ACEC NEWS

JUNE 2025 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 06

NOW & THEN

ACEC PICNIC JUNE 26

WHAT IS 1 MEGAWATT?

LET'S SHINE THE LIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Hollee McCormick
EVP/General Manager

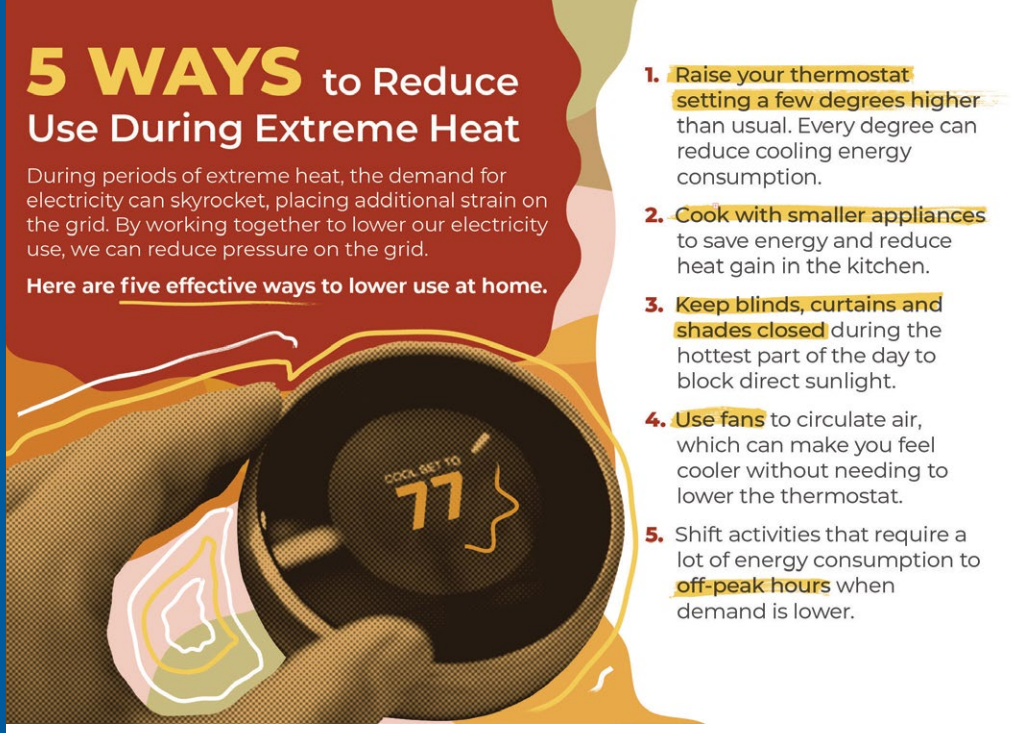
EXTREME SUMMER TEMPS IMPACT RELIABILITY

When outdoor temperatures soar, our electricity use increases. That's because our air conditioners are running longer and more often to counteract sweltering outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Dairyland Power, our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In summer months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if a prolonged heat wave occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call on consumers to actively reduce their energy use or initiate rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid. ACEC will always keep you informed about situations like this.

We work proactively with Dairyland Power to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.



To help keep the air conditioner running for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid during times of extreme summer heat:

- Select the highest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it up several degrees whenever possible. Your cooling system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.
  - **Pro tip:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your cooling system to work harder than necessary.
- Run major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers during off-peak hours when the demand for electricity is lower.
  - **Pro tip:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed.
- Use ceiling fans to make yourself feel a few degrees cooler. Remember, ceiling fans cool people (not rooms), so turn them off in unoccupied rooms.
  - **Pro tip:** During summer months, set ceiling fan blades to rotate counterclockwise, which pushes cool air down for a windchill effect.
- Close blinds, curtains and shades during the hottest part of the day to block unwanted heat gain from sunlight.
  - **Pro tip:** Consider blackout curtains with thermal backing or reflective lining to block heat and light.
- Use smaller appliances, such as slow cookers, air fryers and toaster ovens to cook meals.
  - **Pro tip:** Studies have shown that air fryers use about half the amount of electricity than a full-sized oven. Air fryers are smaller and use focused heat, which results in faster cooking times, less heat output and lower energy use.

Summer often brings soaring temperatures, so understanding the impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme heat, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the grid, keeping our local community cool and connected. ■

Let's Shine a Light on our Communities

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Allamakee-Clayton REC encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest is accepting nominations now until the end of June. Three winners will be selected to receive a $3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit. **#H365-14C2S**

"We've been truly inspired by the growth of this contest in our first five years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're excited to once again give out three charity donations of $3,000 each this year to recognize local volunteer efforts across the state."

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers in June. If you receive electricity from ACEC, you're a co-op member-consumer and we invite you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians. Nominees from previous years can be nominated again for another chance to win.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine and on social media.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted until midnight on June 30. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider honoring a local volunteer by making a nomination. ■

SHINE THE LIGHT

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa

Nominate a local volunteer and they could win $3,000 for their charity!

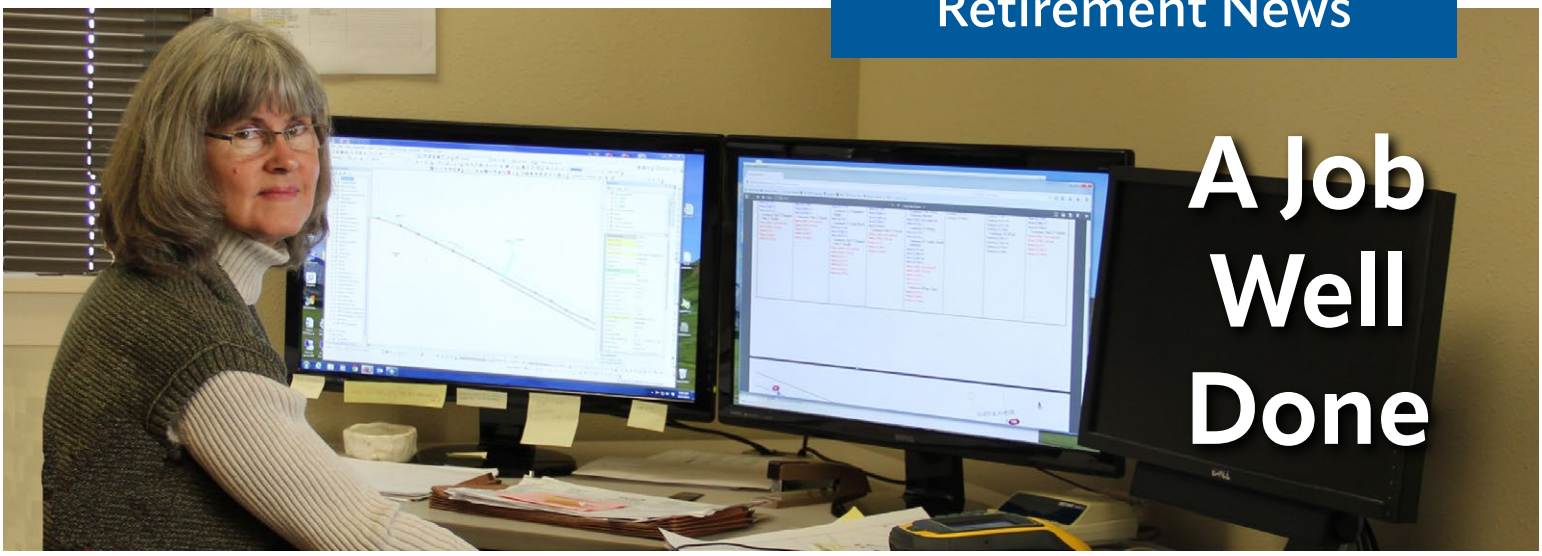
Contest entries accepted during June at **IowaShineTheLight.com**

Each year, the current ACEC Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee to select candidates to run for the board. This year's nominating committee gathered May 22 to choose candidates for election at the September Annual Meeting. Look for the candidate biographies in the ACEC annual report, hitting the mail in August.

Thank you to the nominating committee, from left, front row – Peggy Connor, Hawkeye; Andy Shull, Waukon; Matt Byrnes, Dorchester; Darcy Radloff, Postville. Back row – Mike Poratz, Sumner; Sandy Klosterman, West Union; Cindy Koons, Guttenberg; Kay Kent, Hawkeye; Diane Kraus, Postville; Peter Kiel, Harpers Ferry.

BOARD BRIEFS May 28 Meeting

- Reviewed Power Cost Adjustment
- Reviewed and approved allocation of 2024 Net Earnings: $81,994.21
- Approved a long-term loan advance
- Approved appointment of nominating committee
- Reviewed and approved policies: 9.2 Harassment; 9.3 Safety & Occupational Health; 9.4 Ethics & Conflict of Interest; 6.2 Use of Cooperative Computer Systems, Electronic Equipment & Communication Systems
- Conducted Annual Review of General Manager **#5571-19**



A Job Well Done

After 21 years with ACEC, Susan Goodman recently celebrated her retirement, with her last day on May 30.

Susan started part-time in the engineering and staking department, back in the days where cooperative service maps were hand-drawn. She leaves the co-op as our engineering supervisor, having changed the way we view mapping.

A Career Surveying

Growing up in California, Susan developed a passion for the outdoors. She said her brother had a Scout master who was a surveyor and that concept fascinated her. Knowing she wanted a career that blended indoor and outdoor work, she majored in surveying and photogrammetry at California State University – Fresno.

Susan began her career at the Alameda County Public Works Agency in Hayward, California, where she worked as a surveying technician.

After five years, she and her husband, Dale, moved to the Midwest to Strawberry Point, where Dale began work as the director of EWALU Camp and Retreat Center. Susan helped with bookwork at EWALU while also raising their two sons. In 2004, Susan applied for a position in the operations department of the Co-op. She impressed then-General Manager Paul Foxwell, who reached out to ask if she'd be interested in helping the Co-op with its Geographic Information System (GIS). Susan had taken GIS classes and had some experience with it so she felt like it was a good fit. She began her career at the Co-op in February 2004.

"They had had a university kind of start the process of mapping the system, but it was a very rough starting point. Paul was looking for someone to take it on," she said. **#4715-10**

Paper copies

When she began at the Co-op, mapping details were all hand-drawn and had a color-code to differentiate.

"They really didn't have an idea of what it would look like, but Paul said that he'd like to have a map that would really drive the operations team. He didn't know how that would happen or what it would look like so he let me do what I wanted to do," she said.

"The first day we sat down and he said here's the map. It was a copied map that had been hand drawn. You had to make a copy of it and you had to color the phasing of the whole thing. I did that for about

half a day and then I thought, well, this is dumb. So I started to work with the map and try to get it to represent what our lines are."

Susan noted there was a digital version in their GIS but it was very rough. She opted to take that starting point and work to edit it so it more closely resembled what was out in the field, adding the power lines and other information as she went.

"At first, I didn't have the aerials to see anything so one of the first projects was to make marks on the paper copies and get it pretty close," she said. "Then the line crew would come back with updates so between us, we got the map so it was pretty close and we could just add more information to it as we go to get it more accurate."

At the time, Susan also went out in the field frequently to help with staking as the equipment required two people. Susan said you had an instrument person and a rod person. Because that was her background, Susan said she spent about half of her work time helping ACEC's Pat McNally with staking.

What is the Staking Engineer?

Susan works closely with Aandi Deering, the Co-op's staking engineer. As she explains, everything Aandi does in our service territory needs to go onto the map of the entire system. That way all of the line crew can see the entire system from their iPads. That includes the size of the poles, the assembly units on the poles, etc. Having an accurate map helps in many ways, including pulling the correct supplies to repair an outage quickly.

Susan has also used her surveying

background to assist Aandi and the Co-op with choosing software programs that work well for the linemen as well as for staking.

"We need to have a program that works well when Aandi's trying to figure out if the lines are high enough or if the strength of the pole is good," she explained.

Reflection

In her 21-year career, Susan has seen a large growth in how the Co-op functions from an operations standpoint.

"We started out with paper maps and then we evolved to the iPads and now the outage maps are also on the iPads and so are the inspections. We've used technology a lot to make it easier," she said.

Seeing her work in use every day by multiple departments has been a highlight for Susan.

"I feel good about the inspection maps. I think it's been a game changer so I'm glad that the guys have it available now," she said.

Susan is looking forward to spending more time with Dale and their boys, Peder and Corey. They're excited for the freedom to be with their family, travel more and enjoy more camping trips.

As she reflected on her final days, Susan was happy with her overall career accomplishments.

"It's been amazing to work in a career where I've actually used what I studied. A lot of people don't get that opportunity," she said. "I just feel really lucky to have found this." ■

FirstCall Emergency Response System

The personal response system from Allamakee-Clayton Electric that ensures you get the help you need with a push of a button

Call 888-788-1551 to learn more

ALLAMAKEE CLAYTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Local customer service

FIRSTCALL Emergency Response System

Nearly 30 advocates from Iowa's electric cooperatives, including ACEC's Jerry Keleher, recently traveled to Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual Legislative Conference. During the trip, they met with all six members of Iowa's Congressional Delegation. During the NRECA Legislative Conference, more than 2,000 electric co-op leaders were briefed on key legislative priorities, including a push for smart energy policy to ensure reliable, affordable power for the members we serve.

IT'S PICNIC TIME!

You're invited to our 4th annual

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

3:30-6:30 PM

Postville Big Four Fairgrounds

All members are invited to join the ACEC staff for a fun family event, featuring a complimentary meal, an opportunity to win prizes, activities for kids, and a chance to chat with fellow members, staff and our Board of Directors.

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.

July – BEVERAGES; SEPTEMBER – SIDE DISHES

Best Mexican Shrimp Cocktail

1 ¼ lb. large shrimp (26-30 per pound), peeled, deveined and tails removed
1 c. Clamato juice
½ c. ketchup
3 Tbsp. lime juice
2 tsp. hot sauce, plus extra for serving (optional)
¼ tsp. salt
½ English cucumber, diced into ½ in. pieces
3 ribs celery, diced into ½ in. pieces
1 c. finely chopped red onion
1 avocado, halved, pitted and cut into ½ in. pieces
1 mango, diced into ½ in. pieces
1 can diced water chestnuts
¼ c. chopped fresh cilantro
Saltines

Directions

Bring 3 c. water to boil in a large saucepan, over high heat. Stir in shrimp, cover and let stand off heat until opaque, about 5 minutes. Shake saucepan, halfway through. Transfer shrimp to large bowl with ice and water. Let cool for 3-5 minutes. Once cool, cut each shrimp into 3 pieces. Combine Clamato, ketchup, lime juice, hot sauce (optional) and salt in a medium bowl. Add cucumber, onion, shrimp, celery and water chestnuts. Stir in avocado, mango and cilantro. Serve in individual bowls, pass saltines and extra hot sauce.

■ *Sheila Simmonds, Lansing*

CYBER SECURITY Tip of the MONTH

Keep a Clean Machine

Every click, post and account sign-in leaves a trace online, along with almost everything else you do on the web. These small bits of information can be used to learn more about you than you realize, especially when added together. This is called your "digital footprint" – the trail of data you leave behind as you navigate the internet. One way to stay aware – Google yourself! Search your name on major search engines to see what others can find about you online. If you use AI platforms like ChatGPT or Google Gemini, it might also be worth checking. Additionally, plug your email address into Have I Been Pawned to see if it's been involved in a data breach. If it has, change your password ASAP. ■

~ Courtesy of staysafeonline.org

Sponsored by
AC SKYWAYS
INTERNET SOLUTIONS
BY ALLAMAKEE ■ CLAYTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to **Michael Mahoney,** Waukon, and **Edward Franzen,** West Union! Both members spotted their service numbers in a recent ACEC News and were awarded a $10 bill credit. ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from different regions of our service area – **all three are worth $5.00.** 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
AL STEFFENS, President, Clermont
MICHAEL D. GIBBS, Vice President, Waterville
CINDY HEFFERN, Sec./Treas., Harpers Ferry
ROGER ARTHUR, Sumner
JEFF BRADLEY, Wadena
NELSON CONVERSE, Postville
GREG FORMANEK, Farmersburg
JERRY KELEHER, Elkader
BRICE WOOD, Lansing

MANAGEMENT STAFF
HOLLEE McCORMICK, EVP/General Manager
JENNIFER ACHENBACH, Manager, Marketing & Communications
DAVID DECKER, Director, Finance & Administrative Services
BRENDA HACKMAN, Manager, Economic Development & Community Relations
JENI KOLSRUD, Manager, Information Technology
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

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
DPC

What Is 1 MW?

First in a series

Exploding demand for electricity, lingering supply chain challenges and short-sighted public policy aimed at rapidly eliminating fossil fuels from power generation have forced large portions of the United States to confront unprecedented power shortages and soaring costs. This series of info-graphics will look at the most critical elements at play in this time of transition for our industry and our society. This month, we examine the familiar measurement of 1 megawatt and how much power is needed to supply common facilities in our communities.