



Business & Technology Update

New Resources and Engagement Opportunities

Final Call for Applications: 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 is August 31.**

[More Information](#)

Considerations for Long-Term Service Agreements for Gas Turbines

Several recent trends in the power industry have made robust long-term service agreements increasingly important for electric cooperatives that own and operate gas turbines. At the same time, LTSA negotiations are extremely complex processes. Well-negotiated LTSAs can provide many benefits, including improved turbine reliability and longevity, technical knowledge transfer, more predictable maintenance costs, competitive pricing, and strong collaboration. Weak LTSAs can lead to significant financial and reliability risks. This new *Surveillance* article discusses LTSAs and reviews important considerations for co-ops.

[Article](#)

Liberty Eclipse Cybersecurity Exercise for Co-ops: Sept. 29 – Oct. 2

Next month, the U.S. Department of Energy will be conducting its annual full-scale cybersecurity exercise called Liberty Eclipse, and for the first time, is providing a “co-op week” with an exercise specific to co-ops and municipal energy companies on **September 29 – October 2**. Participants will experience the operational impact of cyber threats in an isolated, realistic and safe (no consequence) environment. This is a unique opportunity to sharpen your detection, identification, and response skills 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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

New Podcast Episode: Co-op Leaders Share Succession Planning Strategies

The electric co-op workforce is on the cusp of big change, with a large portion of leadership and other employees nearing retirement age in the coming years. But succession planning involves more than hiring someone's replacement — it's about creating a co-op that's ready for the future. Hear in this new Along Those Lines podcast from NRECA's Delaine Orendorff, Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative's Tim Burkhalter and Wells Rural Electric Co.'s Thad Ballard.

[Podcast](#)

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. Resources are now available from NRECA and other industry stakeholders regarding four of the key topic areas: Rates & Contract Mechanisms, Environmental Impact, Power Supply & Resource Adequacy – Generation and Transmission; and Power Supply & Resource Adequacy – Distribution. Visit our website to learn more.

[Learning Hub Website](#)

RUS \$410 Million Loan Program for Rural Renewable Energy Projects

The Agriculture Department's Rural Utilities Service is making \$410 million in partially forgivable loans available for electric cooperatives and other eligible entities through the new Powering Affordable Reliable Technology program to support affordable, reliable energy infrastructure, increase rural power supply and strengthen electric grid resilience. For questions, please contact David Farmer at David.Farmer@nreca.coop or Luke Theriot at Luke.Theriot@nreca.coop.

[Learn More](#)

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](#)

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