energy update

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NOV | 25

Load Management Test for Dual Fuel Electric Heating

If you participate in ACEC's interruptible heating program (also known as dual fuel or load management), your system will be tested on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19,** beginning at 7 a.m., with randomized restoral from 10 to 11 a.m.

The electricity powering your electric heating system will be interrupted during this time and cause your backup heating system to operate.

This annual test is conducted to ensure your backup heating system is working and will adequately keep your home at a comfortable temperature during control periods this winter. This test also ensures the control equipment is working properly.

If you have questions about the load control event or about your dual fuel account, contact Ryan Wagner at 888-788-1551.

Online Control Status

Did you know you can check the status of load control from the convenience of your home or phone? Visit www.acrec.com and click on Load Control Status at the top right. We also offer text message notifications for load control events. Contact Ryan Wagner for information on signing up for notifications.

Return your survey by November 15!

You have just a few days left to return your Annual Meeting survey to be entered into a drawing for a $30 bill credit. Whether you attended this year's Annual Meeting or not, we want your feedback. Send back your paper copy of the survey to PO BOX 229, Highway 51, Postville, IA 52162 or use the QR code. All surveys must be received by Nov. 15 to be eligible for the bill credit.

You can also complete the survey online by scanning the QR code:

REMINDER
2025 REBATES

2025 Rebates must be submitted by
MONDAY, DEC. 22, 2025

For more information and to find rebate forms, visit www.acrec.com/rebates or call **563-864-7611.**

Efficiency Tip

Seal in comfort and savings with weatherstripping. Check for air leaks around your windows and doors and install weatherstripping where needed. Prevent drafts to reduce energy loss and lower your heating and cooling bills, improving energy efficiency year-round.

Safe Electricity.org®

Don't let energy slip through the ceiling

Upgrading your attic insulation is one of the easiest and most effective ways to lower your energy bills, make your home more comfortable and boost energy efficiency year-round. Older homes can save as much as 15% on energy costs by improving attic insulation.

Step 1: Seal air leaks
Before adding insulation, take care of air leaks. Common trouble spots include recessed lighting; chimneys; attic hatches or pull-down stairs; and pipes, ductwork and wiring. Seal these gaps with caulk, expanding foam or weather stripping. This helps keep warm air in during winter and hot air out during the summer.

Step 2: Understand R-values
R-value measures how well insulation resists heat flow based on its type, thickness and density – the higher the number, the better. How much you need depends on your climate:

- Mild climates: R-30 to R-38 (10-14 inches)
- Cold climates: R-49 or higher (16-18 inches)

Quick check: if you can see the ceiling joints, you probably need more insulation. You don't need to remove existing insulation unless it's wet, moldy or contaminated. Otherwise, it's safe to leave in place and add new insulation on top.

Step 3: Pick the right type
There are two main types of attic insulation:

- Batt or roll insulation
  - ◊ Easier to install for DIYers
  - ◊ Must be cut precisely to avoid gaps, especially around obstructions like pipes and vents
- Blown-in or loose fill insulation
  - ◊ Installed with a machine that "blows" insulation into place
  - ◊ Fills gaps more evenly; great for hard-to-reach areas
  - ◊ Blown-in cellulose is the top pick for attics due to its high R-value, good coverage and air-sealing benefits

Step 4: Plan for storage
It's tempting to use the attic for storage, especially for those holiday decorations, but if you're looking to maximize efficiency, store them elsewhere. If you store items in your attic, don't flatten the insulation. Build a raised platform high enough to keep insulation at the recommended depth.

Step 5: Check old wiring
If your home is older, inspect attic wiring before insulating. Cracked or brittle wire insulation can be a fire hazard – have a professional electrician replace it if needed.

Step 6: Insulate the attic hatch
Whether you have an attic hatch or a dropdown ladder, this opening can leak lots of air if it's not sealed properly.

For standard hatches

- Add insulation to match your attic's R-value
- Upgrade to a pre-insulated panel or ¾ inch plywood
- Install weather stripping and a dam to prevent loose-fill from spilling

For dropdown ladders

- Add an insulated cover box in the attic
- Seal the frame with foam or weather stripping
- Be sure to leave room for the folded ladder

You'll feel the difference! A well-insulated attic means lower energy bills and a more comfortable home, whether it's blazing hot or freezing cold outside. Start by sealing leaks, checking your R-value needs and picking the right insulation for your space – your future self (and wallet) will thank you!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to pressure customers into providing their personal information. If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through a third-party transaction app, such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Remember, utilities will never request a payment through a third-party app. Always use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams