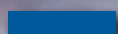


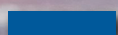
ACEC NEWS

JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 01

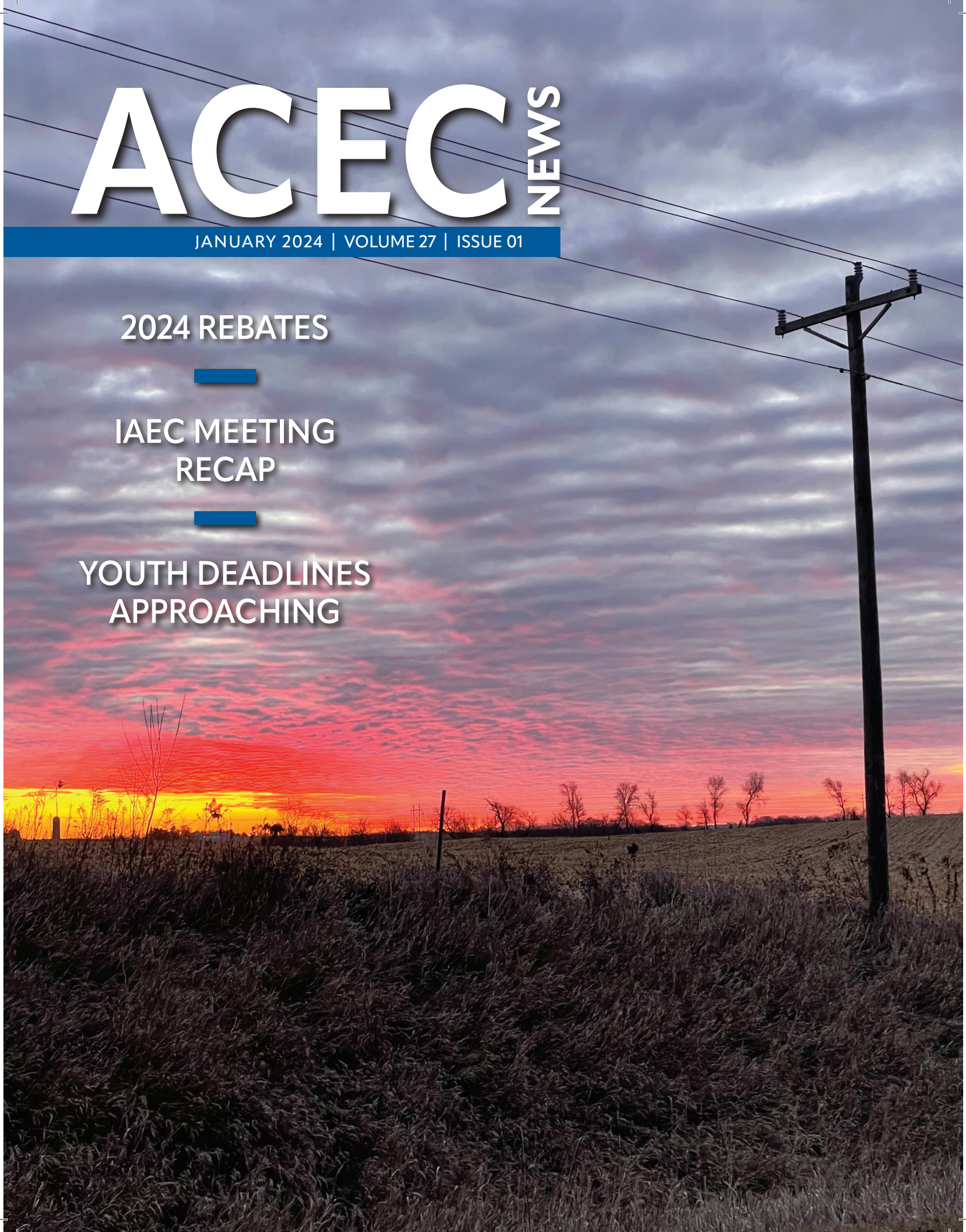
2024 REBATES



IAEC MEETING
RECAP



YOUTH DEADLINES
APPROACHING





**A MESSAGE
FROM**
*Your
General
Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

**A BEGINNERS
GUIDE TO THE
ELECTRIC GRID**

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life.

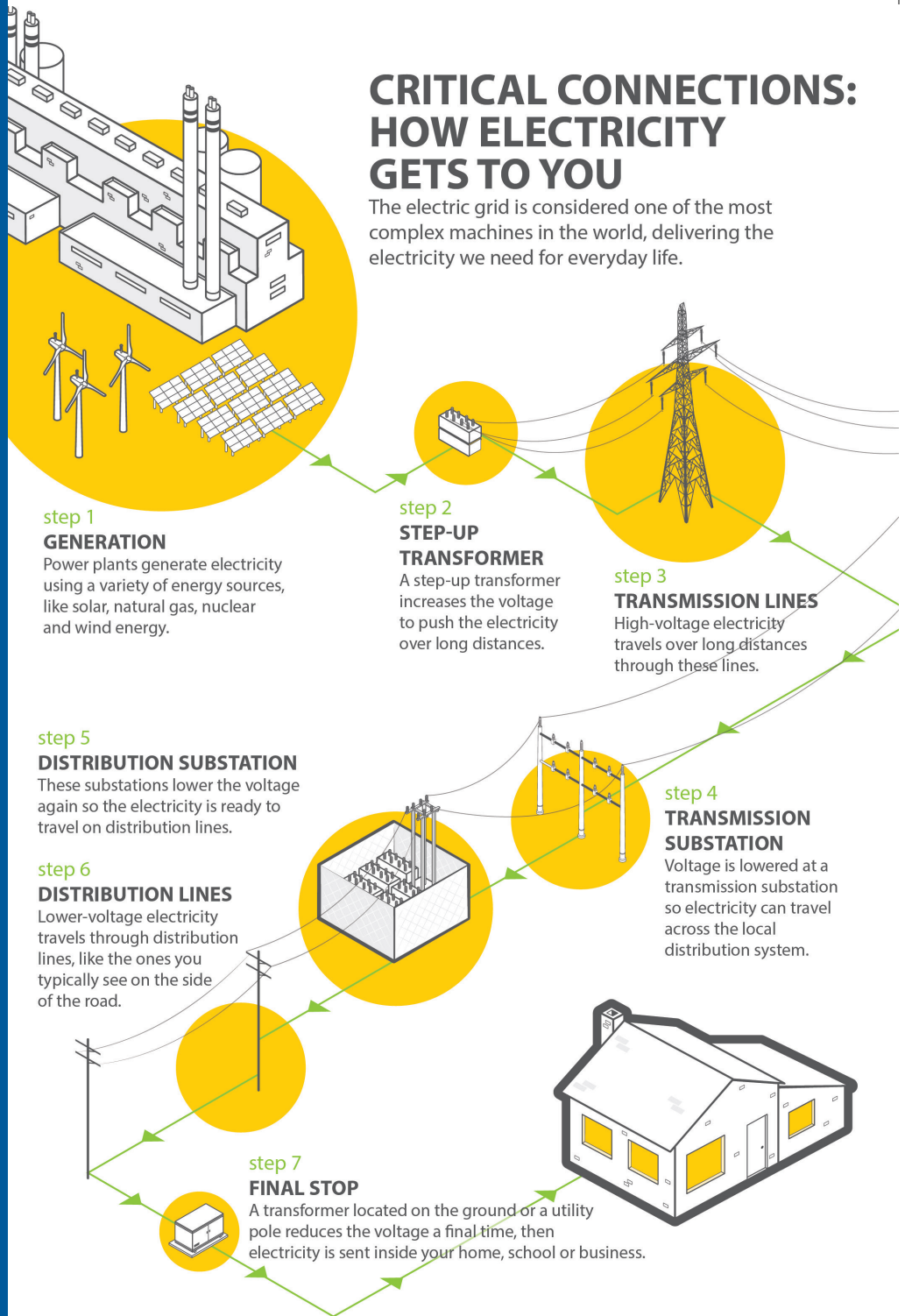
It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure



that span the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity. FYI, we are part of MISO or Midcontinental Independent System Operator, which spans from Louisiana up to Manitoba.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants.

Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, coal, solar, hydro, wind and nuclear energy. Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid. #818C

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Co-op receives power from our generation and transmission (G&T) co-op, Dairyland Power Cooperative. We work closely with Dairyland to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system.

High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you—to power everyday life.

We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider. From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine—and one of our nation's greatest achievements. ■

BOARD BRIEFS | December 26 Meeting

- Approved 2023 Delinquent Account Write-Offs
- Established a 2024 Patronage Estate Discount Rate
- Approved revisions to the following policies
 - 6.2 Use of Cooperative Computer Systems, Electronic Equipment & Communication Systems
 - 8.7 Leave of Absence
 - 8.4 Employee Assistance Program
- Approved a donation request to Northeast Iowa Community Action
- Appointed 2024 voting delegates and alternatives to associate organizations

The power of human connections

2023 SERVICE MILESTONES

20 YEARS



Jason Nefzger
Lead Lineman

25 YEARS



Derrick Peters
Lead Equipment Technician

10 YEARS



Jason Troendle
Director of Operations and Engineering

15 YEARS



Ryan Wagner
Manager of Member Services

2024 INCENTIVE REBATES ANNOUNCED

As members shop in the new year, looking for energy efficient appliances will not only help reduce electricity use but can also save money. The 2024 ACEC ElectricSense incentives/rebates program is similar to 2023, offering rebates on items such as clothes washers, electric water heaters, HVAC units (air source heat pumps and geothermal units), lighting and more. The list of energy efficient items that are eligible for a rebate are printed on page 5 and can be found online at acrec.com/rebates.

"Listed on every form is the eligibility criteria for each category. Rebates begin at \$0.50 and go up to \$800. To receive the rebate, members must purchase a qualifying item, fill out the appropriate form and return the form and documentation to the Co-op within three months of purchase or installation (clarified on the form). Members must install the equipment within the Cooperative's service territory and, in most cases, must be ENERGY STAR® rated.



"It seems counterintuitive to ask members to use less of what we're trying to sell, but this is the Cooperative difference," said Ryan Wagner, ACEC Manager of Member Services. "We work hard to keep electricity rates stable and affordable for members, but the cheapest kilowatt-hour is the one that's not used. We want to encourage energy efficiency without sacrificing member comfort and convenience."

Some items must participate in ACEC's load/energy management program to qualify. Contact Ryan Wagner at 888-788-1551 for more details.

Even though 2024 has begun, members who made a qualifying energy efficient purchase in 2023 are still eligible for 2023 rebates, as long as all documentation is submitted within three months of the purchase or installation date, as specified on the rebate form. **#4491-XX**

Rebate forms are available at acrec.com/rebates. Please contact Ryan Wagner, rwagner@acrec.coop or 888-788-1551, with questions regarding ACEC's rebate program or general energy efficiency. ■



ACEC welcomed 21 students to our office in December to learn more about the various career paths available for work at a Cooperative. We enjoyed having the students and their teachers learn what we do to keep the lights on.

Summary of 2024 ElectricSense® Incentives



All incentive eligibility criteria for each measure is listed under the 'Eligibility Criteria' section of this guide

Agricultural/Commercial/Industrial

Commercial Vending Machine Controls		\$25	each
Circulation Fan	Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 pounds force/kW Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 pounds force/kW	\$1	inch
Exhaust Fan	Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP	\$1	inch
Electric Forklift Battery Charger	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$200	each
Dairy Plate Cooler / Well Water Pre-Cooler		\$500	each
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery with Electric Backup	Used with controlled electric water heater as defined by co-op	\$300	each
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer	≤ 500 watts, insulated tank	\$50	each
Scroll Refrigerant Compressor	\$1,000 cap per compressor	\$30	HP
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)	\$1,000 cap per drive	\$30	HP

Appliances

Clothes Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR, must be electric	\$25	each
Clothes Washer	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Dishwasher	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR and ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25	each
Inductive Range	All inductive ranges qualify	\$25	each
Refrigerator	Must be ENERGY STAR and ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25	each
Recycling - Freezer	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Recycling - Refrigerator	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Recycling - Room Air Conditioner	Must be working appliance	\$25	each

Audits/Assessments

Audit Recommended Improvements	\$500 cap	varies	each
Compressed Air Audit	\$500 cap	varies	each

Conservation

Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$400	each
Electric Vehicle Smart Charger with integrated metering	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$800	each
ElectricSense® New Home	Must meet 1 of 5 program/code requirements	\$500	each

HVAC & Heat Pump

Heat Pump - Air Source & Mini-Split	SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+ <u>OR</u> SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+	\$300	ton
Heat Pump - Commercial Air Source & PTHPs	< 20 tons: EER 11+ 20 to < 60 tons: EER 10.5+ ≥ 60 ton: EER 10+	\$300	ton
Heat Pump - Geothermal		\$500	ton
New Furnace with ECM Blower Motor	Variable speed motor (not multi-speed) "or" Eae ≤ 670 kWh/year	\$35	each
Smart Thermostat	Honeywell or Emerson brand thermostat Enrolled in Load Management	\$25	each

Lighting

LED Lamp	5 lamp minimum	\$0.50	lamp
LED Fixture		\$0.50	per 800 lumens
LED Exit Sign		\$5	sign
Occupancy Sensor	Doesn't include motion detector fixtures	\$5	each

Water Heating

Commercial Water Heater 75-99 gallons		\$150	each
Commercial Water Heater 100+ gallons		\$300	each
Residential Water Heater 75-99 gallons	Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$150	each
Residential Water Heater 100+ gallons	Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$300	each
Heat Pump Water Heater	Integrated (all-in-one) units, Uniform Energy Factor 2.20+	\$300	each

The required documentation listed below must be submitted no later than 3 months after purchase or installation:

- ✓ Incentive form (found at www.acrec.com).
- ✓ A copy of your receipt or invoice for each item with purchase price(s) circled.
- ✓ ENERGY STAR label for each item, if applicable.
- ✓ Documentation showing appliance was in working order prior to recycling, if applicable.

Incentive not to exceed equipment cost.



**Rebate forms
available at
www.acrec.com**

ACEC SHINES AT IAEC ANNUAL MEETING

Director Keleher elected to IAEC Board

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) conducted its 2023 Annual Meeting at the Sheraton West Des Moines Conference Center on December 7 and 8, with more than 350 registered attendees. Board directors and employees from Iowa's locally owned electric co-ops received informative updates from statewide board and staff in addition to learning about industry trends and best practices from invited speakers.

During the business meeting portion of the annual meeting, two directors were elected to the IAEC Board:

Jerry Keleher of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative was elected to serve a three-year term representing District 3 following Roger Solomonson's departure, and Gordon Greimann of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative was reelected to serve a three-year term representing District 6.



Jerry Keleher



Olivia Marti

The IAEC Annual Meeting is also an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the electric industry and future trends that may impact rural Iowa's economy and quality of life. Among the many presentations and educational sessions, Iowa's current Youth Leadership Council representative **Olivia Marti, sponsored by Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative**, talked about the importance of the 7 Cooperative Principles.

The statewide association also honored several electric co-op employees and directors who celebrated 25 years of service in 2023, including **ACEC's Derrick Peters**. "Derrick has been an asset to Allamakee-Clayton REC and its membership. His knowledge and expertise are invaluable to the cooperative. Derrick has always put the benefit of the membership first," said ACEC's Jason Troendle.



Derrick Peters

"Derrick is meticulous in his work. Everything he does, he truly gives 100% effort and care. I'm so grateful for Derrick's dedication to Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative," said Hollee McCormick.



Jeni Kolsrud

IAEC celebrated the first 15 graduates of its new Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP) for emerging leaders. Participants committed to a yearlong calendar of in-person, virtual and on-demand training sessions where they gained leadership skills and learned about various co-op roles. Congratulations to **ACEC's Jeni Kolsrud** on her graduation.

"Jeni is such an asset to Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative. Her involvement with CLIP will even further her leadership skills and I'm so proud of her constant 'can-do' attitude!" said Hollee. ■

CYBER SECURITY

Tip of the MONTH

The first step toward bringing cybercriminals to justice is to report cybercrime when it happens. Who should you contact? Local law enforcement, your workplace's IT department, your email provider, the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC), depending on severity. If you are a victim of identity theft, you can receive additional help through the FTC hotline at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338). Find more recourses aimed at individuals, businesses and law enforcement at [identitytheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov).

Sponsored by



MEMBER RECIPES

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jennifer Achenbach, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email jachenbach@acrec.coop.

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed. Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before the intended publication.

February – **BRUNCH**; March – **MARCH MADNESS APPETIZERS**; April – **AIR FRYER RECIPES**



PEANUT BUTTER CUP OVERNIGHT OATS

- 2 c. old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 c. unsweetened almond milk
- 1 c. whole milk plain, strained
- 1/3 c. crunchy natural peanut butter, well stirred
- 5 Tbsp. mini semisweet chocolate chips, divided
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 tsp. unrefined coconut oil
- 1/4 tsp. flaky sea salt

Directions

Whisk oats, almond milk, yogurt, peanut butter, 2 tablespoons chocolate chips and vanilla together in a large bowl until combined. Refrigerate, uncovered, until set and slightly thickened, about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, stir the remaining 3 tablespoons chocolate chips and coconut oil together in a small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 45 to 60 seconds; stir until the chocolate chips are completely melted and incorporated into the oil. Divide the oat mixture among 4 (8 ounce) jars, about 1 cup each. Spoon about 2 teaspoons of the melted chocolate chip mixture over each jar, tilting to cover the entire surface. Refrigerate, uncovered, until the chocolate layer is just set, about 10 minutes. Sprinkle with flaky salt; cover and refrigerate until the oatmeal has thickened and the chocolate layer is fully set, at least 12 hours or up to 4 days.

■ www.eatingwell.com

AIR FRYER SWEET POTATO CHIPSS

- 1 large (8 oz.) sweet potato
- 1 Tbsp. canola oil
- 1/4 tsp. sea salt
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- Cooking spray

Directions

Slice potato into 1/16th inch thick rounds using a mandolin. Put potato slices in a large bowl of cold water; soak about 20 minutes. Drain and pat dry with paper towels. Wipe out bowl. Return potato slices to dried bowl. Add oil, salt, pepper; toss gently to coat. Preheat air fryer to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly coat air fryer basket with cooking

spray. Working in batches if needed, arrange potato slices in an even layer in basket (do not overcrowd). Cook until lightly golden and crispy, 12 to 16 minutes, turning and rearranging chips into an even layer every 4 minutes. Watch closely during the last 2 to 3 minutes of cooking. Check chips about every 30 seconds, using tongs to remove golden chips from the basket as needed to avoid overcooking and ending up with bitter chips. Let the chips cool about 5 minutes. Chips will continue to crisp as they cool. Store in an airtight container up to 3 days.

■ www.eatingwell.com

EASY TURKEY CHILI

- 1 1/2 tsp. olive oil
- 1 lb. ground turkey
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 c. water
- 1 (28 oz.) can crushed tomato
- 1 (16 oz.) can kidney beans – drained, rinsed and mashed
- 1 Tbsp. garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp. ground cayenne pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper

Directions

Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add turkey; cook and stir until evenly browned, 6 to 8 minutes. Stir in onion and cook until tender. Add water; mix in tomatoes, kidney beans, and garlic. Stir in chili powder, paprika, oregano, cayenne pepper, cumin, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer for 30 minutes.

■ www.allrecipes.com

AIR FRYER FISH TACOS WITH AVOCADO SALSA

- 4 6-oz. skinless cod fillets
- 1 (1 oz.) packet taco seasoning
- Olive oil cooking spray
- 1 rip avocado, halved, pitted and flesh scooped

- 1/2 c. cool water
- 1/4 c. chopped white onion
- 1/4 c. packed fresh cilantro leaves, plus more for serving
- 2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
- 1/2 tsp. (or more) kosher salt
- 1 jalapeño, stemmed, seeded and thinly sliced, divided
- 12 corn tortillas, warmed
- 1/2 c. shredded red cabbage
- 1/2 c. crumbled queso fresco or feta
- Lime wedges, for serving

Directions

Pat cod dry with paper towels; season all over with taco seasoning. Lightly coat an air fryer basket with cooking spray. Working in batches, arrange cod in a single layer in basket, spacing about 1/2 in. apart; coat with cooking spray. Cook at 350°, flipping halfway through, until cod is just cooked through and easily flakes with a fork, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer to a plate. Meanwhile, in a food processor, pulse avocado, water, onion, cilantro, lime juice, salt and half of jalapeño until smooth; season with more salt, if desired. Using a fork, flake cod into bite-sized pieces. Divide cod among tortillas. Top with avocado sauce, cabbage, queso fresco, and remaining jalapeño. Serve with lime wedges alongside. ■ www.delish.com

PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update



DECEMBER

Number of miles driven: **275 miles**

kWh's charged: **70 kWh**

Total cost to charge
.13 x 70kWh = **\$9.10**



FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to **Sabrina Schmitt** of Hawkeye for finding her service number in a past newsletter. The Cooperative awarded her a \$17.50 bill credit.



ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from different regions of our service area – **one is worth \$17.50, one is worth \$10 and one is worth \$5.** The service location number must be yours to claim the credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.

CONTACT ACEC

HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715
Postville, IA 52162

PHONE NUMBERS

LOCAL 563-864-7611

TOLL-FREE 888-788-1551

PAYMENT LINE 24/7 833-284-5051

UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING
811

SKYWAYS INTERNET SOLUTIONS
800-864-1611

WEBSITE

acrec.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

OUTAGES

888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

IOWA STATE ONE CALL

811

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JEFF BRADLEY, President, Wadena

MICHAEL D. GIBBS, Vice President, Waterville

CINDY HEFFERN, Sec./Treas., Harpers Ferry

ROGER ARTHUR, Sumner

NELSON CONVERSE, Postville

GREG FORMANEK, Farmersburg

JERRY KELEHER, Elkader

AL STEFFENS, Clermont

BRICE WOOD, Lansing

MANAGEMENT STAFF

HOLLEE McCORMICK, EVP/General Manager

DAVID DECKER, Director,
Finance & Administrative Services

BRENDA HACKMAN, Manager, Economic
Development & Community Relations

JENI KOLSRUD, Manager, Information
Technology

JENNIFER ACHENBACH, Manager,
Marketing & Communications

JASON TROENDLE, Director,
Operations & Engineering

RYAN WAGNER, Manager, Member Services



STAY CONNECTED



Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 715 - Postville, IA 52162-0715

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
DPC

Don't Miss Out on Our D.C. Trip & Scholarship

Youth Tour 2024

High school sophomore and junior members are eligible to apply for an opportunity for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. as a part of the annual Cooperative Youth Tour. Two students from ACEC will travel with other delegates from Iowa Cooperatives for a whirlwind tour through the nation's capital June 15-21. To be eligible, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be a member of the Cooperative. Applications are available through area high school guidance counselors, at the ACEC office or at www.acrec.com. **Application deadline is January 31, 2024.** For more information, contact Jennifer Achenbach at 888-788-1551. ■



Hauschild Scholarship 2024

Current graduating high school seniors are eligible to apply for a scholarship through the Cooperative. The Hauschild Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1995 in memory of former ACEC director Robert "Bill" Hauschild by his wife and family.

To be eligible, students must be planning to continue studies in an electric-related field. Parent(s) or guardian(s) do not need to be members of ACEC; however, they must reside within the boundaries of our service area.

Details are available at www.acrec.com. **Application deadline is February 29, 2024.** For more information, contact Jennifer Achenbach at 888-788-1551. ■

#6636



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 