

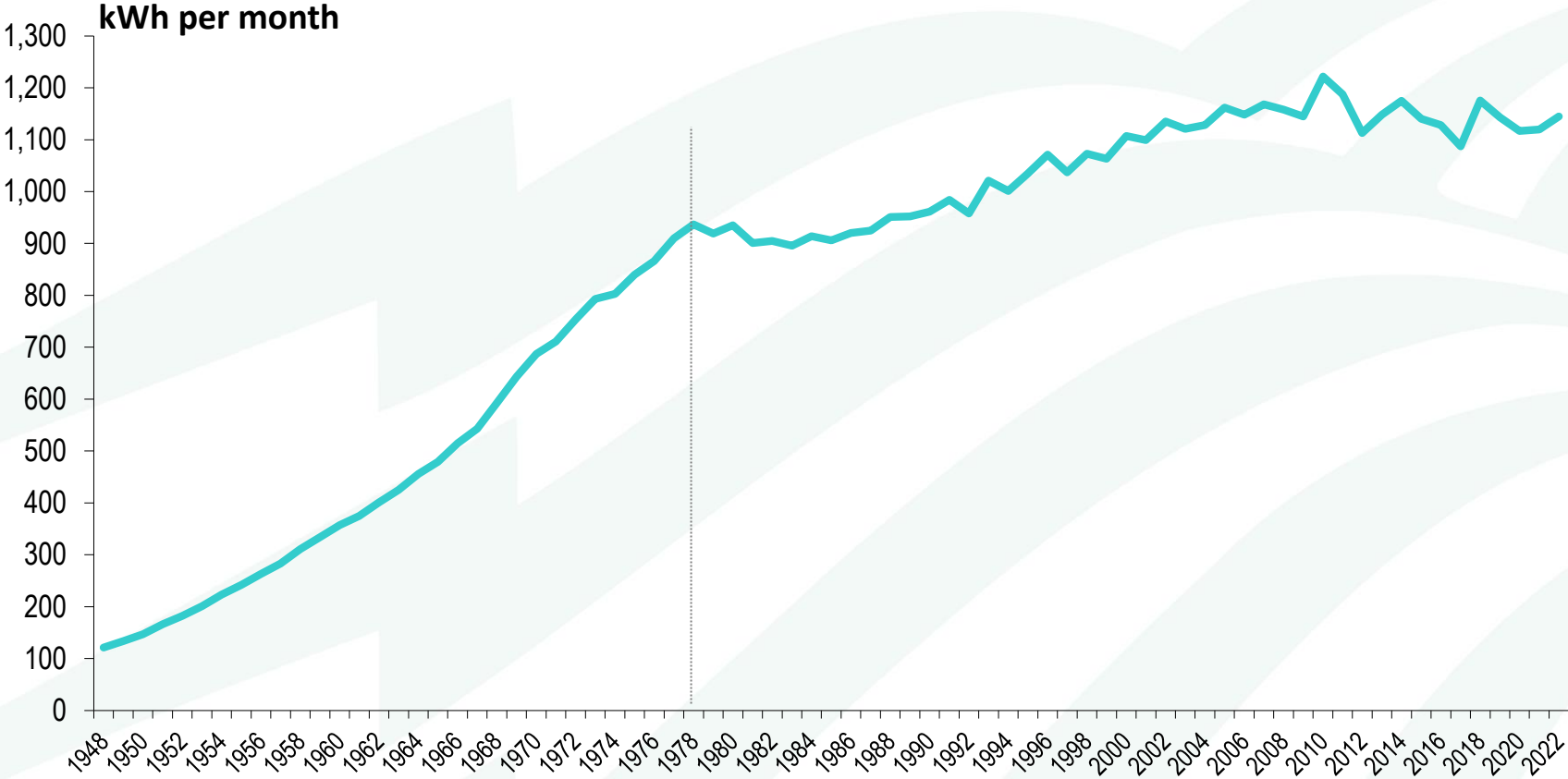
# Co-op Residential Electricity Usage

Residential electricity usage is the amount of electricity used in a home on a monthly basis and is influenced by many factors. Usage rose dramatically for co-op consumers in the 1940s and 1950s when rural areas were first being electrified. It continued to rise during the 1960s and 1970s as areas that never had air conditioning began adding it. Since then, average residential usage has increased only gradually, less than half a percent per year. In fact, it declined in 5 of the last 10 years challenging utility assumptions about long-term growth rates.

Compared to investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and municipal utilities, cooperative utilities have higher electricity usage. Usage in rural areas is usually higher than in urban/suburban areas for several reasons: low-density (rural) areas have fewer alternatives to electricity; natural gas and oil are either not available or more expensive, so electric heating is often the only choice; higher prevalence of larger, detached homes more exposed to weather, including mobile homes that are generally less energy efficient. Also, farm electricity usage (for grain drying etc.) is very high.

The following section contains charts and maps depicting co-op residential kWh usage trends and comparisons with other utilities.

# Predictable increases in residential electricity usage ended in 1978



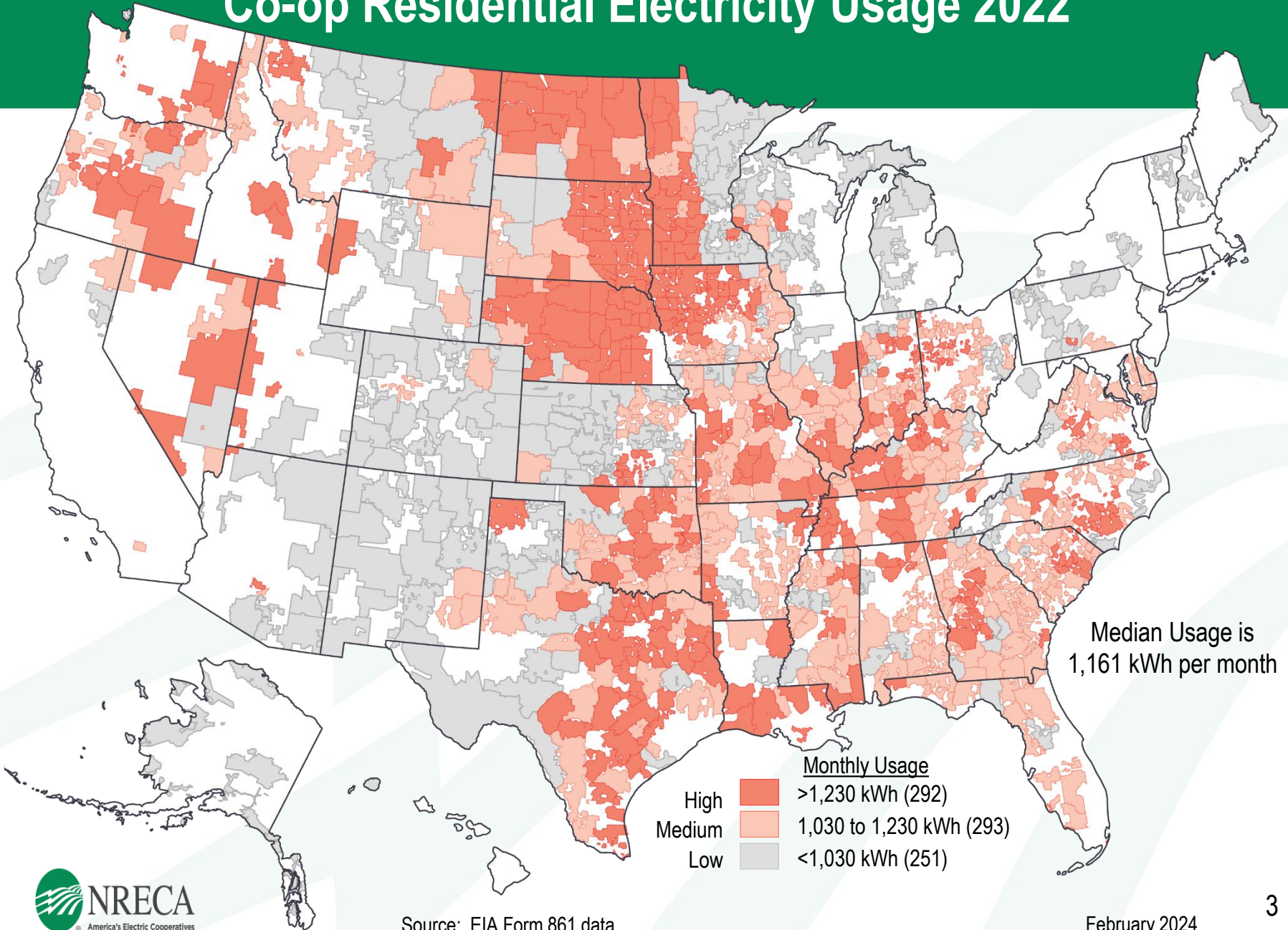
The early years of the rural electric program saw large gains in average residential electricity usage as consumers added appliances and air conditioning to their homes. From 1948 to 1978, the average annual increase exceeded 7%. Since 1978, however, the annual growth rate has averaged less than half a percent. Though consumers continue to add electricity-using devices to their homes, their impact is often offset by improvements in energy efficiency as older appliances are replaced.



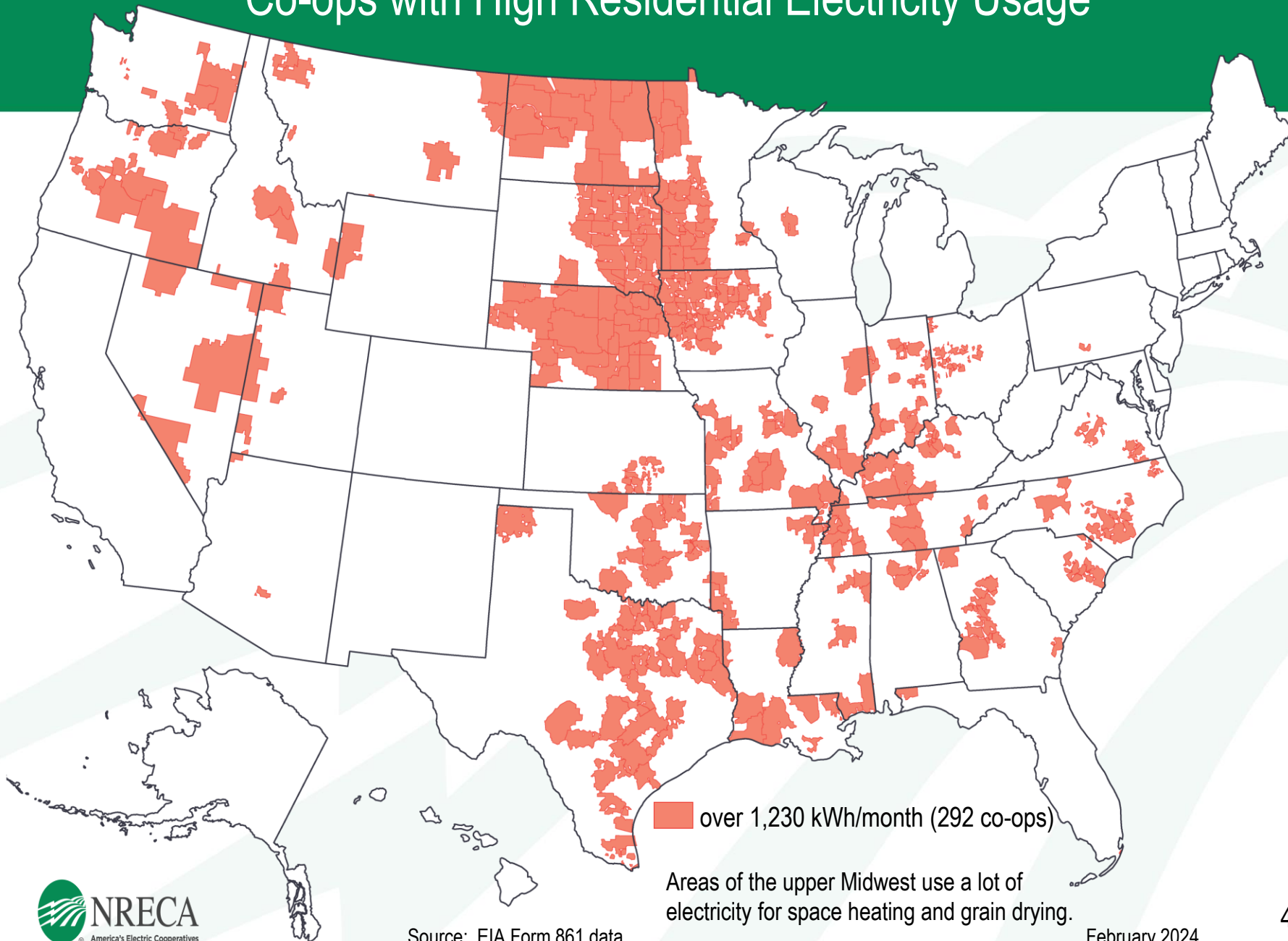
Source: EIA Form 861 weighted average data for 2021

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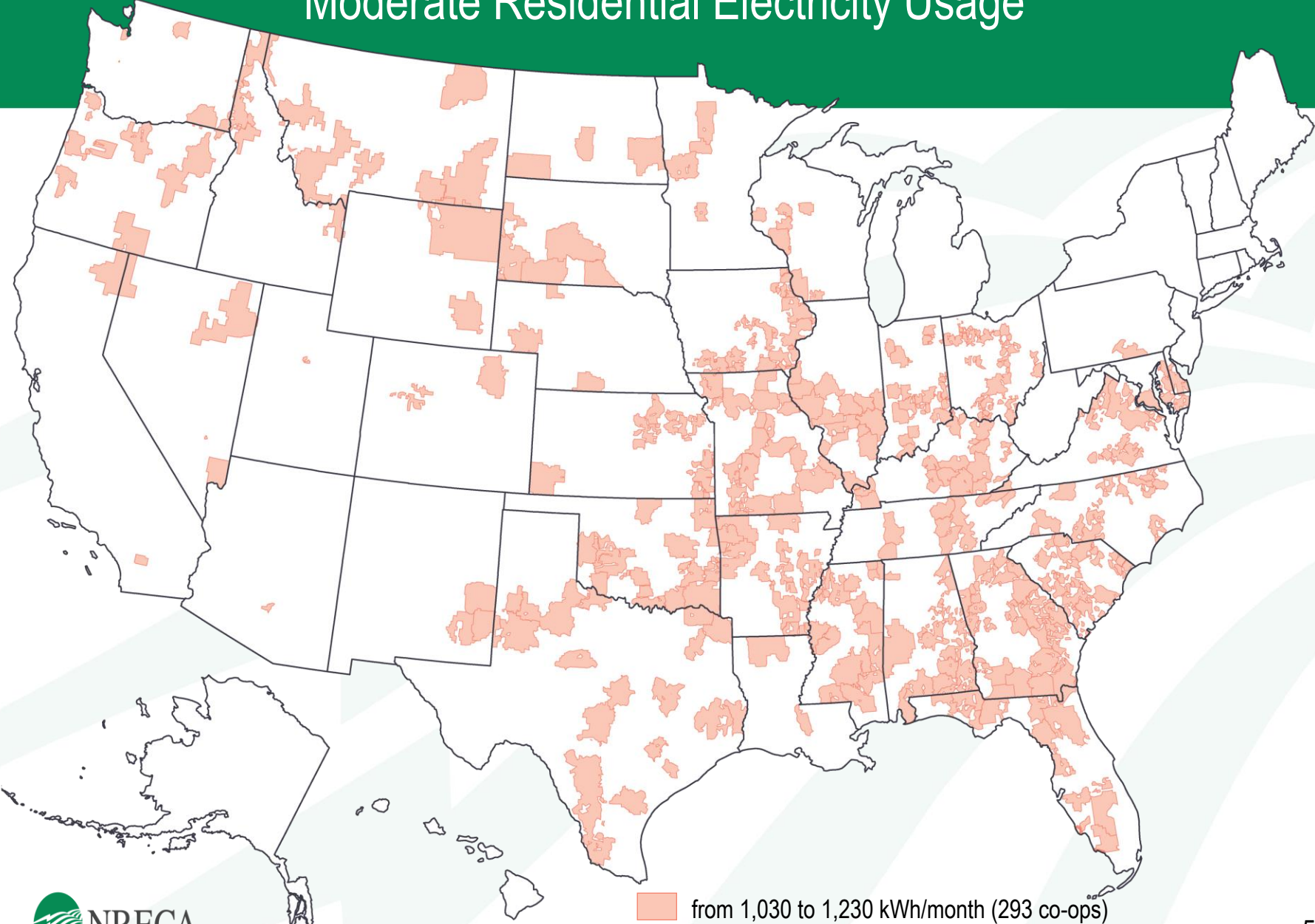
# Co-op Residential Electricity Usage 2022



# Co-ops with High Residential Electricity Usage



# Moderate Residential Electricity Usage

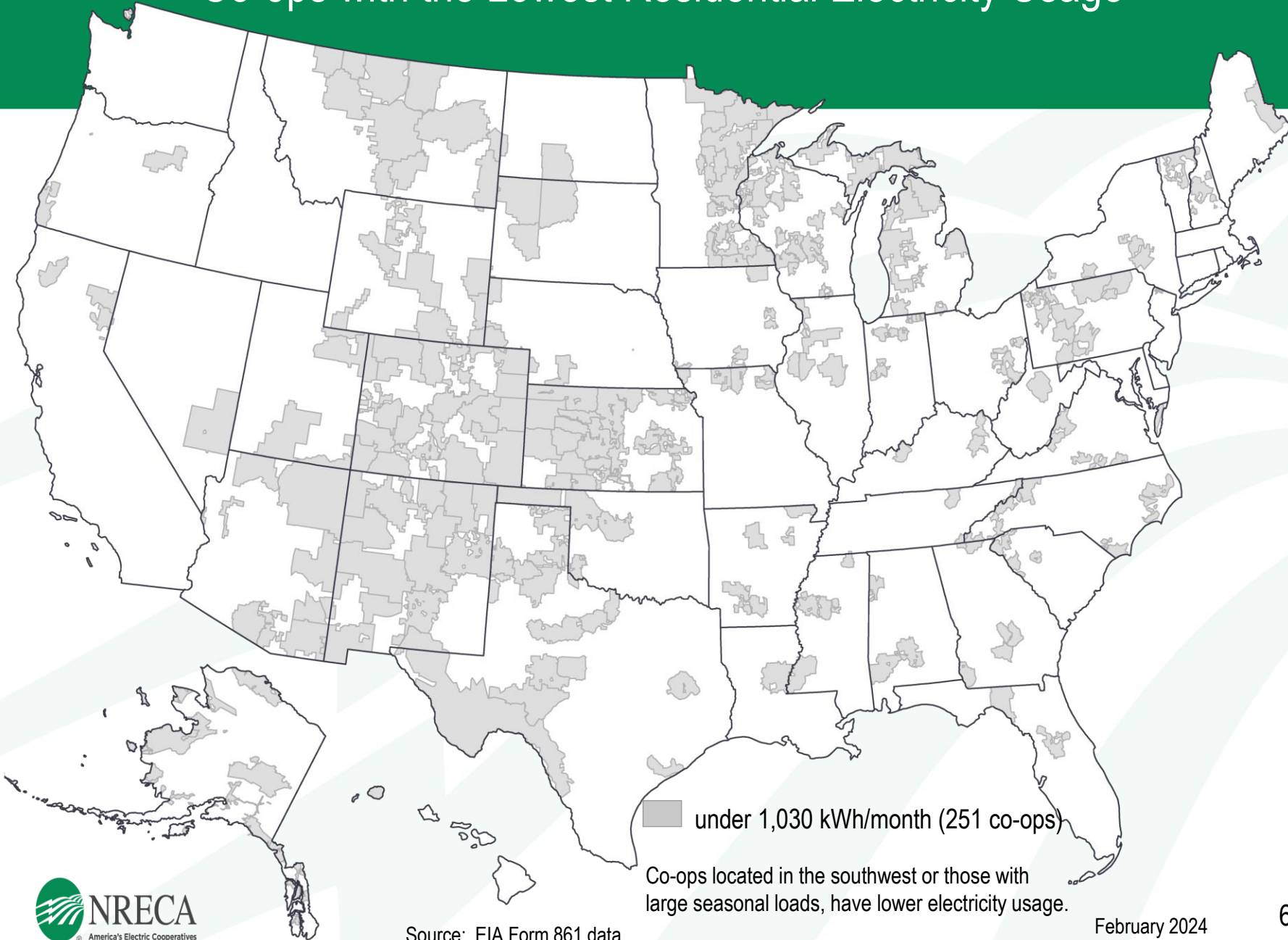


from 1,030 to 1,230 kWh/month (293 co-ops)

Source: EIA Form 861 data

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# Co-ops with the Lowest Residential Electricity Usage



under 1,030 kWh/month (251 co-ops)

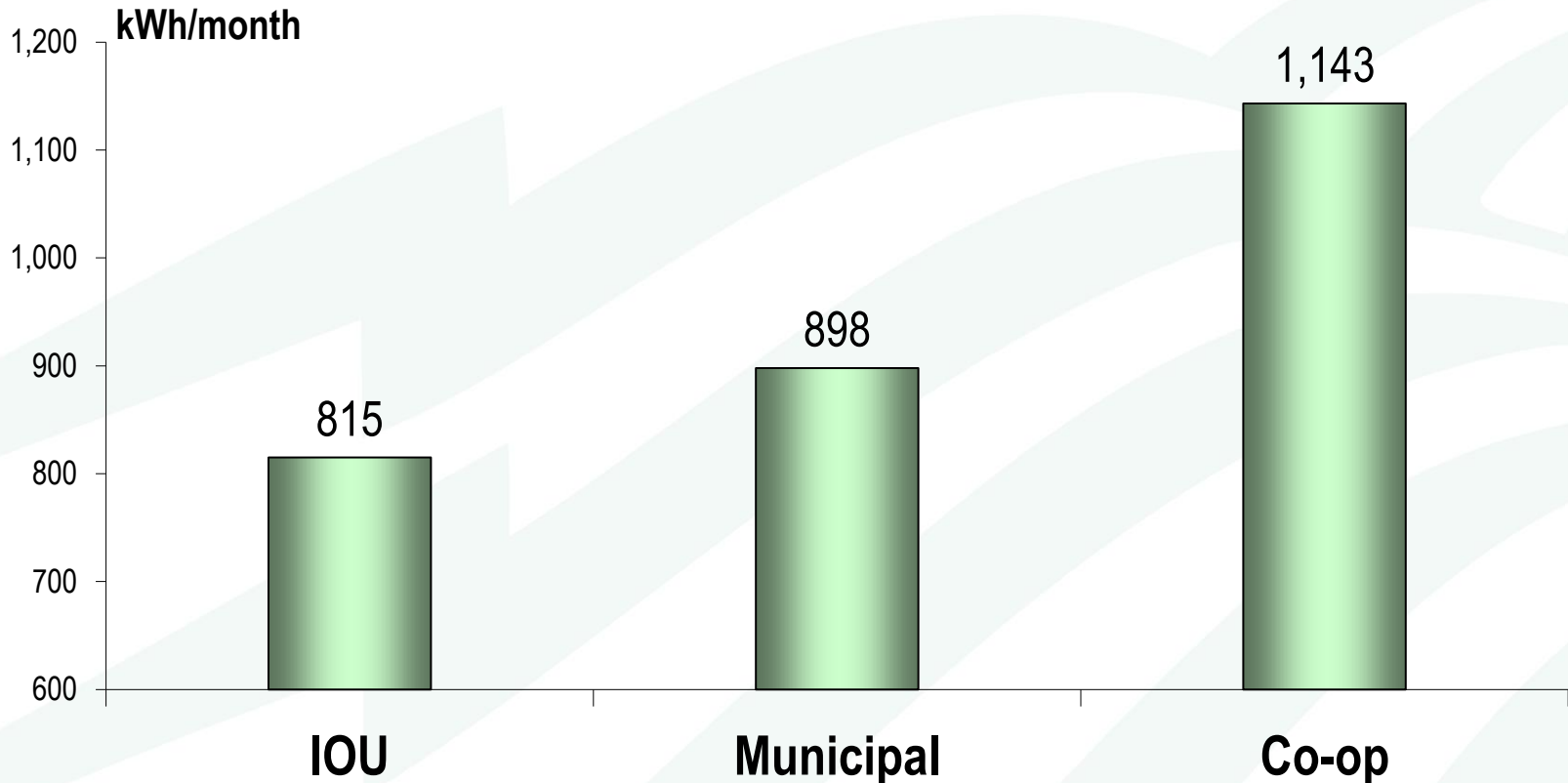
Co-ops located in the southwest or those with large seasonal loads, have lower electricity usage.



Source: EIA Form 861 data

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# Compared with Other Types of Utilities, Residential Electricity Usage is Higher in Co-op Areas



Residential electricity usage is higher for rural cooperatives compared to other types of utilities. Average household size and the physical size of homes is larger in rural areas; the proportion of mobile homes is higher (they tend to be less energy efficient). Alternative heating fuels are often unavailable in rural areas making electricity the only choice. Also, agriculture is a high user of electricity (grain drying, dairy operations etc.).

Source: EIA Form 861 weighted average data for 2022

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