

NRECA Cybersecurity Resources for Cooperatives Updated Summary

NRECA has a variety of cybersecurity resources and engagement opportunities available for members to gain understanding of cyber threats to our industry and take steps to advance cybersecurity preparedness. The following list provides a summary of resources currently available and the corresponding website links.

Visit [cooperative.com/cybersecurity](https://www.cooperative.com/cybersecurity) for more information and updates, and contact our NRECA Cybersecurity team at: membersecurity@coop.com with any questions or if we can help with your cybersecurity efforts.

NRECA Cybersecurity Program

NRECA Cybersecurity offers resources and training opportunities specifically designed to provide cooperatives with tools they can use to improve their cybersecurity posture. Through our federally funded cybersecurity research and partnerships with public and private stakeholders, NRECA Cybersecurity creates products and services that meet the unique needs of our members and help them prepare for existing and potential threats to their reliability and security. Together, we strive to protect cooperatives' organizations and the industry grid.

Some of NRECA's cybersecurity efforts are conducted through [NRECA Research](#), a not-for-profit entity established in 2019 to complement the resources and services provided by NRECA to address the specific needs of electric cooperatives.

At a Glance Resources

- [NRECA Cybersecurity Brochure](#)
- [NRECA Cybersecurity Special Report](#)
- Cybersecurity Topic Website on cooperative.com:
www.cooperative.com/cybersecurity
- Contact our team at: membersecurity@nreca.coop

Co-op Cyber Goals Program – It's Where To Start!

NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program defines specific cybersecurity goals aimed at helping co-ops achieve high-priority security measures and creates a benchmark for implementing cybersecurity fundamentals. This program was created by NRECA as a voluntary way for co-ops to advance their cybersecurity. Over 400 cooperatives have joined NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program to date. Those completing the goals receive a digital badge and commemorative coin, and are recognized in a ceremony at our Co-op Cyber Tech conference. We encourage all co-ops to participate in this self-paced program. Find out more at: cooperative.com/cybergoalsprogram, and NRECA's [Advisory: Co-op Cyber Goals – Second Year in Review](#).

Cyber Mutual Assistance (CMA)

The CMA Program is offered through the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC), and is a trusted community for sharing cybersecurity threats, conducting exercises and enhancing preparedness efforts in a trusted, confidential environment. Participating utilities build connections with industry experts who can provide voluntary assistance in the event of cyber incidents. All electric cooperatives, regardless of size, are eligible to join the CMA Program at no cost. Find out more on our website at: cooperative.com/cma and sign up at: www.electricitysubsector.org/cma.

Cyber Risk Quantification Pilot

This new program will help provide financial quantification of cybersecurity risks that can be aligned to the Co-op Cyber Goals, to emphasize the value of completing the goals. These insights will help co-ops prioritize their cybersecurity initiatives based on their financial impact to their organizations. NRECA is soliciting members to be part of the cyber risk quantification pilot. Find out more in our article, [NRECA Pilot Helps Co-ops Calculate How Cybersecurity Lowers Business Risks](#), and email our Cybersecurity Team at: membersecurity@nreca.coop.

Threat Analysis Center (TAC): Secure Cybersecurity Community and Information Sharing Platform

The NRECA Research Threat Analysis Center (TAC) is a technology platform that empowers a co-op community to focus on high-impact cyber threats, respond quickly with the necessary expertise and engage with the broader intelligence community without sacrificing privacy. The TAC helps co-ops detect, analyze and communicate cybersecurity threats. The goal of TAC is to strengthen our collaborative efforts to protect the industry grid. To learn more about TAC and how to sign-up, visit our website at www.cooperative.com/TAC, and see [NRECA's Infographic: What is TAC?](#) For questions or inquiries, contact our team at TAC@nreca.coop.

Related Report: [NRECA Threat Analysis Center \(TAC\): 2024 Threat Intelligence Year In Review](#)

At the time of this advisory, a related effort is currently awaiting federal funding decision by the U.S. Department of Energy through the [Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance \(RMUC\)](#):

Trusted Industrial Control Cybersecurity Community – Threat Analysis Center (TICCC-TAC): NRECA Research will propose to cover the costs of the TAC community and collaboration

platform for participating members and its growth over 4 years to help ensure a smooth transition to a subscription-based model and allow TAC to become a self-sustaining user community. To date, over 380 co-op members have signed-up to participate.

Project Guardian 61-7A

Project Guardian 61-7A is multi-faceted cybersecurity program funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER). Through this effort, NRECA is leading a Working Group including distribution, generation and transmission members. The program is focused on ensuring that no co-op is left behind, and developing frameworks for four key focus areas: Cyber Champions; Threat Analysis Center Expansion; Cyber Resilience Initiative; and Education, Training and Workforce Development. Learn more on our website: www.cooperative.com/guardian, and read NRECA's article, [Co-op Staff From Across the U.S. Help Project Guardian Develop Cyber Resources](#).

At the time of this Advisory, a related effort is currently awaiting funding by the U.S. Department of Energy, through the [Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance \(RMUC\)](#):

Strategic Program for Advancing Rural Knowledge (SPARK): NRECA Research will support rural utilities' efforts to increase the quality of appropriate and affordable security education by providing participating co-ops with access to high-quality training on various cybersecurity topics. To date, over 400 co-op members have signed up to participate.

Industrial Control Systems for Rural Electric Cooperatives (ICS-REC)

In November 2022, NRECA was awarded \$15M from from the DOE to help our member co-ops expand their cyber monitoring capabilities of their industrial control facilities. NRECA is partnering with member co-ops to identify and deploy industrial control system monitoring technologies that will provide cyber visibility, detection and response capabilities for energy delivery systems. Information for co-ops interested in participating can be found on our website: cooperative.com/ics-rec. If your co-op is considering deploying OT technologies, be sure to express interest now!

TOOLS & GUIDES

Cybersecurity Self-Assessment

NRECA's Self-Assessment tool helps co-ops understand their cybersecurity posture. Results of the self-assessment can be used by the co-op to prioritize mitigation actions and develop a cybersecurity action plan for their organization.

Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Toolkit

The NRECA TTX Toolkit provides relevant cybersecurity incident scenarios with real world implications. There are three categories of scenarios designed to meet a broad range of cooperative skills.

- [Toolkit Request Form](#)

Communication Toolkits and Research

NRECA has conducted research and developed the following toolkits in consultation with its members and outside experts. In some cases, samples have been provided by cooperatives, and they are credited. Please use these materials as a starting point for developing your own plans and products.

- [Co-op Cybersecurity Lexicon – A roadmap to communicating on cybersecurity](#)

- [**Reputation Management and Cybersecurity Crisis Communications: A Proactive Guide**](#)
Cybersecurity events are dominating news headlines with growing frequency. NRECA has a guide to help co-ops navigate these events. This is designed as a proactive tool to support electric co-ops as they work to implement effective communications and reputation management strategies.

[**Cybersecurity Guidebook Series**](#)

Like safety, cybersecurity is a concern for everyone at a cooperative. However, each job role in a co-op may have unique cybersecurity responsibilities. NRECA’s Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Program published a series of cybersecurity guidebooks to provide information pertinent to specific job roles within a cooperative.

- [**Guidebook for Electric Cooperative CEOs and General Managers**](#)
- [**Guidebook on Incident Response for Electric Cooperatives**](#)
- [**Guidebook for Electric Cooperative Board Members**](#)
- [**Guidebook for Electric Cooperative Attorneys**](#)
- [**Guidebook for Human Resources and Benefits Administration Professionals**](#)

ADVISORIES, PODCASTS AND INFOGRAPHICS

[**Advisory: Cautions When Using Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Cloud Recording Software**](#)

[**Advisory: Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification \(CMMC\)**](#)

[**Advisory: Supporting Mental Health in Cybersecurity: Practical Tips for Co-ops**](#)

[**Advisory: Managing Your MSP Vendor for Cybersecurity**](#)

[**Advisory Series: Cybersecurity Information Sharing – What it is, how it should be done, and why it is important.**](#)

[**Along Those Lines Podcast: What Does an Electric Co-op Look Like to a Hacker?**](#)

[**Along Those Lines Podcast: Balancing AI’s Benefits With Cybersecurity Risks**](#)

[**Along Those Lines Podcast: Co-ops Confront Growing Threat of Third-Party Cyber Incidents**](#)

[**RE Magazine Infographic: Cybersecurity Threats and Defenses**](#)

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[**NRECA Co-op Cyber Tech Conference**](#)

This three-day technical conference is for all NRECA members and supporting organizations with the goal of improving co-op cybersecurity. Here, we build a community of cyber practitioners through opportunities for professional development and collaboration. **Join us on June 24-26, 2025 in Denver, Colorado!** For more information and registration: visit: cooperative.com/cybertech.

[**Cybersecurity Update Webinar Series**](#)

Join NRECA’s cybersecurity team for this free quarterly webinar series as they provide a high-level overview of the latest information related to cybersecurity risks, as well as current opportunities within our industry to advance your cooperative’s cybersecurity posture. Each session will also highlight specific

NRECA cybersecurity offerings for members—with details on new opportunities and instruction on how interested members can participate.

[Education & Training Course: Cybersecurity – The Board’s Oversight Role](#)

This course is designed to help distribution cooperative directors find the balance between how much cyber risk to accept in order to pursue digital innovation, transformation and meeting consumer-member needs. [On-site delivery](#) of this course at your co-op, statewide or G&T is available.

[Cyber Incident Response Plan Development Workshop](#)

Need a cyber incident response plan but don’t know where to start? This free, hands-on, 4-hour workshop will cover various response plan standards that can help you get started. You will need to consider the mission critical assets you have, what the threats are to those assets, and how to recover those assets when something goes wrong.

[Infrastructure Resource Hub and Federal Funding – Cybersecurity Consortia](#)

NRECA secured important wins for electric cooperatives in the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package. To support our members, NRECA established co-op consortia to maximize potential access to certain funding opportunities and build momentum behind co-op efforts.

- [Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar Series](#)
Monthly free webinars providing updates on federal and other funding opportunities.
- [Cyber and Physical Security Consortium](#)
 - [Cyber and Physical Security Webinars](#)

[Cybersecurity Member Advisory Group \(CSMAG\)](#)

The Cybersecurity work group is focused on investing in research and products that help co-ops: identify cybersecurity issues, protect data and systems, detect problems, respond to cyber incidents, and recover quickly. Our Member Advisory Group provides valuable input into the work group planning and activities.

Co-op Peer to Peer Learning

- [Article: PowerXchange 2025 Cybersecurity Panel Urges Co-ops to ‘Always Be Proactive’](#)
- [Article: 13 Lessons: A North Carolina Co-op's Advice After a Third-Party Breach](#) - Blue Ridge Energy shared its experiences after a third-party data breach left them vulnerable.
- **The Impact of a Cyber Incident on an Electric Cooperative**

Delta-Montrose Electric Association shares its experience with a ransomware attack in November 2021, including the impacts to their network and systems and valuable lessons learned.

- [Webinar: Available On Demand](#)
- [Along Those Lines Podcast](#) – featuring DMEA Chief Information Officer Bob Farmer and IT Manager Jay Suckey

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Contacts for Questions

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Inquiries specific to the Threat Analysis Center (TAC), please contact: tac@nreca.coop