

acec NEWS

September 2021
Volume 23 / Issue 9



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



MEMBERS APPRECIATE ANNUAL MEETING DRIVE-THROUGH



DIRECTORS ELECTED



Jeff Bradley, Wadena



*Nelson Converse,
Postville*



Jerry Keleher, Elkader

**PLUGGED IN –
Electric Vehicle Update**

**LT. GOVERNOR
VISITS ACEC**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY POWERS QUALITY OF LIFE

We held our second Drive-Through Annual Meeting this month, and it was nice to see many of you! I thank our members who took the time to mail in your ballot, and I am grateful for the opportunity to see members who came through the drive-through. This year we had our Tesla Model 3 on display for members interested in or contemplating the purchase of an EV. We plan to update members of our experience with the Tesla EV in the PLUGGED IN section you will read on the adjacent page. Also, the Cooperative is planning an EV open house this spring, so please watch for more information about that event in the coming months.

I want to talk this month about how electricity powers quality of life. Most of us use electricity, either directly or

indirectly, at almost all times. It's easy to take it for granted because, in our society, electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch. That's called reliability, and it's a major priority of ours.

According to the Energy Information Agency, the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances, and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

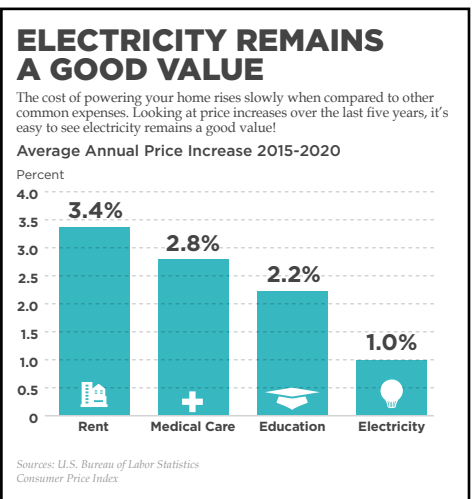
From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater, and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV, and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting. **1133-5**

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and businesses, and commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing. Typically, when demand goes up, so does the price, as with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite take-out meal. However, that's not true with electricity. So let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other everyday expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%, medical care increased 2.8%, and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. So considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it remains a great value. I am known to frequently say, "You'll pay more for two specialty drinks at Starbucks than you will for a days worth of electricity to your home."

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series, or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life reliably and affordably.



BOARD BRIEFS | August 30, 2021 Meeting

- Ryan Wagner presented an update to the Board on modifications to ACEC's solar application process. The Board approved a \$250 "trip fee" for any additional service trip (beyond the first) to certify and connect a solar system.
- The Board received an Annual Meeting presentation from Jenny McIntyre.
- Brenda Hackman gave an "Operation Round Up" presentation. The Board approved the application for the Co-op's involvement in the program, which involves the formation of a charitable foundation.
- An exception to Policy 7.6 was approved by the Board to allow for a part-time, temporary employee, related to a full-time employee, to work for the Co-op.
- The Board approved revisions and modifications to Policies 6.2 (use of Computer Systems, Electronic Equipment and Communication Systems), 6.3 and 6.4 (use of Social Media).
- The Board approved the membership fee to Allamakee County Economic Development and Tourism.

Hollie McCormick

PLUGGED IN

Electric Vehicle Update

The Cooperative intends to share things we are learning about our electric vehicle; a Tesla Model 3 purchased this spring. Below are typical questions we are receiving about our EV and the answers we can now share with you:

WHAT IS THE RANGE?

Battery electric vehicles are very efficient, and most newer models have enough range to satisfy the needs of a typical driver for multiple days without fully recharging. For example, the range of our standard battery in our Tesla Model 3 is 265 miles with a 100% battery charge and the maximum range suggested for a "trip". Additionally, Tesla suggests charging the battery daily from 50% to 90% capacity to maximize the battery's life.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO CHARGE THE CAR?

The time depends on the size of the charger and the duration. The general guideline for each kW of charger rating is to multiply that by 3 to 3.5 miles for each hour you are charging. So, for example, if you are charging with a 10kW charger for 1 hour, you can expect to drive 30 to 35 miles for each hour charged.



Level three chargers start at a minimum of 50 kW in size up to 350 kW. Charging with a 100kW charge would take approximately 45 minutes to replenish the Co-op's EV if the battery was entirely out of charge. If you were

to charge your EV with a 350kW charger, it would add 20 miles of range for every minute of charging. **5028**

WHERE CAN I CHARGE?

Currently, in the state of Iowa, there are 10 Tesla superchargers. The easiest way to locate a charger is through an app or your vehicle's information system.

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK

National Drive Electric Week, Sep 25-Oct 3, 2021, is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. Are you considering going electric? RSVP for an in-person or online event to learn from owners who have done so! Allamakee-Clayton invites members to "kick the tires" of our Tesla Model 3 electric vehicle. Interested members have an opportunity to talk with ACEC staff about the advantages of an electric vehicle and things to consider before purchasing one. This event is by appointment only. Please register by completing the online form at DriveElectricWeek.org or contact our member services manager, Ryan Wagner, at 800-864-7611 or rwagner@acrec.coop. **5764**

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A

KEURIG K-CLASSIC COFFEE MAKER

living with energy
IN IOWA



OUR
MONTHLY
CONTEST

As the weather starts to cool, a hot cup of coffee will be perfect to start your morning! Sign up by **Sept. 30** at www.IowaREC.org to win a Keurig from Living with Energy in Iowa magazine.

Level two charging locations are too many to list and growing by the day. The easiest way to locate a Level 2 charger is through charging apps such as ChargePoint®, PlugShare, ChargeHub, and EVgo.

Recently, the towns of Guttenberg and Marquette have added Level 2 chargers, and Allamakee-Clayton Electric is working on three possible locations within our service territory to place Level 2 chargers.

"Range anxiety" is the biggest hurdle we have heard the most so far. Still, with added chargers across the nation and battery technology improving, we believe things will only get easier for EV charging in the future.

Contact the Co-op's member services manager, Ryan Wagner, at 888-788-1551 with your electric vehicle questions.



ILLINOIS COUPLE FINDS CO-OP'S EV CHARGER ON PLUGSHARE

2021 marked the fourth year Debbie and Lou Larson made the trek from their home in Roscoe, Ill., to the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake and back. On their way back home in August, they are pictured here talking with our member services manager, Ryan Wagner, while charging their Tesla 3, purchased in March. Debbie and Lou access the PlugShare app to find charging stations along their route, including ACEC's EV chargers. Considering and EV? Contact ACEC at 888-788-1551.



Allamakee-Clayton Electric has a variety of rebates available to members who purchase energy efficient products.

Please review the rebate prior to purchase to ensure your item meets the rebate requirement for energy efficiency.

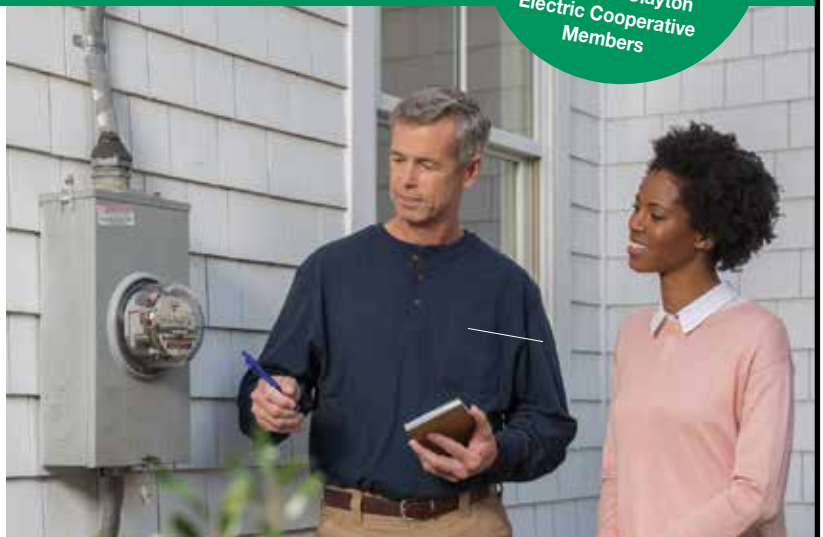
Full details are listed on our website at acrec.com.

Important Announcement for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative Members

COMING
in
SEPTEMBER:
Protection Plans For
Allamakee-Clayton
Electric Cooperative
Members

At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, we value our members and are committed to providing you with safe and reliable electricity. Many homeowners aren't aware that the exterior electrical lines and certain components on their property are their responsibility. If a breakdown to this line occurs, it is up to you to find an electrician and pay the repair costs.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative selected HomeServe to offer *optional* Exterior Electrical Line Coverage to our members. Look for more information about our new partnership in the next newsletter and future mailings.



Learn more at www.homeserve.com
or **call 1-833-334-1874.**



Partnering with
 HomeServe®

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative held its 83rd Annual Meeting in a drive-through format earlier this month. Being a cooperative means members have a voice in how the business is run by voting each year. With increased attendance this year, the board of directors and employees thank all members who could vote for their board directors and visit with us during the drive-through. It is our privilege to continue to serve you with dependable, reliable, and affordable electricity.



Hollee McCormick was excited to see her fifth grade teacher Ruby Schoh, Waukon, come through the drive-through and commented to her former teacher that she hopes the grammar in our newsletters is up to par!



Voting members returned incumbents **Jeff Bradley, Wadena**, and **Jerry Keleher, Elkader** to the Board and elected **Nelson Converse, Postville**, to the Board. (photos on cover).

The board of directors will hold their reorganization meeting during the September 27 Board Meeting to elect the officers, and

ACEC will report the appointments in our October newsletter.

We couldn't meet in person this year for our annual meeting, but that didn't prevent us from drawing names from voting members for either a bill credit or a solar panel subscription. The Cooperative will announce the winners in our October newsletter. Thank you again to all our members who voted either by mail or made it to our drive-through!



"Thank you! It was a great meal!"
- Paula Enyart, Postville



Thank you to the 2021 Nominating Committee for your time selecting candidates to run for the board and for your time the evening of Sept. 13 counting ballots. Pictured l-r: Front Row: Erik Helgersen, Lansing, vice chair; Dr. Jane Hasek, Harpers Ferry, secretary, and Gary Kolsrud, Waterville. Back Row: Nicholas Meyer, Monona; Stefanie Perkins, Waukon; Lana Strein, Castalia; Mike Oberbroeckling, Garnavillo; Marcia Kruse, Lansing, and Leslie Henkes, Luana, chair.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Students who attend our Zoom sessions in October will have a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to our nation's capital every summer since 1960 as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to offer a new opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area, and they are invited to register at www.IowaYouthTour.com.

"This new program is really designed for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked Hollee McCormick, General Manager. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities."

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7:00 p.m. – Cooperative Business Model
- Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m. – Rural Iowa Advocacy
- Tuesday, Oct. 26, 7:00 p.m. – Civic Involvement and Leadership

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship.



During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our line-up of speakers and presenters. Students will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and learn about leadership development from a motivational speaker. Attendees will also hear from former Iowa Youth Tour students who pursued their passion for government service and leadership after attending the weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. The 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is slated for June 18-24 next summer.

Learn more at www.IowaYouthTour.com or contact Jenny McIntyre at 888-788-1551 for more information.

MUTUAL AID IS THE CO-OP WAY

Electric cooperatives help each other in times of need. On Aug. 25, ACEC's Blair Everman and Jason Donnelly joined crews from Midland Power Cooperative, Grundy County REC and MiEnergy to assistance Butler County REC following strong storms in the region on Aug. 25.



*Blair Everman
First Class Lineman*



*Jason Donnelly
First Class Lineman*

ACEC SHARES CONNECTIVITY NEEDS DURING RURAL SUMMIT

The Iowa Rural Development Council hosted the 2021 Iowa Rural Summit, bringing together hundreds of individuals from rural Iowa communities for networking and information sharing. IRDC hosted this year's Summit in Cedar Rapids last month, where Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg highlighted the Empower Rural Iowa programs and initiatives across the state. In addition, ACEC's Hollee McCormick had the opportunity to share the challenges and opportunities we face in improving rural internet in northeast Iowa. "The state's funding and streamlined grant application processes have helped the Co-op be successful in being awarded grant money to help deploy fiber in northern Allamakee County", commented McCormick.



Have an idea for a recipe topic? Send it our way!

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to
Jenny McIntyre, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162
or jmcintyre@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 intended publication.

October — LOOSE MEAT SANDWICHES
November — THANKSGIVING LEFTOVER MEALS
December — SOUPS



HELICOPTER STRIKES ELECTRICAL POWER LINE

Source: The Standard

Photo: Joe Moses

A helicopter pilot applying chemicals over a cornfield struck an electrical power line on the morning of August 4. The helicopter crashed in a field near the intersection of Elon Drive and Scenic Valley Road, approximately six miles directly east of Waukon. Among other emergency services, Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative was on the scene to assess and repair the electrical power line involved in the incident. The pilot was transported by ambulance, where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and later released. **3980-10**



Lt. Gov. is updated on ACEC's fiber projects

In July, the Cooperative hosted Lt. Governor Adam Gregg and staff in Postville to share more about the Co-op's fiber projects in Allamakee County. ACEC employees discussed the challenges of inaccurate mapping and how that hampers bringing fiber to small communities. Also discussed is the availability of materials, contractor's schedules, and the impact both have on project timelines. However, state funding and its streamlined grant application processes have made it possible for the Co-op to deploy fiber in Allamakee County. **4242**



FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

SIX *Service Location* numbers are hidden within the text of this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – four are worth a **\$5 bill credit** and



two are worth a **\$10 bill credit** if found. To claim the credit, the number must be yours 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

ARLYN R. FOSSUM, Waterville

JERRY KELEHER, Elkader

AL STEFFENS, Clermont

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

JENNY McINTYRE, Manager, Marketing & Communications

JASON TROENDLE, Director, Operations & Engineering

RYAN WAGNER, Manager, Member Services



Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 715 - Postville, IA 52162-0715

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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PAID
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Postville elementary teachers and faculty were on hand last month to receive donated school supplies from ACEC board members and employees. "Some students come to school on the first day without any school supplies due to financial reasons," said Jennifer Schutte, K-6 principal. "We will add these supplies to our School Store that is organized by teachers and filled with the educational materials the students will need". Cora B. Darling Elementary school faculty and staff welcomed approximately 350 students to begin their 2021-2022 school year on August 24. **490-10**



Allamakee-Clayton Electric wishes a productive and safe school season for all students, faculty, and staff! l-r: ACEC employees Sonja Hillman and Jeni Kolsrud, Mary Guese (K6-ESL), Lisa Acevedo (1st grade), Andrew Meyer (Kindergarten), LaRae Schutte (Title-1), Jennifer Schutte (PK-6 principal), Amber Linderbaum (6th grade) and ACEC employees Brenda Hackman and Tim Bauch.



STAY CONNECTED

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

