

# Discover the Cooperative Advantage.



## ABOUT AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

The nation's member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops constitute a unique sector of the electric utility industry – and face a unique set of challenges.

Distribution cooperatives form the foundation of the rural electric network delivering electricity to 42 million co-op consumer-members. Generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own generation or by purchasing power on behalf of distribution members.

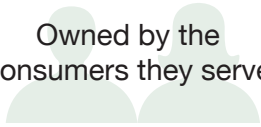
Whether it's a co-op serving a remote fishing village above the Arctic Circle or a co-op serving a marine research lab in the Florida Keys, electric co-ops share a single purpose: providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to their consumer-members.

## CO-OPS ARE GUIDED BY 7 PRINCIPLES

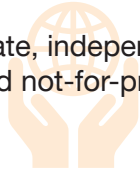
- 1 Voluntary and Open Membership
- 2 Democratic Member Control
- 3 Members' Economic Participation
- 4 Autonomy and Independence
- 5 Education Training and Information
- 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- 7 Concern for Community

# ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE

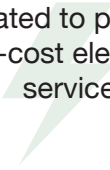
Owned by the consumers they serve



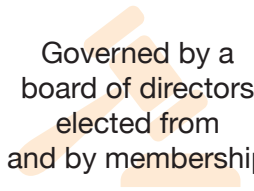
Private, independent and not-for-profit



Created to provide at-cost electric service



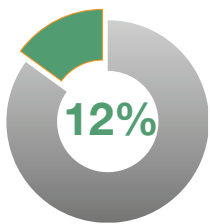
Governed by a board of directors elected from and by membership



## CO-OPS BY THE NUMBERS



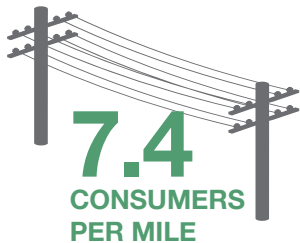
NRECA represents 905 co-ops serving an estimated 42 million people in 47 states.



More than 12 percent of the nation's meters belong to rural electric co-ops. Distribution co-ops range in size from fewer than a thousand electric meters to more than 200,000. The average is 22,800 meters.

2.5  
MILLION

Co-ops own and maintain 2.5 million miles, or 42 percent, of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering three-quarters of the nation's landmass.



Co-ops serve an average of 7.4 consumers per mile of line. Investor-owned utilities average 34 consumers per mile of line and publicly-owned utilities average 48 consumers per mile of line.

The **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)** represents the interests of the more than 900 electric cooperatives on environmental policy, electric reliability, power markets, efficiency and renewable energy.

NRECA also administers health care and pension plans for members. The association is working with member co-ops to build the next generation workforce, promote rural economic development, modernize the electric grid and bring electricity to developing nations.



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