

energy update



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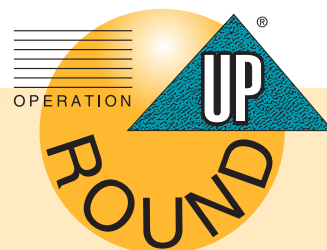
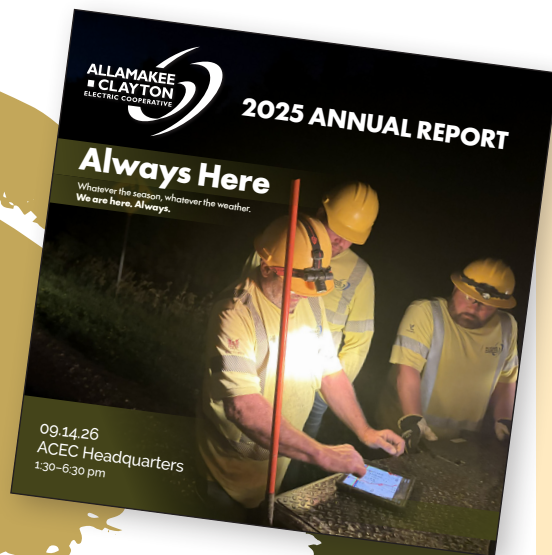
ANNUAL MEETING DRIVE- THROUGH

Monday,
Sept. 14, 2026
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

ACEC Cooperative Headquarters

229 Highway 51, Postville

Please use the South (main) driveway



ACEC Operation Round Up Grant Applications Available

Applications for our fall 2026 Operation Round Up grant are now available online at acrec.com/operationroundup.

The Operation Round Up (ORU) grant is available to local non-profits and charities in our service footprint. **Applications must be submitted by Sept. 15 to be considered.** The ORU board will meet in October to review applications. Complete details are available online.

Room for Growth

Thank you to our 200+ members who voluntarily "round up" their electric bill and contribute a few cents every month. That small change makes an overwhelming difference!

We have 7,000+ members so imagine what your collective small change (average of \$6 a year and never more than \$11.88 a year) could do! For more information on the grants or to sign up for ORU, visit acrec.com/operationroundup.

WHY VOTE?

in the 2026
Director Election

Co-op directors
represent YOU

**ON
IMPORTANT
ENERGY
ISSUES.**



Sending a child to college? Discuss safety first

When you are shopping for dorm room supplies, décor, snacks and other back-to-campus items, take a moment to discuss safety tips with your child before hugs and goodbyes.

Here are some safety topics to help keep your college student safe.

Electrical safety tips:

- When shopping for items that run on electricity, look for a safety endorsement label, such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories).
- Do not put a cell phone under a pillow or place it on or under bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.
- In the dorm or apartment, make sure outlets near water sources are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If they are not, contact the resident assistant, campus housing staff or landlord. (Look for a test and reset button on the face of the outlet.)
- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power if too much current is drawn.
- Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Do not hang decorative lights with nails or tacks; always use plastic hooks.
- Do not run electrical cords across traffic paths or under rugs.

General safety tips:

- Find out what type of public safety department is on campus and how it functions; ask which services the department offers and the steps it takes to prevent crime.
- Locate emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
- Walk with a friend, especially at night.
- When attending events or parties, go with at least one person you know and trust. If your friend leaves, do not stay.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid being distracted (listening to music, texting and so on) while walking on campus.
- Find out what types of mental health services or counseling the campus offers.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



One of the best ways to protect yourself from online scams is by using strong passwords. While many people focus on complexity - adding symbols, numbers and capital letters - password length is equally important. A longer password or passphrase is generally harder for cybercriminals to crack than a short, complex one. Consider creating a memorable phrase made up of several unrelated words, and avoid using personal information like birthdays or pet names. Use a unique password for each account and enable multi-factor authentication when possible. Taking these simple steps can help keep your personal information and online accounts secure.

Source: CISA



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality - helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

