

# energy update



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## SAVE THE DATE

### ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, SEPT. 8



*More details in our July newsletter.*

## Safety Tip

When you see power lines on the ground following a storm, stay far away, warn others to stay away, call 9-1-1 and contact the electric utility. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.



## STAY COOL THIS SUMMER

without breaking the bank



Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take action.

### 7 cost effective tips to help lower energy consumption:

1. Request a home energy audit from your local utility to reduce energy loss.
2. Change your air filter regularly to help your HVAC system work efficiently.
3. Increase your thermostat by two degrees and set it to a higher temperature when you're away.
4. Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control.
5. Run dryers, washers and dishwashers during off-peak hours in the early morning or late evening.
6. Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. Detergent, not hot water, cleans the clothes.
7. Reduce indoor heat by limiting cooking and the use of heat-producing appliances during the hottest parts of the day.

 Safe  
Electricity.org®



Stay up-to-date on  
ACEC announcements  
& communications!



# 2024 PATRONAGE DIVIDEND ALLOCATION

If you received electric service from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative in 2024, the enclosed billing statement(s) will show your 2024 patronage dividend allocation.

Cooperative Message	
<b>2024 Allocation</b>	
Member No. XXXXX	
Patronage	\$1,300.00
Co-op Allocation	\$0.00
DPC Allocation	\$4.87
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Total Allocation	\$4.87

The box identified as **Cooperative Message** shows the following:

- **Patronage** | The amount of business you did with the Cooperative in 2024.
- **Co-op Allocation** | Your share of the margins ACEC allocated based on your patronage.
- **DPC Allocation** | Your share of the margins received from Dairyland Power Cooperative based on your patronage.
- **Total Allocation** | The sum of Cooperative and Dairyland allocations credited to your patronage account.

## What are Patronage Dividends?

An important difference between a cooperative, like ACEC, and other forms of business is that a cooperative’s members have a financial stake in the business. When we close our books at the end of the year, we refer to the amount of leftover (after we’ve paid the bills and recorded the expenses) as margins. These margins are then allocated to our members based on how much electricity they purchase (their patronage) during that year.

Instead of returning these margins to the members immediately, they are invested in ACEC’s future through the purchase of new poles, wires, and other ongoing costs. On an annual basis, your Board of Directors reviews the total patronage dividend account. It determines what portion of that account, if any, is retired to members in the form of an actual dividend check. Receiving a patronage dividend check reminds you of who owns the Cooperative and is just one of the many advantages of cooperative membership.

### NOTE:

It’s important to keep your current address, phone number and email address on our records, even after you’ve moved off the ACEC electric system, to enable the payment of patronage dividends to you in the future.

### TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Always be cautious of unsolicited calls (or in-person visits) to your home from companies claiming to conduct energy audits. These are typically telemarketing firms that claim to be a third-party company or pose as a representative from your electric utility to gain access to homes and sell services with the promise of government rebates. Many electric utilities provide energy audit services, but they are typically scheduled at the customer’s request.

Source: Better Business Bureau



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

