

Groundbreaking Battery Storage Initiative Launched



RECNEWS

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Stored power can energize 1,000 homes for up to 8 hours

A new battery storage project launched by Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) will provide member-owners with more resilient, sustainable and affordable energy.

REC and East Point Energy, a leading energy storage project developer, recently announced the first grid-scale energy storage project by a Virginia electric cooperative.

The project has a peak capacity of 2 megawatts and a duration of 8 megawatt hours, or enough to power about 1,000 homes for 8 hours. Construction is expected to begin this fall, with full operation starting in early 2021.



The project will be located in Spotsylvania County and will provide benefits including:

- Temporarily providing electricity at times when the transmission system fails and the substation and the members served by it would otherwise be without power.
- Managing wholesale power costs by dispatching stored energy during peak times when electricity is more expensive for the Cooperative to purchase.
- Delaying the need for substation upgrades.

REC also will use this project to learn how additional energy storage projects can be deployed on its system in the future.

"With more and more renewable energy on our system and with battery costs declining rapidly, energy storage is now a critical tool for our team as we work to connect our member-owners and communities with safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy solutions," said John D. Hewa, president and CEO of REC, who also serves as chairman of the board for the U.S. Energy Storage Association.

"REC looks forward to bringing this battery storage project online," said Lee Brock, manager of engineering and power supply at REC: "In addition to wholesale power cost reductions and increased reliability, this project will give REC real data on how battery storage can best be deployed in the future."

Giving Back to Our Community

By John D. Hewa, President and CEO



Over the years, you've likely heard or read about REC's concern for the community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and, really, all other businesses. It's just one of the principles that makes a cooperative so very special.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, our employees have had to meet new challenges to keep our communities safe, especially those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made numerous adjustments to our community programs and business operations. The changes keep our core business running while allowing us to stay focused on the bigger mission of helping our membership during this difficult time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, recent events have made me take pause and think even more about the role your cooperative plays in the community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the member-owners we serve, we have a greater mission — to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of REC's The Power of Change

program, where we gather donations from generous members like you who round up their electric bill each month to help our community. Also, with our Community Scholarship program, we award some of our community's most dedicated students with scholarships for college or trade school. Through our Gift of Electricity program, we also allow members to provide a credit on a friend's or relative's electric account.

REC also invests in the economic growth of our region by playing an active role in our local and state chambers of commerce. In fact, REC just hired its first director of economic development, Felicia Ainsa. We are excited she is now serving as a vital resource for our business community.

You'll also see our employees representing our region on local boards, coaching your children – and theirs – in recreational sports and volunteering at nonprofits. That's because when you work at a cooperative such as REC, you understand how important a strong community is to the greater good.

If you would like to learn more about REC's role in the community — please reach out to us. We are here for you. No matter what the future brings, please know how much REC cares about you.

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- An estimated restoration time is known.
- Power is restored.

