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**RE**  
RURAL ELECTRIC MAGAZINE

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# TECH TRENDS

**Five emerging developments that are shaping co-op operations**

# TECH INSIGHTS

By Todd H. Cunningham

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## Delaware County Electric Cooperative

**CO-OP TYPE:** Distribution

**SIZE:** 5,441 meters

**LOCATION:** Delhi, New York

### GOAL

Increase grid resilience against outages caused by weather events and tree damage from invasive species.

### CONTACT

Delaware County EC,  
607-746-2341

### SOLUTION

Partnered with five electric cooperatives in three states seeking more than \$27.6 million in federal funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program to deploy advanced software to enable proactive grid management and hardware such as grid sensors and drones to provide real-time data and monitoring.

The new technology is expected to improve grid reliability and resilience and enable load growth that the region's aging electric infrastructure had otherwise constrained. The partner co-ops are: Claverack REC in Wysox, Pennsylvania; Oneida-Madison EC in Bouckville, New York; Otsego EC in Hartwick, New York; Steuben REC in Bath, New York; and Sussex REC in Sussex, New Jersey.



## Western Farmers Electric Cooperative

**CO-OP TYPE:** G&T

**SIZE:** 13.1M MWh sales

**LOCATION:** Anadarko, Oklahoma

### GOAL

Continue upgrading generation units at the G&T's Anadarko Plant.

### CONTACT

Western Farmers  
EC, Sondra Boykin,  
405-247-4370

### SOLUTION

Replacing two aging steam units with natural gas turbine generators that can quickly ramp up and down to support wind and solar generation. The addition of the units (which join five others already at the plant) will increase reliability, lower maintenance costs and help keep electric rates low, says WFEC CEO Gary Roulet.

Construction of the new units will start in late 2024 and be complete in late 2026.

“The cooperative motto, “Owned by those we serve’ sends a clear message to keep electricity reliable and affordable.”

— Gary Roulet, CEO, Western Farmers EC

“The upgrade will provide added stability and streamline installs, onboarding and training, which previously took hours and will soon take only minutes.”

—Christi Mooring, Quality Assurance Analyst, MTE

## Middle Tennessee Electric

**CO-OP TYPE:** Distribution

**SIZE:** 325,731 meters

**LOCATION:** Murfreesboro, Tennessee

### GOAL

Integrate the latest innovations in vegetation management technology.

### SOLUTION

Upgrading to a new Clearion (**NRECA Associate Member, clearion.com**) vegetation management platform, slated for completion this year. The upgrade will enhance situational awareness with features like geofencing and streamline work management and planning.

### CONTACT

Middle Tennessee Electric, Talley Floyd, 615-494-1540;  
Clearion, Brooks Smith, 770-713-0386

## West Kentucky RECC

**CO-OP TYPE:** Distribution

**SIZE:** 40,128 meters

**LOCATION:** Mayfield, Kentucky

### GOAL

Improve transformer capacity utilization, reduce overloading and enhance load modeling and event detection to minimize outage times.

“We’re excited to collaborate on critical projects that directly support the goals of the DOE to keep power reliable, safe and affordable for rural communities.”

—Stan McHann, CTO, SparkMeter

### SOLUTION

Partnered with SparkMeter on a grant-funded project under the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity's \$7.5 million investment to address grid reliability and resilience. WKRECC is a subrecipient on a nearly \$1 million grant to the University of Kentucky to improve transformer performance. The project will leverage SparkMeter's AI-driven Praxis data engineering platform.

“Our project team will be able to leverage data analytics to develop innovative methods to approach dynamic line ratings, reduce grid outages and defer future infrastructure expenditures,” says Justin McCann, WKRECC vice president of engineering.

### CONTACT

WKRECC, 270-247-1321  
SparkMeter, contact@sparkmeter.io

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