

PARK SPARKS

September 2024



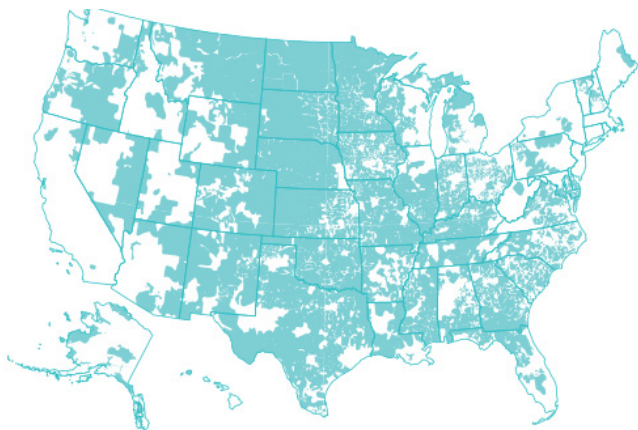
America's Cooperatives

Managers Comments by Matt Haggerty

I would like to share some insights into the significant impact cooperatives have across the nation. This information is attributed to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Did you know that cooperatives power 56% of the American landscape? Let's explore what sets cooperatives apart from other utilities. Cooperatives serve 42 million people, including 92% of persistent poverty counties, and power over 22 million businesses, homes, schools, farms, and ranches across 48 states.

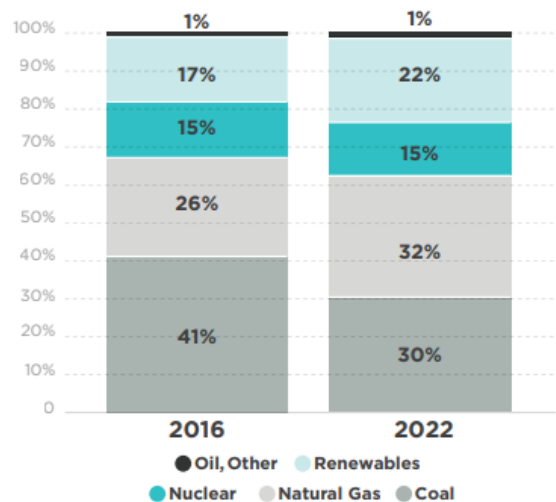
As not-for-profit organizations, they return more than \$1 billion to their consumer-members annually. The electric cooperative network comprises of 832 distribution cooperatives, built by and serving co-op members in the community by delivering electricity and other essential services.



The Importance of Keeping the Lights On

Threats to Reliability: Electric cooperatives rely on a diverse array of resources to meet the energy needs of their communities reliably. However, threats to reliability are increasing.

Co-op Retail Energy Mix



The demand for electricity is rapidly growing, with the Energy Information Administration projecting a 2.5% increase this year and 3.2% in 2025. Over the next five years, peak electricity demand is expected to grow by 38 gigawatts, equivalent to adding another California to the nation's grid.

Unfortunately, supply is not keeping pace, with more than 110 gigawatts of always-available generation forecasted to retire by 2033. Public policy is exacerbating the problem, putting all or parts of 19 states at high risk of rolling blackouts during normal peak conditions from 2024 to 2028.

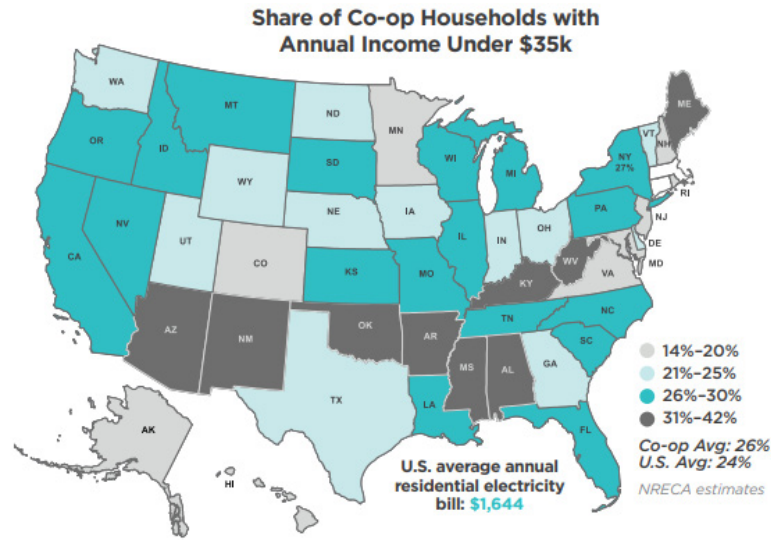
At a Cost Families and Businesses Can Afford

One in four households served by electric cooperatives has an annual income below \$35,000. In 2022, electric cooperatives delivered 4.8% more electricity than the previous year. Unlike the rest of the electric sector, cooperatives sell most of their power—53%—to households. Keeping rates affordable is especially crucial for these consumers at the end of the line.

Co-ops Are Reducing Emissions

Cleaner Air: Cooperatives are meeting member expectations by reducing emissions through various measures and switching to natural gas and renewables. Since 2016, cooperatives have nearly doubled their renewable capacity from 8.2 gigawatts to nearly 15.8 gigawatts. In 2023 alone, co-ops added over 1.3 gigawatts of new renewable capacity.

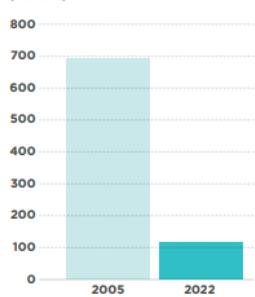
Electric cooperative wind farms and solar arrays generate enough electricity to power more than 3.5 million homes, and co-ops have announced over 5.3 gigawatts of renewable capacity additions through 2027. Additionally, cooperatives purchase 10 gigawatts of power from federal hydropower facilities.



The role of electric cooperatives in powering America is both substantial and vital. They provide reliable, affordable, and increasingly sustainable energy to millions of people and businesses, often in underserved areas. As they continue to innovate and adapt to changing energy demands and environmental goals, cooperatives remain a cornerstone of the nation's energy infrastructure, ensuring that lights stay on and communities thrive.

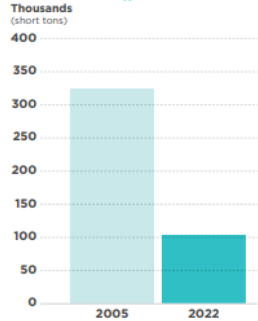
Reduced sulphur dioxide emissions 83% from 2005-2022.

TOTAL SO₂ EMISSIONS



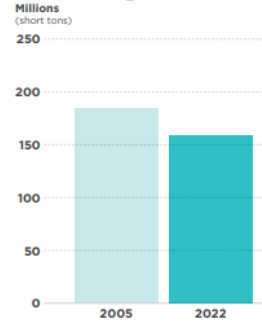
Reduced nitrogen oxide emissions 68% from 2005-2022.

TOTAL NO_x EMISSIONS



Reduced carbon dioxide emissions 14% from 2005-2022.

TOTAL CO₂ EMISSIONS



Note: Chart reflects most recent available data. Source: NRECA analysis of EPA data

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