

Distributed Wind Toolkit

Key Findings

- NRECA Research has published a new Distributed Wind Toolkit on cooperative.com as part of the *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development* (RADWIND) project, which can be accessed with the simplified web address www.cooperative.com/distributed-wind.
- The toolkit is intended to help electric cooperatives determine when distributed wind or wind hybrid projects make sense, and provides resources to evaluate, scope, plan for, and execute distributed wind projects, or advise their consumer-members in doing so.
- NRECA Research will continue to develop distributed wind project resources to be posted on the Distributed Wind Toolkit webpage.

What is the Distributed Wind Toolkit?

NRECA's new [Distributed Wind Toolkit](#) builds off from NRECA Research's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development* (RADWIND) project.¹ RADWIND's goal is to understand, address, and reduce the technical risks and market barriers to the adoption of distributed wind technologies by rural utilities. Distributed wind projects can use any scale of turbine from small kilowatt-scale units up to large multi-megawatt units, as long as they are connected on the distribution side of the electric grid. Turbines may be connected on the customer side of the meter to serve a local load, directly to the distribution grid as a utility generating asset, or directly to an off-grid load.

This toolkit is a work in progress, with the initial sections currently available and additional sections to be added over the next year. The initial sections provide resources to understand how distributed wind works as well as information on scoping and exploring wind energy options. Subsequent sections will provide additional resources on business plans, managing distributed wind projects, and operations & maintenance questions.

What is the value of the Toolkit for cooperatives?

There are many important aspects to consider when exploring distributed wind projects, and this toolkit discusses those aspects from a cooperative perspective. The purpose of this toolkit is to help cooperatives determine when distributed wind or wind hybrid projects make sense. The toolkit's resources will help

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cooperatives evaluate, scope, plan for, and execute distributed wind projects, or advise their consumer-members who are interested in pursuing behind-the-meter projects. This toolkit is closely tied to the RADWIND project and resources, and supplements the work being done in the project by providing practical resources and guidance for cooperatives considering distributed wind projects.

How is the Distributed Wind Toolkit structured?

For cooperatives considering new distributed wind energy projects, this toolkit can provide resources to best understand the process of developing distributed wind projects. The design of the toolkit leads cooperatives section by section, from project conception to execution, and finally to maintenance of distributed wind projects. As shown in Figure 1 below, the structure of the toolkit is separated into six major sections, each with its own subpages. The first two sections are now complete, and new content will be added as the RADWIND project progresses.

Figure 1: Picture of the Distributed Wind Toolkit Website Page



The first section, “Would distributed wind work for us?”, has subpages that dive deeper into distributed wind success stories, the basics of siting and microgrids, frequently asked questions, and how RADWIND fits in. The second section, “What would it look like here?”, discusses within its subpages more on ownership and finance options, project lifecycle, interconnection point, size and co-op involvement, and frequently asked questions.

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Additional Information on NRECA Research's RADWIND Project

For more information on the RADWIND project and additional resources, please visit the project landing page at www.cooperative.com/radwind.

Want to stay informed of our progress with the RADWIND project, and provide your input and feedback? We welcome all NRECA voting members to join the project as advisors. Contact our team at RadwindProject@nreca.coop or request to join the [Distributed Wind professional community](#).