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.

- Our co-ops serve 42 million people, including 92% of persistent poverty counties.
- Power over 21 million businesses, homes, schools and farms in 48 states.
- Returned more than $1.5 billion in capital credits to their consumer-members in 2020.

831 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.
Keeping Rates Affordable for Residential Consumer-Members

Unlike the rest of the electric sector, electric co-ops sell the majority of their power to households rather than businesses. Keeping rates affordable is especially important for these consumer-members at the end of the line.

Leveraging Infrastructure Funds to Support Rural Communities

Electric co-ops have decades of experience supporting local communities by accessing public and private funding. Today, co-ops are positioning themselves to leverage new infrastructure funds to support their communities. These efforts include work to:

- Advance electric vehicle charging networks.
- Deploy new cybersecurity tools.
- Expand rural broadband access.
- Develop rural microgrids.
- Promote clean energy research, development and deployment.
- Enhance grid resiliency and modernization efforts.
CO-OPS ARE REDUCING EMISSIONS

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

Reduced sulphur dioxide emissions 82% from 2005-2021.
Reduced nitrogen oxide emissions 68% from 2005-2021.
Reduced carbon dioxide emissions 17% from 2005-2021.

TOTAL SO₂ EMISIONS
Thousands (short tons)

TOTAL NOₓ EMISIONS
Thousands (short tons)

TOTAL CO₂ EMISSEIONS
Millions (short tons)

Source: NRECA analysis of EPA data

Renewable Energy Growth

- From 2010 to 2021, co-ops more than tripled their renewable capacity from 3.9 gigawatts to more than 13 gigawatts.
- Co-ops added nearly 1.4 GW of new renewable capacity in 2021, second only to 2020.
- Electric co-op wind and solar capacity is enough to power more than 3 million homes.
- Co-ops have announced more than 7 GW of renewable capacity additions through 2026.
- Co-ops purchase 10 GW of hydropower from federal dams and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Cumulative Co-op Renewable Capacity, Owned and Under Contract

Note: Does not include federal hydro
Source: NRECA analysis
Electric co-ops are local energy and technology partners.

- 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.
- 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 Customer Satisfaction Index.

Co-ops earned the highest average score and secured 14 of the 20 top spots in the 2021 J.D. Power Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study.

- Electric cooperatives, on average, score higher than for-profit utilities, according to the American Customer Satisfaction Index, Energy Utilities Study, 2021-2022.

**ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE INNOVATION HUBS**

Meeting Tomorrow’s Energy Needs by Investing in the Future of Communities

**BROADBAND:** More than 250 co-ops are developing or planning to deploy broadband service to their members, giving them access to telehealth services, online learning, remote work and new possibilities for local businesses.

**ENERGY STORAGE:** Cooperatives have developed more than 65 energy storage projects, ranging from residential batteries to large utility-scale projects paired with renewable generation. Storage is an important element of microgrids, including on military installations.

**SMART METERS:** Electric cooperatives lead the industry in smart meter deployment, with a 78% use of AMI meters, compared to 63% for the rest of the industry.

**CARBON CAPTURE:** Electric cooperatives are partners in innovative carbon capture technology research projects.

**THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE**

Source: NRECA