



Business & Technology Update

New Resources

It's Finally Here! Backdoors and Breaches Cyber Incident Game

Backdoors & Breaches is an incident response card game that transforms traditional tabletop exercises into an engaging, team-based experience rooted in real-world cyber incidents. In collaboration with Black Hills Information Security, NRECA worked with a small subcommittee of members to develop a Backdoors and Breaches custom card deck specifically for the electric cooperative community, focused on real-world incidents co-ops have faced and highlighting the NRECA Cyber Goals directly into game-play. The result is something we are incredibly proud of. Read more on our website and find out how you can get your **free game bundle now until June 18, 2027!**

[More Information](#)

Large Loads and Data Centers Learning Hub

NRECA's Large Loads and Data Centers Learning Hub is a central location for resources to guide co-ops on key areas pertaining to the challenges and opportunities around serving large loads. The information is intended as a knowledge toolkit to provide a sound decision framework on serving large loads. The first reports on four of the key topic areas are now available for our members, including Rates & Contract Mechanisms, Environmental Impacts, Power Supply & Resource Adequacy – Generation and Transmission; and Power Supply & Resource Adequacy – Distribution. Visit our website to learn more and access the reports.

[LLDC Learning Hub Website](#)

Updated AI Policy Sample Available

One of the important considerations for co-ops in implementing AI initiatives is having an AI Policy in place. NRECA provides a Sample Artificial Intelligence Usage Policy on our webpage of Key Timely Legal Resources and Sample Documents. Also, visit our AI topic page for further information about the five pillars of establishing a successful AI program.

[Sample AI Policy](#)

[AI Topic Webpage](#)

Preparing for the Upcoming Retirement Wave

One in six co-op employees is expected to become retirement-eligible within the next five years, underscoring the need to preserve institutional knowledge, develop future leaders and ensure organizational continuity. While some co-ops are proactively addressing this challenge through workforce planning and leadership development, many find succession planning difficult amid staffing constraints and competing priorities. [NRECA Consulting Services](#) helps co-ops prepare for the future by assessing leadership and workforce needs, identifying critical skill gaps, and developing targeted succession and talent strategies. Read more in this RE Magazine article about the challenges of succession planning — and the resources available from NRECA.

Article

Now Available: The 2026 NDS Report With More Compensation Data Than Ever Before

Nearly 6,000 data points from IRS Form 990 filings and direct co-op responses make the 2026 National Directors Survey report the most comprehensive benchmark for board compensation to date and a trusted resource for board governance practices. Purchase the NDS report to make confident, defensible decisions for your board. Compare your co-op with others of similar size or by region.

NDS Report

Engagement Opportunities

Extended Application Deadline: Startup Alley 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 has been extended to August 31.**

More Information

Microgrid Planning with Walmart Energy and MicrogridUP

NRECA Research is looking for rural utilities currently serving Walmart stores or warehouses to explore potential microgrid solutions. This is an opportunity to receive free technical assistance from NRECA Research to model potential microgrid configurations and explore costs and benefits for your grid using our in-house MicrogridUP software.

More Information

Liberty Eclipse Cybersecurity Exercise for Co-ops

The U.S. Department of Energy will be conducting its annual full-scale cybersecurity exercise called Liberty Eclipse, in which utility teams battle to defend against cyberattacks. This year, for the first time, DOE is providing a “co-op week” with an exercise specific to co-ops and municipal energy companies, on **September 29 – October 2**. Unlike tabletop exercises or classroom simulations, Liberty Eclipse enables participants to experience the operational impact of cyber threats in an isolated, realistic and safe (no consequence) environment. It is a unique opportunity to sharpen detection, identification, and response skills against adversary activity — preparing teams for the challenges of defending critical infrastructure in the real world. Read about Garkane Energy’s experience participating in Liberty Eclipse in the article below, and contact our NRECA cybersecurity team at membersecurity@nreca.coop for information on signing up for this year’s exercise.

[Learn More](#)

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

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