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# Business & Technology Update

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## Co-op Cyber Tech Highlights

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NRECA recently held its fourth annual Co-op Cyber Tech conference, where nearly 500 cooperative members and other industry professionals participated in unconventional education opportunities and hands-on learning in a dynamic and engaging environment focused specifically on cybersecurity in the co-op space. Here are some highlights and key takeaways:

- Article: [To Build a Rural Cyber Team, Use Innovative Solutions](#)
- Article: [Pressure Cooker: Mental Health Challenges Mount for Cybersecurity Professionals](#)
- Article: [Co-op Cyber Tech: The Cybersecurity Talent Crisis in Rural America](#)
- Article: [Co-op Cyber Tech: Participants in DOE's \\$15M OT Program Offer Insights on the Process](#)

Join us for the next cybersecurity conference opportunity, **2025 GridEx**. This 2-day cybersecurity distributed-play exercise happening **November 18-19** is implemented by the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center. The NRECA Threat Analysis Center (TAC) is collaborating with E-ISAC this year to make it easier for co-ops to participate. Learn about the three ways you can join GridEx.

- [2025 GridEx Advisory](#)

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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## New Resources for Cooperatives

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## EV Landscape Update

The electrification of transportation is evolving and reshaping utility operations, necessitating deliberate planning, member engagement and infrastructure readiness. For electric co-ops, this transition requires a clear understanding of how electric vehicle trends intersect with unique local conditions, from rural EV adoption, charging gaps and fleet conversion timelines. NRECA's new EV Landscape Update provides valuable insights for co-ops, leveraging aggregated data from the [EV Atlas Hub](#). This document provides a baseline of trusted, up-to-date information that can be used to align co-op strategies with member needs, regional opportunities, and regulatory changes.

- [Report](#)
- [NRECA's EV Resource Summary](#)
- Contact: [Jennah Denney](#)

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## Wildfire Assessment and Resilience Resources for Co-ops

As the threat of wildfires grows far beyond just a Western issue, electric co-ops from coast to coast are working to curb the incidence and impact of these disasters. Learn more in the RE Magazine July cover story, [Wildfire Mitigation, Co-ops Battle and 'Existential Threat'](#), and new Infographic on [Wildfire Mitigation](#). NRECA Research is making available various resources for co-ops through our Wildfire Assessment and Resilience for Networks (WARN) Program. Visit the [program webpage](#) to find on-demand content related to our June webinar, Advanced Solutions to Address Wildfire Threats at Cooperatives. Our WARN Project Team has completed their first site visits with [WARN Consortium member co-ops](#) in South Dakota in May, and additional site visits in Oregon are planned for July. The Project Team is actively working with consortium members to complete all steps necessary to receive DOE approval to commence work on planned wildfire hardening subprojects in their territories. Additional resources to help address the threat of wildfires are also listed below.

- [WARN Program Website](#)
- Podcast: [Electric Co-ops Confront Growing Threat of Wildfires](#)
- Article: [A Growing Tech Toolset Emerges to Help Fight Wildfires](#)
- Article: [The New Rules of Wildfire Insurance](#)
- Article: [How Co-ops Across the Country Confront Wildfire Threats](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

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## Battery Energy Storage System Deployment by Cooperatives

Electric co-ops are adding battery energy storage systems (BESS) to their portfolios to meet a variety of system needs, such as reducing electricity costs during peak demand, firming intermittent generation, increasing resilience, and transmission and distribution upgrade deferment. This new advisory uses publicly available data to track the battery storage projects owned or contracted by electric co-ops, and provides an overview of the BESS project deployment by electric cooperatives.

- [Advisory](#)
- [NRECA Battery Energy Storage Website](#)
- Contact: [Steph Joven](#)

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## Podcast: How Co-ops Are Educating Their Members on Rooftop Solar

Rooftop solar is gaining popularity with homeowners and businesses, leading to a surge in installations over the past decade. But the technology isn't right for everyone, and co-ops are doing their part to help members make informed decisions and avoid misleading or inaccurate information from some third-party vendors. Listen to our new Along Those Lines podcast and hear more on this topic from NRECA's VP of Innovation and Emerging Technology, Lidija Sekaric, and Garkane Energy's Marketing and Member Services Manager, Neal Brown.

- [Along Those Lines Podcast](#)
- Contact: [Lidija Sekaric](#)

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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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## Coming Soon: Electric Industry Outlook Update

NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies team recently analyzed information provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Information Administration (EIA) to provide a high-level overview of key trends in the U.S. electric industry and how they may impact cooperatives. Our new report will supplement these EIA projections with Cooperative Focus subsections specifically on electric co-ops, as well as Issue in Focus sections on two major topics impacting the industry: the growth in large commercial and industrial loads that are projected to accelerate demand for electricity, and changes in the U.S. natural gas markets that will have a major impact on the electric industry. **This report will be published to the page posted below by the end of July.**

- [Report Website](#)
- Contact: [Michael Leitman](#)

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## Upcoming Webinars

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### Cooperative Tech Insights Webinar Series

Register for next month's free Cooperative Tech Insights webinar happening **August 21 at 2 p.m. ET** and hear David Farmer, NRECA Principal of Distribution Grid, review the status and evolution of distribution grid standards. These standards are the core of most engineering and operations decisions made every day, and the

process for creating and maintaining them is complex and challenging. Learn about the history of some of the most common distribution grid standards, the process of creating and maintaining those standards, and how co-ops can become more involved in this process through NRECA's new Cooperative Engineering Standards Interest Group ([CESIG](#)). Also, save the date for **September 11** for the following Cooperative Tech Insights session where Leslie Tate, Associate Program Manager, will discuss the Support for the North American Resilience (SOAR) model tools.

- [More Information & Registration](#)
- Contact: [David Farmer](#)

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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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### 2025 Cooperative University: Build Your Professional Network and Your Skills

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.

- [Schedule of Courses](#) (*Note that some classes are full*)
- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Diane Rhodes-Michaely](#)

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### 2025 G&T Resource Planning Association Conference

Registration is open 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 modeling software, resource adequacy, emerging technologies and more. Network with co-op colleagues and gain insight into the top issues within the G&T industry.

- [Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Allison Hamilton](#)

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## Professional Development Courses for Cooperatives

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### Project Management Program for Cooperative Leaders

Join us online in August and in person this September for [Ideas to Impact – Project Management for Cooperative Leaders](#), a hands-on workshop designed to equip you with tools to bring your concepts to reality, turning vision into action. Participants will be guided through the process of collecting, analyzing and leveraging information to support new initiatives; applying tools and techniques to gain buy-in from stakeholders; leading cross-functional teams; and ensuring effective project management tools and techniques. Expand your leadership toolkit, deepen your impact and connect with fellow co-op professionals!

- [More Information and Registration](#)
- Contact: [Perron Nicholas](#)

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### Career Essentials and Management Development Programs

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

#### **Live, online courses:**

- [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:**

- [713.1: Engaging and Developing High-Performing Employees: Bringing Out Their Best](#) Access Dates: September 1-30 (self-paced, instructor-facilitated) Last day to register: August 30
- [714.1 Change Is Hard: Guiding Your Team Through Complex Times](#) Access Dates: September 1-30 (self-paced, instructor-facilitated) Last day to register: August 30
- [717.1 Know the Rules: Legal Responsibilities and Liabilities for Supervisors](#) Access Dates: September 1-30 (self-paced, instructor-facilitated) Last day to register: August 30

**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: [Danielle Jackson](#)
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**Discover the value of NRECA membership.** [Learn More.](#)

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