

America's Cooperative Electric Utilities

The Nation's Consumer-Owned Electric Utility Network

Electric cooperatives are an integral part of the \$370 billion U.S. electric utility industry. They play a critical role in our nation's economy and in local communities.

Electric cooperatives are:

- private, independent, non-profit electric utilities
- owned by the customers they serve
- incorporated under the laws of the states in which they operate
- established to provide at-cost electric service
- governed by a board of directors elected from the membership which sets policies and procedures that are implemented by the co-op's management

Distribution cooperatives are the foundation of the rural electric network. They deliver electricity to retail customers. Generation & Transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own generation or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.

In addition to electric service, electric co-ops are deeply involved in their communities promoting development and revitalization projects, small businesses, job creation, improvement of water & sewer systems and assistance in delivery of health care and educational services.

Facts at a Glance

- 840 distribution and 65 G&T cooperatives, a total of 905 NRECA co-op members
- serve an estimated 42 million people in 47 states
- 18.5 million businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems, and other establishments in 2,500 of 3,141 counties in the U.S.
- over 12 percent of the nation's *meters* are customers of rural electric co-ops

To perform their mission, electric cooperatives:

- own assets worth \$140 billion (distribution and G&T co-ops combined)
- own and maintain 2.5 million miles, or 42%, of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering three quarters of the nation's landmass
- deliver 11 percent of the total kilowatt-hours sold in the U.S. each year
- generate nearly 5 percent of the total electricity produced in the U.S. each year
- employ 70,000 people in the U.S.
- retire \$600 million in capital credits annually
- pay \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes

Compared with other electric utilities:

- Co-ops serve an average of 7.4 consumers per mile of line and collect annual revenue of approximately \$15,000 per mile of line

- Investor-owned utilities average 34 customers per mile of line and collect \$75,500 per mile
- Publicly owned utilities, or municipals, average 48 consumers and collect \$113,000 per mile

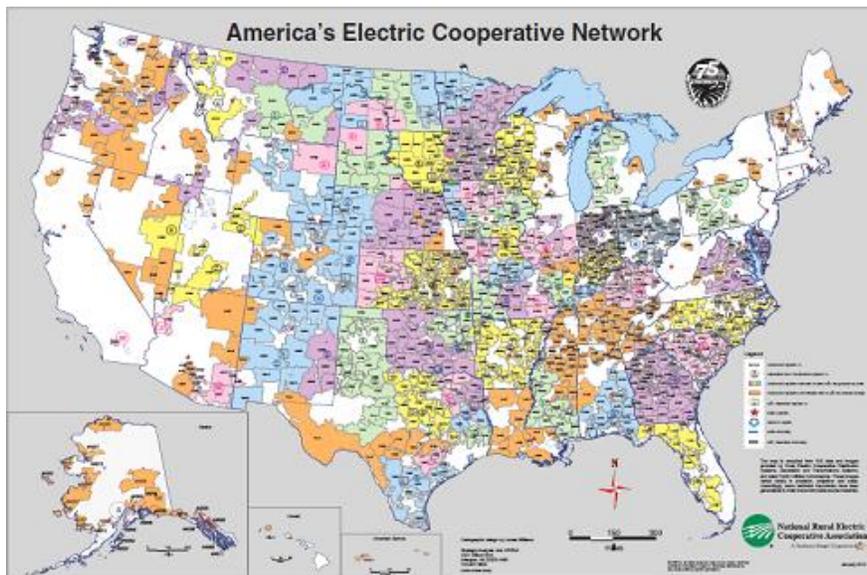
Electric Utility Comparisons (2010 EIA data)

	<u>Investor-Owned</u>	<u>Publicly Owned</u>	<u>Cooperatives</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Revenue (billions).....	\$273	\$53	\$40	\$366
Number of Organizations	200	2,000	912	3,112
Number of Total Customers.....	104 m	21 m	18.5 m	144 m
Size (median number of customers).....	400,000	2,000	13,000	
Revenues, % of total	75%	14%	11%	
Customers, % of total	72%	15%	12%	
KWh sales, % of total	73%	16%	11%	

	<u>Investor-Owned</u>	<u>Publicly Owned</u>	<u>Cooperatives</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sales (billion kilowatt hours)				
Residential	992	212	239	1,443
Commercial	1,057	210	84	1,351
Industrial.....	659	148	90	897
Total	2,708	570	413	3,691

	<u>Investor-Owned</u>	<u>Publicly Owned</u>	<u>Cooperatives</u>	<u>Total</u>
Miles of Distribution Line	50%	7%	43%	100%
Customers per mile of line (density).....	34	48	7.4	
Revenue per mile of line	\$75,500	\$113,000	\$15,000	
Distribution plant per Customer	\$2,798	\$2,740*	\$3,290	
Assets (billions).....	\$870	\$260*	\$140	\$1,270*
Equity (billions).....	\$280	\$76*	\$42	\$398*
Equity%.....	32%	32%*	30%	

*Publicly Owned data is not available; these are estimates based on past growth



NRECA

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Source Notes:

Energy Information Administration (EIA) Electric Sales, Revenue, and Price 2010.

<http://www.eia.gov/electricity/data.cfm#sales>

“Total retail revenues in 2010 were \$368.906 billion” (Electric Power Monthly Table 5.2.)

Industry revenue, sales and customer data is from EIA Form 861.

Investor-Owned statistics includes IOU affiliates engaged in competitive retail markets; sales data does not add to total because sales from federally owned utilities not shown

The number of cooperatives, 840 distribution systems and 65 G&Ts, includes a small number of rural public power districts that are considered part of the rural electric network.

Density and distribution plant per customer data is 2009.

Co-op financial data is from the 2010 RUS Form 7 (and CFC Form 7, if available).

EIA: Energy Information Administration (a part of DOE), Washington, DC.

RUS: Rural Utilities Service (a part of USDA), Washington, DC.

CFC: Cooperative Finance Corporation, Herndon, VA.

Posted to NRECA.coop at:

<https://www.cooperative.com/about/coops/factsandfigures/data/Pages/GeneralFacts.aspx>
