

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN NRDC AND NRECA

February 2008

America has abundant opportunities to save energy more cheaply than it can be produced. America's electric cooperatives can play a vital role in exploiting such opportunities as part of their core responsibility to build resource portfolios that minimize the cost of the reliable energy services on which healthy economies depend. And energy efficiency can be a uniquely productive way to reduce pollution from all sources without raising electric bills.

In aid of our joint commitment to cost-effective energy efficiency as a resource opportunity for America's electric cooperatives, we undertake as follows:

1. We will work together to identify and support cost-effective improvements in minimum efficiency standards for buildings and equipment at both state and federal levels;
2. We will coauthor a joint review of rate-setting strategies for ensuring that large-scale, cost-effective energy efficiency improvements will advance the financial interests of both electric cooperatives and their members, and we will aim to include specific joint recommendations for consideration by co-op boards and management;
3. We will begin a mutual effort to strengthen the nation's energy-efficiency infrastructure, including but not limited to:
 - Expanding the involvement of NRECA and its members in regional and national energy efficiency alliances;
 - Creating an energy efficiency center within NRECA itself to help members pool their resources and take advantage of best practices throughout the electric cooperative community;
 - Supporting the establishment and expansion of academic centers on energy efficiency at colleges and universities across the nation, to help accelerate technology innovation, improve program design and train efficiency experts.