

ACEC NEWS

DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 12



Happy Holidays





A MESSAGE FROM Your General Manager

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

SMALL CHANGE CAN CHANGE LIVES

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Co-op, you can help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our new Operation Round Up program, your donations help local organizations, local families, and individuals in need.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Co-op to the nearest dollar and donate it to this fund, you are making a significant difference in someone's life. You are helping our local communities. With an average donation of approximately \$6 per year, this is an easy way to help out.

Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations and other giving projects have supported local schools and young people, fed hungry families, enabled families in need to keep the lights on and so much more. The new option through Operation Round Up allows you, our members, to be involved in the process.

You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle "concern for community" is part of our DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity

to this community in 1938, the quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in our local communities. It's why we decided to participate and set up our own Operation Round Up.

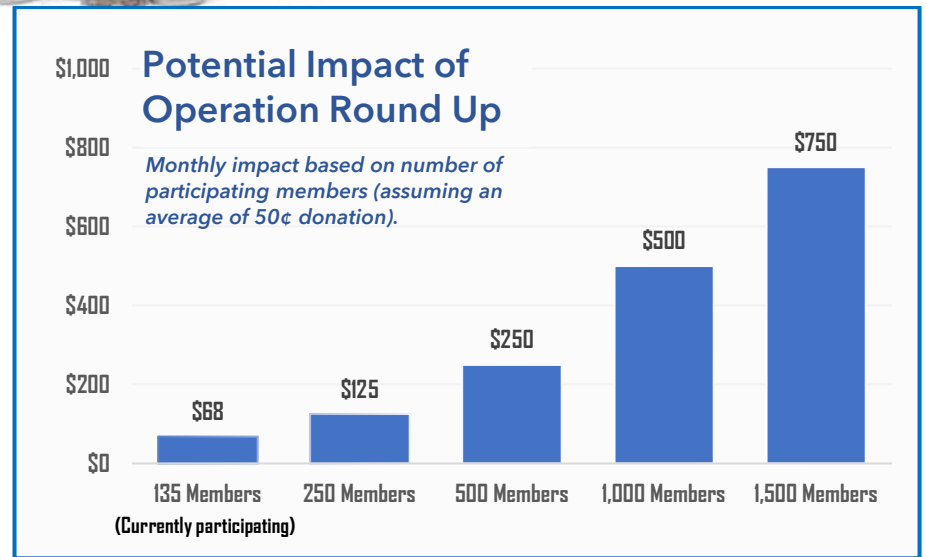
Although we're just getting started with Operation Round Up, across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together, they have raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!

To learn more about Operation Round Up, visit www.acrec.com/operationroundup

Operation Round Up gives Allamakee-Clayton Electric members the option of having their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar every month, with those extra few cents going to benefit people in need within the co-op's service territory.

TURN YOUR COINS INTO CHANGE



BOARD BRIEFS | November 28, 2022 Meeting

- Approved an RC&D Cost Share Application for \$500 to help communicate Northeast Iowa bike trail information
- Received information from a recent visit to our headquarters by the co-op's insurer (Federated Rural Electric Insurance)
- Approved Cogeneration and Small Production Electric Tariff solar application fee changes
- Approved conversion of line of credit to long-term debt
- Received strategic planning update from management staff
- Approved changes to Board Policy 9-9 (Method of Handling Personnel Problems) and Board Policy 8-5 (Vacation Accrual)

IN LOVING
MEMORY

Luke Hackman

It is with a heavy heart that we share devastating news of the death of our friend and colleague, Luke Hackman on Nov. 27. Luke had been a great co-worker in our Skyways internet department for the past 8+ years. His technical expertise and friendship will be missed.

Luke was born on June 13, 1986, to Rick and Donna (Lensing) Hackman in Decorah, IA. He grew up south of Protivin, attending Holy Trinity Elementary and graduated from Turkey Valley High School in 2005. He attended NICC in Calmar where he earned his associates degree in Computer Technology. He helped on his parents' farm and had numerous other jobs before finding an enjoyable career as an IT Broadband Technician at Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative.

Luke and Brandi enjoyed sixteen beautiful years together, married 8 years (October 25, 2014). Luke adored their children: Hadley (August 28, 2017) and Lincoln (March 8, 2019). Luke and Brandi took the kids on camping trips on weekends during the summer months, loving the family time and the outdoors. He also enjoyed hiking, taking the top off his Jeep Wrangler, and fishing. He enjoyed technology and had many gadgets. They recently started raising chickens. Luke waited with Hadley each morning to get on the school bus and picked her up every afternoon. His kids loved him dearly but understand that Daddy is reunited in heaven with their beloved pup, Indy. He was a steady, calm man. He may have seemed quiet to some, but if you got him talking about something he was interested in, he could talk your ear off.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his wife Brandi, children Hadley & Lincoln, and their families.



FALL LEGISLATIVE VISIT



Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative hosted a Fall Legislative Meeting on Tues., Nov. 29. We appreciated having state and federal legislators attending to learn more about important issues to rural electric cooperatives.

Front row l-r: Jeff Bradley, ACEC board president; Clare Gill, district representative for Congresswoman Ashley Hinson; Jennifer Shilling, Dairyland Power Cooperative government relations manager; Brenda Hackman, ACEC's economic development manager.

Back row l-r: Ryan Wagner, ACEC's member services manager, Jenny Kuderer-Radcliffe, Dairyland Power Cooperative Senior Economic Development Specialist; Rep. Michael Bergan—District 55; Hollee McCormick, ACEC general manager; Rochelle Fuller, regional director for Senator Grassley; Brittney Zumbach Carroll, outreach director for Senator Ernst, Rep. Chad Ingels—District 64; and Senator Mike Klimesh—District 28

Topics of discussion included:

- The Cooperative's Mission, guiding principles, business model and service territory
- Presentation by Dairyland Power Cooperative
- All The Above Energy Strategy
- Fiber Internet Projects
- Economic Development in our service territory and northeast Iowa
- Current Legislative Issues effecting the electric industry

- Biofuels and EV's | WE SUPPORT BOTH
- Energy Efficiency
- Inflation Reduction Act
- Federal and State Matters
- Partnering together and providing resources

The Co-op expresses our gratitude for our area legislators' interest in energy policies that will help maintain affordable, reliable, and safe electricity. **#1355-14**

CO-OP CAREER DAY

Numerous career opportunities available at an electric cooperative

Area high school sophomores, juniors and seniors from Postville, MFL MarMac, New Hampton, North Fayette Valley, Turkey Valley, and Waukon high schools joined together at the Cooperative in Postville, on Nov. 19, to participate in Co-op Career Day. Northeast Iowa Community College coordinated the event through the co-op for students to learn more about electric co-op career opportunities.

“As a cooperative and as a business that supports many communities, we want to do all we can to educate future generations on the many career opportunities in northeast Iowa. Our employees look forward to having the students come every year. The students are always surprised how many careers there are at the co-op and by the different backgrounds of our employees,” said Brenda Hackman, ACEC’s manager of economic development and community relations.



20 high school juniors and seniors participated in Co-op Career Day at ACEC last month

All of the students participate in NICC's College & Career Connection (CCC), which is a program that exposes students to careers and sets them on the pathway to educational success beyond high school. The program provides work-based learning opportunities for students in partnership with local businesses. For more information on CCC, contact Stephanie Dennler at dennlers@nicc.edu.



The students along with Gena Gesing, NICC Manager of Career & Work Based Learning Initiatives and Judy Lechtenberg, New Hampton high school resource teacher, began the day with a tour of the Co-op's headquarter offices including a walk-through of the 34,000 square-foot garage that houses the electric car, bucket trucks, digger trucks and other cooperative vehicles. Next, ACEC employees representing a variety of departments described their background and current job duties and discussed what led them down their career paths.

Check out the CAREER opportunities at an Electric Cooperative!

- Accounting
- Arboriculture
- Billing
- Communications
- Community Relations
- Custodial Services
- Customer Service
- Economic Development
- Engineering
- Fleet (Vehicle) Services
- Information Technology
- Inventory Control
- Power Line Worker
- Management
- Marketing
- Member Services
- Metering
- Operations
- Safety
- Staking
- Technician

Board Returns \$594,449 to Members Through Patronage Dividends

IN A CO-OP, EVERY MEMBER GETS A PIECE OF THE PIE



YOUR SHARE OF THE MARGINS

2022 CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS MAILED 12/15/2022

Capital credits represent your ownership in Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative and are one of the most unique and rewarding benefits you enjoy as a member of an electric cooperative.

This year, the board of directors approved the distribution of **\$594,448.80** in patronage dividends to members and former members who purchased electricity from us in 2000, 2001, and 2021. This distribution includes patronage dividends from Dairyland Power Cooperative (\$192,388.90 for 1995, 1996, and 1997) and our DBS division (\$91,877.57 for 2004).



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH TOUR

Each year Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative chooses two students to represent the Cooperative on Youth Tour. 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 or at www.acrec.com. Application deadline is January 31, 2023.



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 17-23!

Area students interested in government and public service are encouraged to apply. Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



Youth Tour and scholarship applications are accessible on the Cooperative's website at www.acrec.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Applications for our 2023 Hauschild Scholarship program are now available at www.acrec.com.



HAUSCHILD SCHOLARSHIP

Current graduating 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 and parent(s) or guardian(s) must be members of ACEC.

Details are available on the Cooperative's website at www.acrec.com or by calling 888-788-1551. Application deadline is February 28, 2023.

#2708A

REMINDER - 2022 Rebate requests must be submitted by December 29, 2022

USDA Revolving Loan Funds and Grants Make a Difference

Lending more than **\$5.5 million** since 2002

Utility-sponsored Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) and USDA Rural Economic Development Grants and Loans (REDG & REDL) can make a difference to community infrastructure and business growth. These programs exist to promote rural economic development and support job creation.

Since 2002, Allamakee-Clayton Electric has sponsored 24 RLF loans, all of them initially funded from 5 USDA REDG grants. Recipients of the funding include medical facilities, fire and rescue organizations, manufacturers, educational projects, other commercial businesses, and industries throughout northeast Iowa communities. Once the loans are repaid, funds are available for new recipients. Multiple local recipients benefit from the same initial grant.

ACEC has assisted with 4 Rural Economic Development Loans (REDL), also known as pass through loans, which are passed to the recipient and back to the USDA through ACEC.

These three programs combined have allowed more than \$5.5 million to be loaned out to businesses and organizations throughout our communities.

\$2,220,000

4 REDL pass through loans

A Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) from USDA funds recipient through ACEC.

ALLAMAKEE-CLAYTON ELECTRIC

Recipient receives loan and repays USDA through ACEC.

\$1,491,400

5 REDG Grants

ACEC applies for a grant to establish a revolving loan fund.

The first loan is made to the recipient; recipient repays ACEC. ACEC uses repayments from REDGs and RLFs to fund numerous future RLF loan recipients.

\$1,814,001

19 RLF Loans

ACEC lends "revolved" loan funds out to rural business expansion or other community projects at low interest, filling a financing gap and facilitating economic development projects.

If the co-op ever ends the program, it will repay the amounts of the initial REDGs back to the USDA.

ACEC, through its revolving loan fund, is committed to improving the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to long-term improvements in the local economy. For more information, contact Brenda Hackman, Manager of Economic Development & Community Relations (ph. 563-864-7611 or bhackman@acrec.coop).

Level 2 EV Chargers Installed at Harpers Ferry and Elkader



Level 2 EV Charger Installed in Harpers Ferry



Level 2 EV Charger Installed at Osborne Nature Center in Elkader

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative recently collaborated with Dairyland Power Cooperative and 31 other electric cooperatives, to form CHARGE EV, LLC. This partnership stretches from Minnesota and Wisconsin to Iowa and Illinois. It represents the opportunity to help build a regional charging network of EV drivers living or visiting our area.

The Dairyland Board of Directors voted to allocate funds to each cooperative for the installation of EV chargers in cooperative service territories. These funds were used to purchase and install two new Level 2 11.5 Kw Dual Head chargers. ACEC installed chargers on 1st St. in Harpers Ferry and at the Osborne Nature Center in Elkader.

Chargers are accessible with credit card or with a ZEFNET Charge phone app. If you have any questions, contact Ryan at 563-864-7611 or rwagner@acrec.coop. # 6566



Happy Holidays!

Our office will be closed on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2



CHEWY CRAISIN BARS *Nancy Moon*

- 1 C. Butter
- ½ C. Brown Sugar
- ½ C. White Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 1 T. Orange Flavor
- 1 ¼ C. Flour
- 1 T. Soda
- 1 ½ C. Quick Oats
- 6 oz. Craisins (dried cranberries)
- 1 C. Chopped Nuts

Cream sugars and butter until light and fluffy. Blend in eggs and orange flavor. Add combined flour and soda, mix well. Stir in oats until moistened. Add Craisins and nuts and mix until coated. Spread in a greased 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350° for 20-30 minutes. Cool and cut into bars. Store tightly covered.

CRANBERRY BREAD *Martha Bartenhagen*

- ½ Tsp. Baking Soda
- 2 Tsp. Hot Water
- 2 C. Flour
- 2 Tsp. Melted Shortening
- 1 ½ Tsp. Baking Powder
- ½ C. Orange Juice
- ½ Tsp. Salt
- ½ C. Chopped Walnuts
- 1 C. Sugar
- 1 C. Raw Cranberries
- 1 Egg

Dissolve soda in hot water. Mix all ingredients together except cranberries and nuts; stir in cranberries and nuts last. Recipe makes one large loaf or use soup cans and fill them not more than 2/3 full. Preheat oven to 350° and bake for 1 hour and 10 minutes (large loaf) or for 40-55 minutes (small cans).

If you double the recipe, it will make 4 small loaves and 2 mini loaves. Mom always made these at Christmas time and gave them away as gifts.



Federal Tax Credits Available for Energy Efficiency Projects

In August 2022, the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit and the High Efficiency-Electric Home Rebate Program became law. What does this mean for you?

If you made energy efficiency upgrades in 2022, you might be eligible for a Federal Income Tax Credit of 10% of the cost up to \$500 (lifetime credit limit). Tell your tax advisor or accountant about any energy efficiency improvements made at your principal residence in 2022. To view a complete list of available tax credits, visit www.energystar.gov.

Starting in January 2023 and each year through 2032, eligible households can claim a tax credit of 30% of the cost of qualified energy efficiency projects, up to \$1,200 per year.

Subject to the following caps:

- \$600 for Energy Star exterior windows and skylights
- \$250 for Energy Star exterior doors (or \$500 limit for all exterior doors)
- \$600 for the highest efficiency tier for central air conditioners and other qualified gas, propane, or electric HVAC systems and electrical upgrades that enable the energy-efficiency upgrade
- \$150 for home energy audits
- \$2,000 for electric heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, biomass stoves, and boilers. The tax credit for installing heat pumps or heat pump water heaters does not count towards the annual \$1,200 limit.

The details of the more complex income-based High Efficiency-Electric Rebates and Whole Home Performance have not been released yet. The State of Iowa will administer these programs.



PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update

NOVEMBER

Number of miles driven: **89 miles**

kWh Used: **163**

Cost to Charge: **163 kWh x \$0.123 = \$20.05**



FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to Stephanie and Bryce Hanson, Hawkeye, who found their service number in the past newsletter; the Cooperative awarded them a \$5 bill credit.

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter.

The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – one \$5 bill credit and two \$10 bill credits. The Service Location number must be yours to claim the credit, and you need to notify us when you find it by calling the office at 563-864-7611.



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

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Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 715 - Postville, IA 52162-0715

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SOLAR POWER

Is it right for my home?

Stepping Towards Solar

Get a **FREE Solar Analysis** from ACEC

Consider All of the Costs

- Cost to purchase solar equipment
- Cost of installation
- Financing charges
- Additional insurance costs
- Solar equipment maintenance cost

Consider These Before Purchasing

- ACEC Net Metering Policy
- Solar power is dependent on weather
- Do you have enough space for solar panels
- Check with your insurance provider before construction
- Pick contractors with solar experience
- Review all contracts to insure all costs are included
- Request multiple bids from contractors and compare

Before Installing and Connecting

- Complete and submit a copy of the standard interconnection agreement
- Contact ACEC to schedule a site visit to commission the installation. Ensure array is tested and operational before ACEC arrives.



Single Phase General Service Basic Service Charge

\$39.00

ACEC monthly basic service charge still applies even if no electricity is purchased.

Potential Benefits

- ✓ Monthly Bill Reduction
- ✓ Improve Home Resale Value
- ✓ Generate Your Own Power
- ✓ Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

30%

Federal Tax Credit Until 2034



1-563-864-7611



rwagner@acrec.coop



STAY CONNECTED

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

