

energy update



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2025 PATRONAGE DIVIDEND ALLOCATION

If you received electric service from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative in 2025, the enclosed billing statement(s) will show your 2025 patronage dividend allocation.

Cooperative Message

2025 Allocation

Member No. XXXXX

Patronage \$1,300.00

Co-op Allocation \$83.01

DPC Allocation \$32.56

Total Allocation \$115.57

The box identified as Cooperative Message shows the following:

- **Patronage** | The amount of business you did with the Cooperative in 2025.
- **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.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPT. 14



More details in our July newsletter.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers are increasingly using “smishing” — fake text messages designed to look like they’re from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you’re owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



Electrical Safety Around Water

- Use a qualified electrician for any new pool, hot tub or spa wiring.
- Use covered outdoor outlets.
- Make sure outlets are GFCI-protected and tested monthly.
- Keep cords away from water. Don't use extension cords for pool equipment.
- Replace cracked outlet covers, frayed cords, loose plugs or damaged equipment.
- Choose battery-operated and waterproof TVs, radios and speakers.
- Don't handle phones, tablets, laptops or charging cords when you're wet, and keep them away from pools, spas and sinks.
- Check power line clearance with an electrician or your utility when installing pools, spas and structures like diving boards; and have utilities marked before digging.
- Schedule periodic electrical inspections and upgrades for your equipment.
- Have an electrician show you how to shut off all power in an emergency and make sure the shut-off switch is labeled.

Know the risks: Wet skin + wet surfaces = increased risk when electricity is present.

Warning signs of shock in the water:

- Tingling sensation.
- Muscle cramps.
- Restricted movement.

If you suspect electrical shock:

- Turn off all power immediately.
- Do NOT enter the water to rescue anyone.
- Use a non-conductive rescue tool (such as fiberglass).
- Call 911.

If you feel a shock in the water, move away from the source and get out.