

REMDC Success Stories Since 1958

Over the history of the Rural Electric Management Development Council (REMDC), its members have been at the forefront of management thinking and action inside rural electric cooperatives. The hallmark of REMDC has always been cutting edge solutions, even when they didn't work out exactly as planned. We learn from mistakes as well as successes.

Our 1959 Annual Meeting Report stated:

“This group (REMDC) is concerned with going beyond the mere mechanics of managing to the application of knowledge, not the pursuit of knowledge as an end.

Here are some of our stories:

1. 1959-Suggested the creation of the Staff Specialist position to handle human resources inside the rural electric cooperative.
2. 1959-Encouraged managers to use the tools of communication to reach employees and achieve desired results.
3. 1960-Encouraged electric cooperative managers to begin creating annual work plans and budgets.
4. 1963-First stated that rural electric cooperatives should be community leaders focused on Economic Development and Community Development.
5. 1971-Studied the application of the computer to rural electric management information systems.
6. 1972-Voted to establish standards of management performance which are consistent with program viewpoints and objectives and which can be applied appropriately to rural electric systems of various sizes and localities. This grew into the NRECA Management Internship Program (MIP).
7. 1973-Proposed to NRECA to develop Standard Operating Ratios. (Some used by REA/RUS but more often seen now as CFC's Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA).
8. 1980-Creation of the Management Evaluation Guide (MEG) used by management as a paper-based self-evaluation tool. (Moved to online MEG in 2005-07).
9. 2000-The conversion of a rural electric cooperative into a private utility.
10. 2000-Fully diversifying a rural cooperative into other lines of business.... some of them for-profit.
11. 2001-Creation of the Power Online diversification database. Handed over to NRECA and Cooperative.com in 2005.
12. 2009-The REMDC Energy Efficiency (later Energy Efficiency and Demand Response) Task Force gave birth to the Energy Innovation white paper (created in the years that followed). Energy Innovation spurred the Electric Cooperative of the 21st Century report by NRECA.