand](#)

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

- **Cyber and Physical Security Consortium**

A coalition of the nation's rural electric cooperatives seeking to develop and maintain a well-rounded cyber and physical security posture for their cooperative. The consortium will partner with federal, state and local stakeholders to identify funding opportunities and develop replicable pathways for advanced cyber and physical security deployment at electric cooperatives.

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

- Contact: [Ryan Newlon](#)

For More Information and Questions:

- [NRECA Infrastructure Consortia Website](#)

- [SAM.gov: The First Step to Accessing Funds for Co-ops in the Infrastructure Law](#)

- [NRECA Infrastructure Resource Hub](#)

- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

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**

- Contact: [Beth Wray](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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](#)

Business and Technology Strategies Sessions at Regional Meetings

Join us at the upcoming Regional Meetings to hear members of our Business and Technology Strategies group present on a number of important topics for our cooperative members:

- **Refining Your Co-op's Technology Planning Process**
Angela Strickland, NRECA Senior Vice President of BTS
Learn how to have a sound technology strategy, and about opportunities available in the infrastructure bill that may impact your technology strategy.
- **Update on NRECA's Infrastructure Resources and Co-op Consortia**
Emma Stewart, NRECA Chief Scientist, or Paul Breakman, VP, BTS Cooperative Business Solutions (depending on the region)
Receive an update on NRECA's resources and the electric co-op consortia established to maximize potential access to certain funding opportunities within the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law.
- **Electric Vehicles**
Brian Sloboda, NRECA BTS Director of Consumer Solutions
The necessary network of public chargers needed to support the continual progression of the electric vehicle market presents both challenges and opportunities for electric cooperatives. Learn about the impacts to the current infrastructure and how to be prepared for the coming demand.

LOCATIONS AND DATES

- Indianapolis, IN – September 6 - 8, 2022
 - Minneapolis, MN – September 21 - 23, 2022
 - Portland, OR – September 27 - 29, 2022
 - Hollywood, FL – October 10 - 12, 2022
 - Little Rock, AR – October 24 - 26, 2022
- **More Information**
 - Contact for Program Information: [Kristen Wheeler](#)

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar – July 20 & August 17

Join us on **July 20 & August 17 at 2:00 p.m. ET** for our next sessions in our free monthly webinar series

highlighting federal grant and other funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and opportunities available to NRECA members. 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

Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar: July 28

Join NRECA economic and investment professionals **July 28, 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— labor market conditions, supply chain issues and more.

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

ON DEMAND WEBINARS

- [Microgrid Consortium Webinar](#)
- [Natural Hazards Consortium Webinar](#)
- [Smart Grids and Data Consortium Webinar](#)
- [Co-op Economic Outlook](#)
- [FCC Broadband Initiative](#)
- [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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