

America's Cooperative Electric Utilities The Nation's Consumer Owned Electric Utility Network

Key Highlights

- Electric cooperatives are an integral part of the \$390 billion U.S. electric utility industry. They play a critical role in our nation's economy and in local communities.
- This factsheet provides stats and information on the operation and contributions of rural electric cooperatives.

Electric Cooperatives Are:

- Private, independent, non-profit electric utility businesses
- Owned by the customers they serve
- Incorporated under the laws of the states in which they operate
- Established to provide at-cost electric service
- Governed by a board of directors elected from the membership which sets policies and procedures that are implemented by the cooperatives' management

Distribution cooperatives are the foundation of the electric cooperative network. They are the direct point of contact with the member-owners in the delivery of electricity and other services.

Generation & Transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own generation or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.

In addition to providing high-quality electric service, electric cooperatives are deeply committed to their communities. They empower members to improve the quality of their lives through economic development and revitalization projects, job creation, improvement of water and sewer systems, and assistance in delivery of health care and educational services.

Facts at a Glance:

- 831 distribution and 62 G&T cooperatives, a total of 893 NRECA co-op members
- Serve an estimated 42 million people in 47 states
- Over 20 million businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems, and other establishments in 2,500 of 3,141 counties in the U.S.
- 13 percent of the nation's electric customers are served by electric co-ops

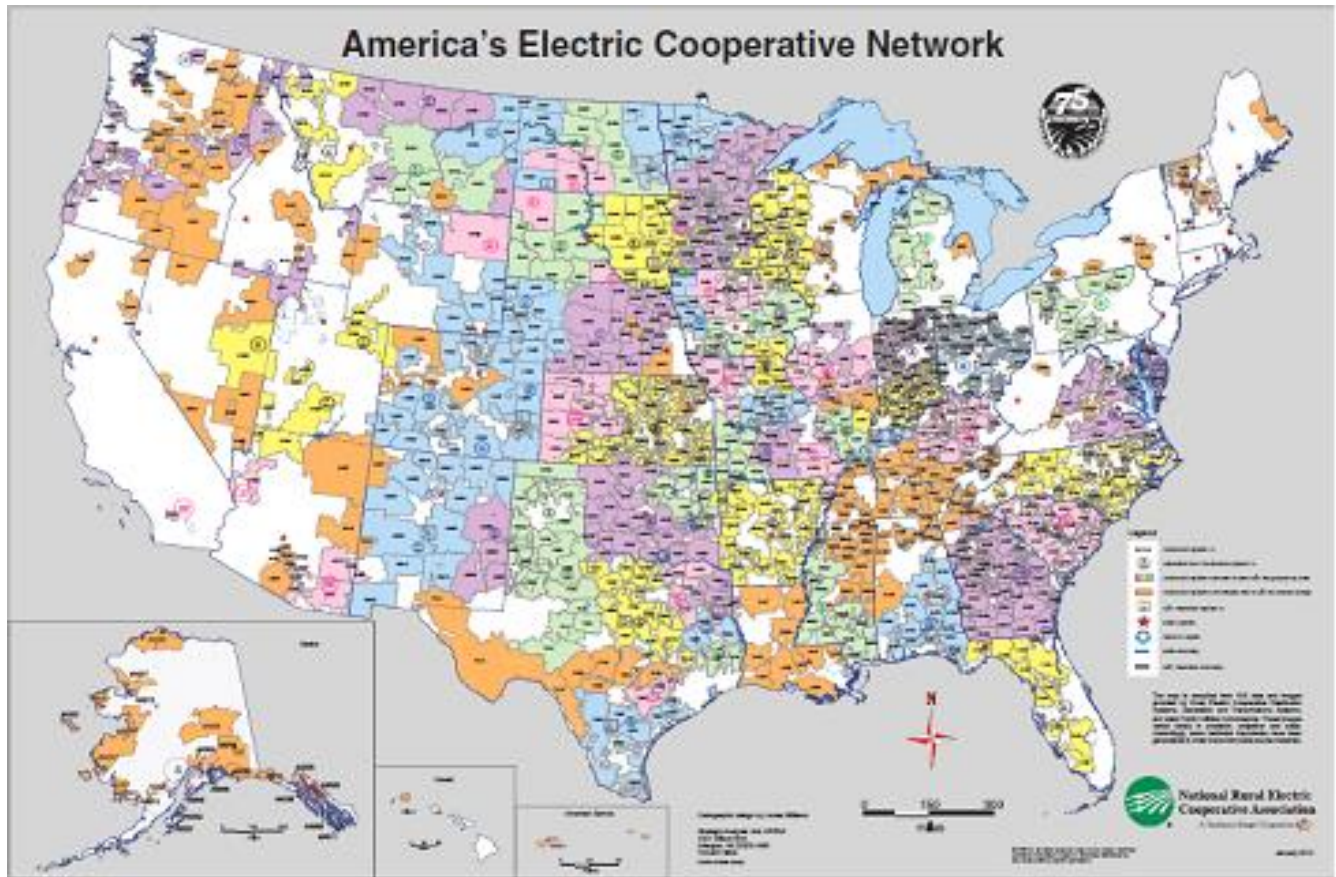
To Perform Their Mission, Electric Cooperatives:

- Own assets worth \$186 billion (distribution and G&T co-ops combined)
- Have equity of \$64 billion (distribution and G&T co-ops combined)
- Own and maintain 2.6 million miles, or 42%, of the nation’s electric distribution lines
- Deliver 12 percent of the total kilowatt-hours sold in the U.S. each year
- Generate 5 percent of the total electricity produced in the U.S. each year
- Employ 71,000 people in the U.S.
- Retire over \$1.1 billion in capital credits annually
- Pay over \$1.3 billion in state and local taxes

Electric Utility Comparisons

Overview	<u>Cooperatives</u>	<u>Total Industry¹</u>
Total Revenue (billions).....	\$45	\$390
Number of Organizations.....	900	3,600
Number of Total Customers (millions).....	20	155
¹ including cooperatives		
Sales (billion kilowatt hours)	<u>Cooperatives</u>	<u>Total Industry¹</u>
Residential.....	227	1,397
Commercial	94	1,370
Industrial.....	107	992
Total.....	429	3,759
¹ including cooperatives		
Other comparisons	<u>Cooperatives</u>	<u>Rest of Industry²</u>
Market Share (percent of total).....	12%	88%
Miles of Distribution Line Ownership.....	42%	58%
Customers per mile of line (density).....	7.98	32.40
Revenue per mile of line	\$19,135	\$79,298
Revenue per Customer.....	\$2,390	\$2,585
Distribution plant per Customer.....	\$4,219	\$3,698
Equity%.....	34%	32%
² not including cooperatives		

Source: 2017 EIA data



Source Notes

- **Energy Information Administration (EIA) Table 1.2. Summary Statistics for the United States, 2007 - 2017.**
https://www.eia.gov/electricity/annual/html/epa_01_02.html
 The data for “Electric cooperatives are an integral part of the \$390 billion U.S. electric utility industry” (Fact Sheet page 1) comes from the above EIA Table 1.2., Revenue From Ultimate Customers (million dollars).
- **ABB Ability Velocity Suite**
<http://new.abb.com/enterprise-software/energy-portfolio-management/market-intelligence-services/velocity-suite>
- NRECA currently has 831 electric distribution system members and 62 G&T (Generation & Transmission) systems for a total of 893; the distribution members include a small number of rural public power districts and mutual utilities.
- Density and distribution plant per customer data is from the Platts UDI Directory of Electric Power Producers and Distributors, 2017, mostly based on 2015 data.
- Co-op financial data is from the 2017 RUS Form 7.
- EIA: Energy Information Administration (a part of DOE), Washington, DC.
- RUS: Rural Utilities Service (a part of USDA), Washington, DC.
- CFC: Cooperative Finance Corporation, Herndon, VA.

Contact for Questions

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Posted to cooperative.com at <https://www.cooperative.com/programs-services/bts/Documents/Data/FactSheet.pdf>.