

MALAWI CLEAN ENERGY COOPERATIVES PROGRAM (CECP)



Objective: Develop Viable Community-Owned Electric Cooperatives

With funding support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, NRECA International is implementing the Malawi Clean Energy Cooperatives Program (CECP), a four-year initiative to promote the development of five new clean energy cooperative enterprises in rural Malawi.

Goals and Outcomes

- Demonstrate how electric co-ops can support self-reliance in rural communities.
- Establish reliable and affordable electricity service to support improved productivity in communities with newly formed co-ops.
- Introduce the electric co-op business model as a viable model to contribute to the expansion of electricity service in rural communities.

Principal Activities

- Develop a portfolio of electric cooperative projects for evaluation and implementation
- Build technical capacity in communities through community engagement, develop business plans, and secure financing for infrastructure.
- Provide ongoing technical support to cooperatives from formation to operations phase.
- Establish a working alliance with the Ministry of Energy team to promote the electric co-op model.
- Review and evaluate legal and regulatory framework for electric cooperative formation, registration, licensing and oversight.

Cooperative Advantage



Rural electric cooperatives are owned by the communities they serve and operate under the universally accepted Seven Cooperative Principles. Cooperative incentives and measurements for success are not driven by profitability, but rather quality of service, reliability, and sustainability. Using this model in rural and hard-to-reach communities can be a strong advantage for achieving long-term reliable and affordable electricity.

Local Context

The Government of Malawi is committed to achieving universal electrification by 2030. The country has a population of nearly 21 million, of which almost 4 million people, or 17 percent, have access to electricity. Currently, 550,000 households receive electricity from ESCOM, the national power transmission and distribution utility, and approximately 200,000 households have purchased solar home systems. Recognizing that additional pathways are needed to achieve universal access, in 2018 the Government adopted a national electrification strategy.

Stakeholders

- US Agency for International Development Cooperative Development Program
- Malawi Ministry of Energy



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