The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization of 865 electric distribution systems and 65 generation and transmission (G&T) systems. These cooperatively owned utilities own and operate about 43% of the miles of distribution lines in the nation to provide power to 12% of the nation’s people, primarily in the sparsely populated, rural areas of 47 states.

NRECA was founded in 1942 to unite rural electric systems in a way that would permit them to develop the services and the support needed to properly serve rural America. NRECA is one of the largest rural-oriented organizations in the United States. The NRECA Cooperative Research Network, a service of NRECA that has partially supported development of this toolkit, was created to conduct studies and carry out research of special interest to rural electric systems and their consumers.

**About the Cooperative Research Network**

NRECA’s Cooperative Research Network® (CRN) harnesses research and development to benefit its electric co-op members in four key ways:

- Improve productivity
- Control costs
- Increase service excellence
- Keep pace with emerging technologies

CRN strives to deliver new products and services best suited to the particular needs of electric co-ops. CRN communicates with its members through its Web site ([www.crn.coop](http://www.crn.coop)), on-line and printed reports, newsletters, Web conferences and seminars.

In addition, CRN staff present at several annual events, including NRECA’s TechAdvantage Conference & Expo, the NRECA/Touchstone Energy “Connect” marketing conference and Touchstone Energy's New & Emerging Technologies (NET) Conference. For more information about these events and CRN’s participation, visit the Conferences & Training section of [www.Cooperative.com](http://www.cooperative.com). For questions about CRN, call 703.907.5843.

**Biopower Toolkit: Analyzing the Economics of Generating Power from Renewable Biofuels**

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