From booming suburbs to remote rural communities, America’s electric cooperatives are energy providers and engines of economic development. Electric cooperatives play a vital role in transforming communities.

Cooperatives
Power
56% of the nation’s landmass.

Own and maintain
42%
(2.6 million miles)
of U.S. electric
distribution lines that
serve our communities.

Power over
20 million
businesses, homes,
schools and farms in
48 states.

Serve
42 million
people across
2,500+
U.S. counties.

834 distribution cooperatives are the foundation of the electric cooperative network. They were built by and serve co-op members in the community with the delivery of electricity and other services.

63 generation & transmission cooperatives provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own electric generation facilities or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.
Electricity use and energy mix

Co-ops use advanced communications and automation technology to improve reliability and efficiency while reducing environmental impacts by growing the use of renewable resources.

Note: Non-hydro renewables includes owned and directly purchased generation, plus generation in the mix from wholesale market purchases and do not reflect renewable credits.

- Co-ops added **281,000 new members** in 2018.
- 85% of electric co-ops had a net increase in members in 2018.
- Electricity sales at co-ops increased more than 7% in 2018, with co-op retail sales reaching **467 billion kilowatt-hours**.
- Residential sales increased **9.3%**, commercial sales increased **3.5%** and industrial sales increased **6.2%**.

Co-op Sales Growth Normally Outpaces the Industry

Co-op sales growth rates generally surpass that of the total electric utility industry as a whole. In 2018, extreme weather caused sales to soar, especially for co-ops whose sales are more heavily residential than the industry as a whole.

% change

![Graph showing Co-op Sales Growth compared to Total Industry Sales Growth]

Source: EIA Form 861 data; NOAA National Climate Reports
Co-ops are reducing emissions ...

Cleaner air
Cooperatives are meeting member expectations by reducing emissions through a combination of emission-reduction measures at power plants and fuel switching to natural gas and renewables.

... and jump starting renewable energy growth

- From 2010 to 2019, co-op renewable energy capacity increased 151% from 4 gigawatts to 10 gigawatts. More than 95 percent of electric co-ops provide electricity generated by renewable energy resources.
- Co-ops also purchase 10 gigawatts of hydropower from federal power marketing administrations.
- Electric co-ops have plans to add 6 gigawatts of new renewable capacity from 2020-2023, including more than 4 GW of additional solar capacity.
- More than 475 co-ops in 33 states use enough wind energy to serve 2 million homes.

Co-ops have:

Reduced sulphur dioxide emissions 82.8% from 2005-2019.

Total SO₂ emissions
Thousands (short tons)

2005 2019
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800

Reduced nitrogen oxide emissions 68.8% from 2005-2019.

Total NOₓ emissions
Thousands (short tons)

2005 2019
0 50 100 150 200 250

Reduced carbon dioxide emissions 18.1% since 2005.

Total CO₂ emissions
Millions (short tons)

2005 2019
0 50 100 150 200 250 200 250 300 350

Cooperative solar is skyrocketing

Solar Capacity
(megawatts AC)

36 48 69 91 110 188 519 859 908 1,098

NOTE: Co-op solar capacity owned or purchased under contract

Source: EPA and EIA

Source: NRECA
Electric cooperatives are local energy and technology providers. They are shaped by the specific needs of the communities they serve. This local, member-driven structure is one reason why cooperatives enjoy the highest consumer-satisfaction scores within the electric industry, according to J.D. Power and Associates and the American Consumer Satisfaction Index.

- Electric cooperatives are built by and belong to the communities they serve. They are led by members from the community and are uniquely suited to meet local needs.
- In 2018, America’s electric co-ops returned more than $1.2 billion in capital credits to their consumer-members.
- Co-ops earned the top spot in the J.D. Power and Associates 2017 Electric Utility Customer Satisfaction Study.
- Electric cooperatives, on average, score three points higher than all other electric companies, according to the 2017 American Consumer Satisfaction Index.

The cooperative difference

In 2017, electric cooperatives supported 611,600 American jobs:
- 68,200 electric co-op jobs
- 97,600 contractor jobs
- 170,900 supplier jobs
- 274,900 consumer spending jobs

contributed $88.4 billion to the U.S. GDP annually

generated more than $22 billion in federal, state and local taxes

invested $12 billion annually in local economies

Source: The Economic Impact of America’s Electric Cooperatives, FTI Consulting, March 2019

In 2017, electric cooperatives supported 611,600 American jobs

Source: NRECA