

● JULY 2025

# iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**SPECIAL INSERT:**

**Annual Meeting of  
Members information  
and annual report**

**2025 scholarship winners announced ► See Page 11**

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## ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Peg Visser, a North West REC member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to [editor@ieclmagazine.com](mailto:editor@ieclmagazine.com). You could receive \$100!



# TAKING STOCK OF IOWA'S 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BY HALEY MOON



The 2025 Iowa Legislative Session officially adjourned in the early morning hours of May 15, after lawmakers worked through the night to

finalize a budget agreement. With a projected adjournment date of May 2, this session included nearly two weeks of “overtime.”

Throughout the session, Iowa's electric cooperatives maintained a strong presence at the State Capitol, advocating for the interests of their member-consumers under the Golden Dome. With more than 1,800 bills introduced this year, many of which related to energy, a unified cooperative voice was more important than ever.

Co-op engagement took many forms, from large events to one-on-one meetings. Our Welcome Back Legislative Reception in January provided a valuable opportunity to meet with nearly 100 legislators at the start of session, while our REC Day on the Hill event in March brought around 200 rural electric co-op advocates to the Capitol. Individual visits, countless emails, phone calls and participation in local forums all helped reinforce the co-op message throughout Iowa's 2025 Legislative Session.

## Defending service territory

This constant grassroots engagement resulted in several legislative successes for Iowa's electric co-ops. One major victory was the defense of Iowa's service territory law, a cornerstone that ensures cooperatives can continue to deliver reliable, affordable electricity to rural Iowans. One proposal would have changed how the Iowa Utilities

Commission considers service territory changes, potentially disadvantaging co-ops and the rural Iowans we serve. Thanks to strong advocacy, these proposals were ultimately set aside by both House and Senate Commerce Committees.

## Stopping a third-party solar program

Another key success was halting the advancement of a bill that would have created a third-party solar program in Iowa. While electric cooperatives support solar as part of a diversified energy portfolio, this bill raised serious concerns as it would have allowed third-party companies to operate as utilities without being held to the same regulatory standards. Additionally, the program's structure could have shifted costs to consumers who chose not to participate. Co-ops support solar solutions that are fair, cost-effective and strengthen the electric grid; criteria this bill did not meet.

## Modernizing energy infrastructure

Gov. Kim Reynolds also introduced a comprehensive energy bill that included a right of first refusal provision for electric transmission projects, which Iowa's electric cooperatives supported. While this bill did not advance, we look forward to continued conversations about modernizing energy infrastructure to meet Iowa's future needs.

Though the 2025 session has ended, our advocacy work continues. Iowa's electric cooperatives are already preparing for the 2026 session, which will convene Jan. 12. Until then, we will remain actively engaged with lawmakers and those seeking political office to ensure the cooperative perspective continues to be heard. Keep up to date on these activities by following Iowa Rural Power on social media or at [www.iaruralpower.org](http://www.iaruralpower.org).

*Haley Moon is the senior manager of policy and advocacy for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.*

## EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

## WIN A SOLO STOVE TABLETOP FIRE PIT!

The Solo Stove Runner tabletop fire pit captures the essence of gathering around a fire with friends and family. The Runner features a clean, smokeless flame that doesn't have to be vented, bringing the warmth and ambiance of a real fire without the mess or hassle. It's an effortless way to enjoy the glow of a flame, anywhere.

### Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting [www.ieclmagazine.com](http://www.ieclmagazine.com) no later than July 31. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified.

The winner of \$100 in beef certificates from the May issue was **Duane Adams**, a **Prairie Energy Cooperative** member-consumer.



**ENTER ONLINE BY JULY 31!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 8	Board election voting packets mailed, online voting begins
JULY 17	Board meeting
AUG. 4	Online voting ends at 4:30 p.m.
AUG. 5	2025 Access Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members
AUG. 21	Board meeting
SEPT. 1	Office closed for Labor Day
SEPT. 18	Board meeting

You can access your account information at any time using SmartHub on our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com) or through the SmartHub app for mobile devices. Use SmartHub to report outages to save time and ensure that it goes directly into our system to notify us. You can also call our office at 866-242-4232 for account information or to report service-related concerns.



*Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable and efficient service, while being a good citizen in our communities.*

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**Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call):** 8-1-1

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING —  
THE POWER OF BEING LOCAL

BY KEVIN WHEELER



There is something special about being part of a local cooperative. At Access Energy Cooperative, you are not just a customer, you are a member-owner. That means you have a real voice in how your cooperative is run. Each year, we come together to celebrate that connection at our Annual Meeting of Members, which will be held on Aug. 5.

Unlike large investor-owned utilities, we are rooted right here in southeast Iowa. We are not controlled by distant shareholders. Instead, we are guided by local members like you. In fact, you help shape the future of Access Energy Cooperative in several meaningful ways:

- You can vote for the board of directors, and even run for a seat yourself
- You help determine the direction and priorities of the cooperative
- You receive a share of the cooperative's earnings through annual dividends

But this meeting is more than business. It is a celebration of our members

and the communities we serve. It is a chance to connect with neighbors, enjoy a meal together and hear what is happening at your cooperative. Here is what you can look forward to:

- A free meal plus homemade ice cream from Hinterland Dairy
- Fun activities for kids, including a chance to win a brand-new bike
- Prizes and a free gift at registration
- An opportunity to pick up your dividend check if you have not signed up to receive them as bill credits
- A chance to meet the employees and directors who work on your behalf
- The opportunity to vote in this year's board election and learn more about the business of your cooperative

Circle **Tuesday, Aug. 5**, on your calendar and plan to cast your vote for directors in July. Whether you are a long-time member or attending your first meeting, we look forward to welcoming you.

That is the power of being local. That is the power of being a member.

*Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.*



We look forward to celebrating with our members on Aug. 5.

# 2025 CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION OF DIRECTORS



Scan here to view more candidate information and biography videos.

## DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

### Joseph "Joe" Heckethorn

Stockport, Iowa ■ Farmer

#### How could you make a positive impact on the cooperative?

I served on the Access Energy Cooperative board of directors for six years and never missed a meeting. During my tenure, I obtained the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, served as the board secretary and also vice president.

#### What are the prominent issues facing rural electric cooperatives?

Government regulation on fossil fuels that fuel power plants, and the EPA regulations on power plants and the cost of these regulations having an impact on the cost of the energy to us as a member of the cooperative.



### Virgil Symmonds

Fairfield, Iowa ■ Retired

#### How could you make a positive impact on the cooperative?

I have been involved in business for many years. I understand what is involved in making a business profitable. I have also worked with the public for many years and how to relate to others. Most of all, as a member, I want the most reliable system at the best price.

#### What are the prominent issues facing rural electric cooperatives?

I keep a close eye on the political scene and how that affects energy distributors. I feel that the pendulum is swinging in our favor: less regulations and more focus on fossil fuels. With that said, we still need to focus long-term. That could involve a number of different strategies like nuclear power, for instance.



## DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

### Robert "Bob" Breazeale

Mount Pleasant, Iowa ■ Farmer

#### How could you make a positive impact on the cooperative?

With my background in finance, I believe I may be able to make a contribution in this area. My job focused heavily on bank and borrower cash flows, so I will be able to get up to speed quickly. In addition, my knowledge of the southeast Iowa area will be a positive.

#### What are the prominent issues facing rural electric cooperatives?

Keeping rates relatively low while guaranteeing a reliable, long-term supply of electricity. Seeking opportunities to grow is a constant need. And of course, employing qualified, dedicated personnel.



### Mitch Yaley

Mount Pleasant, Iowa ■ A technical manager at Blackstone Industrial Services

#### How could you make a positive impact on the cooperative?

I have been in the service industry all my life. For the past 20 years, I have been directly involved with project planning and execution in both engineering on the front end construction and final start up and commissioning. I understand the need for communication and discussion; and encourage open dialogue. It is everyone's responsibility and duty to see that our jobs are carried out correctly and safely and everyone goes home healthy and injury free. Improvement is always possible. A positive attitude is key.

#### What are the prominent issues facing rural electric cooperatives?

Technology is always evolving, adapting, and even compliance can be challenging. Financial constraints will always be a concern. Aging infrastructure can challenge reliability, especially when coupled with extreme weather events. Recruiting and maintaining a competent and skilled workforce is a challenge in most industries.



## DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

### Shirley Deck

Fort Madison, Iowa ■ Retired

#### How could you make a positive impact on the cooperative?

I keep up with current events including local, state and federal. I am concerned about all aspects of our environment. I believe in balanced sources of electricity. Sources should be evaluated on effectiveness, availability, cost, climate conditions, and reasonable protection of air, water and earth. I want to learn and be part of future solutions.

#### What are the prominent issues facing rural electric cooperatives?

I keep up with current events including local, state and federal. Keeping up infrastructure. Keeping rates reasonable and fair. Protecting the system from cyber or other attacks. Protect the area the cooperative serves from take over by other entities.



### Marvin Newton

West Point, Iowa ■ Farmer

#### How could you make a positive impact on the cooperative?

I am enthusiastic for the future of the rural electric cooperatives. My experience, director training and representing Access Energy Cooperative on our power supply board creates a positive impact. I am looking forward to all the changes and challenges.

#### What are the prominent issues facing rural electric cooperatives?

Controlling cost-increasing demand for more power and reliability. Cyberattacks to our industry. Regulations and mandates can affect cost and reliability. I support renewable energy, but we still need baseload generation from other sources.





# EFFICIENCY TIPS FOR OLDER HOMES

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

I love old homes. I've always been drawn to the details and craftsmanship. The features of older homes can make them less efficient than modern construction, but it doesn't have to be a trade-off. You can keep the charm and make your home more efficient.

Start by prioritizing the invisible upgrades that make your home more comfortable and efficient. When we were kids, I don't think any of us thought, "When I grow up, I want to spend my hard-earned money on insulation." It's not as exciting as new countertops or a remodeled bathroom, but air sealing and insulation can save you money every month. Then you can apply the savings to aesthetic improvements.

## Addressing your home's envelope

Many older homes are not properly insulated. Insulation has several benefits beyond sealing your home and keeping outdoor air from seeping in. It reduces outdoor noise, makes your home quieter and improves your overall comfort.

Always properly air seal before you insulate. Older homes with pocket doors, coved ceilings, dumbwaiters, doors to attic spaces and laundry chutes allow indoor air to escape through the cavities, gaps and cracks around these classic features. Sealing off open cavities around those features often requires plywood, rigid foam or drywall fastened into place and then caulked around the edges.

Keep an eye out for framing features that cause drafts. Balloon framing is a type of construction where wall studs run all the way from the foundation to the roof, allowing air to flow freely through those spaces. Second floors with knee wall attics on both sides are notorious for air leakage. Open cavities allow air to flow horizontally between the attic spaces, making the home uncomfortable and inefficient. Seal off the open cavities in the floor framing and insulate attic spaces.

Dense-packed cellulose or closed cell foam insulation can be sprayed into exterior walls. Skilled contractors can remove pieces of siding and drill holes to fill the wall cavities from the outside of the home. For brick or stone homes, holes can be drilled from the



inside and then patched and painted. Insulating walls from the inside of the home requires more time and effort in preparation and cleanup, but having well-insulated walls is worth it.

Knob and tube wiring – commonly used from the early 1880s to the 1930s with no grounding wire – should be replaced prior to insulating walls and attics for safety purposes. Contact between insulation and knob and tube wiring can create a fire hazard.

People often think new windows are the best way to improve a home's efficiency. Considering the cost of replacing windows, I recommend investing in air sealing and insulation first. Then, consider storm windows to keep the charm of the original windows, such as leaded glass and stained glass windows in good condition. Choose from interior or exterior options that are operable and inoperable.

### Appliance improvements

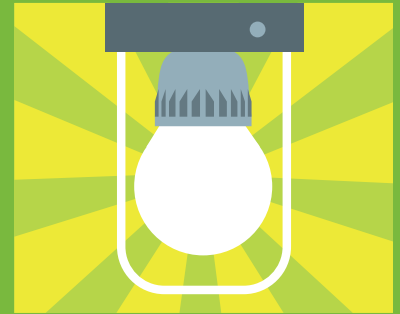
Once you've addressed the envelope of your home, consider appliance improvements. Replace your old electric water heater with a heat pump water heater. This upgrade can save a family of four an estimated \$550 per year and more than \$5,600 over the lifetime of the water heater, according to ENERGY STAR®.

Invest in high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment. A mini-split heat pump, also known as a ductless heat pump, is a more efficient option than electric baseboard heating and provides the benefit of air conditioning.

Older homes don't have to be inefficient. Show your home some love and invest in energy efficient upgrades.

*Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

## ALWAYS CONSIDER AN ENERGY AUDIT



An energy audit is a comprehensive assessment of your home or business designed to identify ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs. It's an important first step when considering energy efficiency improvements. Contact your local electric cooperative for more information.



There are many ways to keep the charm of an older home and improve its efficiency. Photo Source: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources



The first step to improving an older home's energy efficiency is air sealing and adding insulation to attic spaces. Photo Source: Bonneville Power Administration



Prioritize the invisible upgrades that make your home more comfortable and efficient, such as adding blown-in insulation to your attic. Photo Source: Bonneville Power Administration





# Firecracker Favorites

## MEXICAN STREET CORN

- 6 medium ears sweet corn
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sour cream
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup mayonnaise
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup fresh cilantro, minced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon lime zest, grated
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 6 tablespoons cotija cheese
- 2-3 teaspoons chili powder

Carefully peel back corn husks to within 1 inch of bottom, remove silk. Rewrap corn in husks and secure with butcher's twine. Place in Dutch oven, cover with cold water. Soak corn for 20 minutes, then drain. Grill corn over medium heat 25-30 minutes until tender, turning often. Meanwhile, in a small bowl combine sour cream, mayonnaise, cilantro, garlic, lime zest and lime juice. Peel back husks, spread sour cream mixture over corn. Sprinkle with cotija cheese and chili powder. Serve immediately. *Serves 6*

Denise Anderson • Ocheyedan  
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## ALCINDA'S JALAPEÑO SPAGHETTI DIP

- 2 pounds spaghetti noodles
- 1 12-ounce jar jalapeño slices
- 1 32-ounce jar mayonnaise
- corn chips

Break spaghetti into 2 to 3-inch pieces, boil and drain. Chop jalapeños with juice into small pieces. Stir together jalapeños, noodles and mayonnaise. Refrigerate overnight. Serve with corn chips for dipping.

Andrea Mosbach • Webster City  
Prairie Energy Cooperative

## CHEESE STUFFED JALAPEÑOS

- 25 fresh jalapeño peppers
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 3 cups cheddar cheese, finely shredded
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 4 strips bacon, fried and crumbled

With gloved hands, cut peppers in half and remove seeds and membrane. Mix the remaining ingredients and spoon into pepper halves. Place on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake at 400 degrees F for 10 minutes. *Serves 15*

Laura DeSmet • Larchwood  
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

## JALAPEÑO POPPERS

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons garlic powder
- 16 fresh whole jalapeño peppers
- 8 pieces bacon, thinly sliced, cut in half crosswise

Mix together cream cheese, cheddar cheese, Parmesan cheese and garlic powder until thoroughly blended. Lay a jalapeño pepper on a work surface and cut a lengthwise sliver from the side, exposing seeds and white membrane. With the handle of a teaspoon, scrape out seeds and membrane, leaving the pepper hollow. Repeat for all peppers. Chop the removed pepper slivers and mix into cheese stuffing. Stuff each pepper with cheese mixture and wrap in a half bacon slice. Secure with toothpicks. Grill stuffed jalapeños on a less hot part of a grill for about 30 minutes, until peppers are hot and juicy and bacon is browned. *Yields 16 pieces*

Marilyn Obrien • Geneva  
Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative



# THE POWER OF BEING LOCAL

**Access Energy Cooperative 2024 Annual Report**  
A not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative owned by the members we serve.



## ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Access Energy Cooperative will be held at McMillan Park in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, at 5 p.m., on Aug. 5, 2025, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors, and committees;
2. The election of three (3) directors of the Cooperative, for a term of three years each;
3. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for Director by the Committee on Nominations appointed by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative pursuant to the Bylaws.

### 2025 DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Three-year Term (three to be elected)

#### District 1, One to be Elected:

Joseph (Joe) Heckethorn, Virgil G. Symmonds

#### District 2, One to be Elected:

Robert (Bob) Breazeale, Mitch Yaley

#### District 3, One to be Elected:

Shirley Deck, Marvin Newton

You are urged to attend the meeting, hear the reports of the officers, vote for directors, and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**When:** Tuesday, Aug. 5

**Where:** McMillan Park, Mount Pleasant

### EVENTS FROM 5-7 P.M.

#### Registration (stop here first!)

Pick up meal tickets, registration gift, 2026 calendar and dividend checks. Vote for directors and register for prize drawings.



Free meal with homemade ice cream

Pony rides, snow cones and inflatable activities

Drive-A-Tractor for all ages

Information booths

### BUSINESS MEETING AT 7 P.M.

Call to order, invocation

Reading of the 2025 Notice of Meeting

Reading of the 2024 Minutes of Meeting

Nominating Committee report

Call for ballots from the floor

Treasurer's report

President's report

General Manager/CEO's report

Election results

Prize drawings (must be present to win)

**KEVIN WHEELER**  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO



## THE POWER OF BEING LOCAL

As with any year, change is inevitable – and 2024 was no exception. Yet, through all the challenges and transitions, Access Energy Cooperative remained a steady presence, focused on service, resilience and doing what's best for our members.

The year began with a severe snowstorm in January – what many would consider a true blizzard. Despite the brutal cold and dangerous conditions, our employees answered the call without hesitation. They worked tirelessly to restore power quickly and safely to every member affected. It's not just during major storms that our team rises to the occasion – they show up every day with the same commitment. That's the power of being local. Our employees live here, work here and are dedicated to serving you when you need them most.

### Demand billing and changing energy needs

In April 2024, we implemented both a rate increase and a rate restructure. While no one likes increases (including us), these changes were necessary

due to a significant cost increase from our power supplier. Overall, our rate revenue increased by 5.4%. As part of the restructuring, all rate classes were moved to demand billing. This approach more accurately reflects how we are billed by our power supplier and aligns with broader trends in the electric industry.

As technology continues to improve, we've seen demand rise even as overall energy usage declines. More efficient appliances and systems have reduced consumption, but the grid must still be built and maintained to meet the highest possible demand at any given time. This change to demand billing was one of the most difficult decisions we've made in recent years. It was the result of many years of discussions, analysis and debate. We understand it may affect some members more than others, but it ensures long-term sustainability for the cooperative. We can expect to see this shift become more common across the industry in the coming years.

Looking ahead, our power supplier, Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (AECI), is constructing two simple-cycle

generating turbines to help ensure there is enough peaking power available to meet the needs of all 51 cooperatives within the AECI system. It continues to look out for the energy needs of its member systems, just as we do for ours.

### Benefits of membership

In 2024, Access Energy Cooperative once again issued patronage dividend payments to members – bringing the total returned over the years to nearly \$32 million. That's one of the many benefits of being part of a cooperative. We remain committed to providing safe, reliable and efficient service while being good stewards of your trust and resources.

The power of being local has never been more important. You can count on us to be here – serving, supporting and standing by you. As always, your locally elected directors continue to represent each district, ensuring your cooperative remains focused on what matters most: serving our members and strengthening our communities.

We love working for you, and we thank you for the opportunity to do so.

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



**Diane**  
Executive Assistant



2024 member advisory committee meeting.



Kevin Wheeler presents a donation to the community of Danville for an economic development strategy study.



A Revolving Loan Fund loan was awarded to Dental Care by The Square for business improvements in Washington.

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.



# GET TO KNOW YOUR ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors are elected by the members and serve a three-year term. They govern services in 10 counties: Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Van Buren, Wapello and Washington.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jerry Barker**  
District 2



**William Benjamin**  
District 3



**Fred Hickenbottom**  
District 1



**David Hollingsworth**  
Vice President, District 1



**Michael Holtkamp**  
Secretary, District 3



**Marvin Larson**  
President, District 1



**Marvin Newton**  
District 3



**Robert P. Smith**  
Treasurer, District 2



**Larry White**  
District 2



*2024 legislative breakfast.*



*Access Energy Cooperative board members and management met with Sen. Adrian Dickey, Rep. Taylor Collins and other legislators at the state Capitol.*



*MPC, Mount Pleasant, was awarded a grant for business expansion.*



*Restoring power during the January blizzard.*

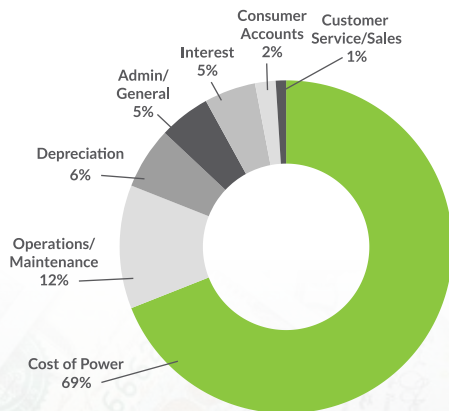


*Cooperative employees demonstrate how to use their equipment at Build My Future, an interactive career event for middle school students.*

**TAMMY SNAVELY**  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER/  
ASSISTANT GENERAL  
MANAGER



## HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT



## DIVIDENDS PAID TO MEMBERS

Total paid since inception \$31,960,202.



### Auditor opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Access Energy Cooperative as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

LWG CPAs & Advisors  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
March 20, 2025

## DIVIDENDS: A MEMBER BENEFIT

Receiving a dividend payment is one of the primary benefits of being a member of Access Energy Cooperative.

Organized as a cooperative, we are owned and operated by our members and do not exist to earn profits. Any revenue generated above the cost of doing business is allocated to members as dividends. The dividends are then paid to the members when the board determines it is in the best interest of the cooperative.

In 2024, the board allocated dividends in the amount of \$2,044,627 to member accounts. They retired \$1,503,666 in dividends that were paid to the members. The 2024 retirement brought the total dividends paid to members since 1938 to \$31,960,202.

## BALANCE SHEETS

DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

### ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT IN SERVICE, NET	
INVESTMENTS	
RESTRICTED CASH	
DEFERRED CHARGES, LESS CURRENT PORTION	
NOTES RECEIVABLE	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	
Accounts receivable, customer, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$40,000 for 2024 and \$40,000 for 2023	
Materials and supplies	
Deferred charges – current portion	
Prepaid expenses	

### TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

### TOTAL ASSETS

2024

\$ 72,647,031
26,121,960
—
324,642
2,129,285
2,530,854
5,851,258
1,399,407
61,323
73,480

\$ 9,916,322

\$ 111,139,240

2023

\$ 70,031,901
24,631,393
1,770,000
277,180
2,101,012
2,764,069
5,417,262
1,647,915
87,709
78,704

\$ 9,995,659

\$ 108,807,145

### EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

LONG-TERM DEBT, LESS CURRENT PORTION	
POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS	
DEFERRED CREDITS	
RATE STABILIZATION FUND	
MEMBERS' EQUITY AND RETAINED EARNINGS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	
Accrued expenses	
Current portion of long-term debt	
Consumer deposits	

### TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

### TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

\$ 43,107,749
682,355
1,287
1,009,510
60,466,667
2,105,915
1,541,944
2,149,746
74,067

\$ 5,871,672

\$ 111,139,240

\$ 41,272,214
611,503
3,226
—
58,839,674
2,732,724
1,445,644
2,030,227
1,871,933

\$ 8,080,528

\$ 108,807,145



## CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM



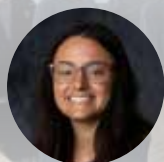
Aimee



Courtney



Jennifer



Kaley



Shelby

RICARDO ORTIZ  
IT ADMINISTRATORINFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY

Over the past year, the Access Energy Cooperative IT team has taken key steps to strengthen cybersecurity, improve system performance and support core operations.

We improved and expanded our Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for all accounts and devices with access to our critical data. We also expanded our advanced threat detection logging platform – including cyber detection tripwires and traps to monitor and alert for malicious activity – and refreshed our Cyber Incident Response Plan.

Critical server room hardware was upgraded, and all Windows platforms (both client and server) were upgraded to maintain strong performance and long-term support.

We also helped implement a secure electronic e-signature platform to help streamline member application submissions and launched a Vendor Risk Management Program to better assess cybersecurity risks from external partners.

These efforts reflect our continued focus on building a secure, efficient, reliable and forward-looking technological environment for Access Energy Cooperative and our members.

*Congratulations to Ricardo Ortiz, who completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Management Internship Program in 2024, an intensive program that focuses on different management topics.*

## STATEMENTS OF REVENUE

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

## AMOUNT

	2024	2023
REVENUES	\$ 39,795,729	\$ 36,913,640
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Purchased power / cost of sales	26,254,006	24,528,259
Operations	3,043,998	2,943,928
Maintenance	1,687,969	1,676,180
Consumer accounting expense	692,537	659,866
Consumer service and sales expense	503,034	514,967
Administrative expense	1,958,914	1,936,006
Depreciation	2,403,284	2,341,918
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 36,543,742</b>	<b>\$ 34,601,124</b>
OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	3,251,987	2,312,516
OTHER OPERATING ITEMS, NET		
Patronage revenue	2,206,123	2,206,711
Interest expense	(1,725,659)	(1,690,945)
<b>TOTAL OTHER OPERATING ITEMS, NET</b>	<b>\$ 480,464</b>	<b>\$ 515,766</b>
OPERATING MARGINS	3,732,451	2,828,282
NON-OPERATING ITEMS		
Interest and dividend revenue	352,309	411,763
Gain (loss) on disposition of assets	42,524	13,751
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(46,897)	73,837
All other, net	15,199	(7,381)
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING ITEMS, NET</b>	<b>\$ 363,135</b>	<b>\$ 491,970</b>
RATE STABILIZATION	(1,009,510)	—
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<b>\$ 3,086,076</b>	<b>\$ 3,320,252</b>

**TYLER THEIN, P.E.**  
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING



## ENGINEERING

The Access Energy Cooperative engineering department functions as the primary planner for the future of the cooperative's electrical system. Continual changes in the energy industry mandate a constant state of updating and maintaining electrical equipment and data for a well-oiled system that is ready to handle member needs.

Completion of a long-term project in 2024 assists the cooperative in collecting and analyzing power blink data from meters that can be visualized on our mapping system and reveal suspicious areas to investigate for outage prevention. Among various other projects, the engineering team also completed improvements to substation reclosers and developed the site for the Mount Pleasant Community School District new bus barn.

The engineering team gained a new data analyst/plant account when Jordan B. joined the cooperative last year.

*We also want to congratulate **Kassie** and **Jordan R.** who successfully completed intensive training to become certified staking technicians through HiLine Engineering, LLC.*

### ENGINEERING AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **3,949 poles were tested with a 3.52% failed rate for 139 rejected poles.**
- ▶ **Solar systems on the cooperative's lines:**
  - 10** new solar systems
  - 99** active solar arrays
  - 1.35MW** solar capacity
- ▶ **Work orders created in 2024:**
  - 57** new services
  - 139** service retirements
  - 293** poles replaced
  - 175** conductor and miscellaneous replacements



*Building a new service.*



*Line maintenance.*

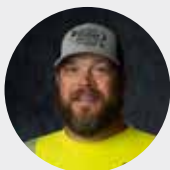


*Substation recloser project to strengthen the cooperative's reliability.*

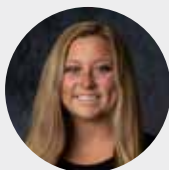
### ENGINEERING TEAM



**Jordan B.**



**Jordan R.**



**Kassie**



**Mark**



**Tammy**



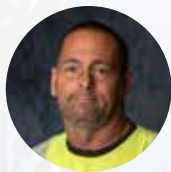
# OPERATIONS

The power of being local helps cooperative employees be able to respond to member needs efficiently. Stringent maintenance programs are followed to stay ahead of the challenges Mother Nature and other elements out of our control may send our way that interrupt power supply. The reliability of our system relies heavily on proactive inspection routines, clearing brush and trees under the lines, application of treatment to prevent future brush growth, and equipment upgrades.

## OPERATIONS TEAM



Ben



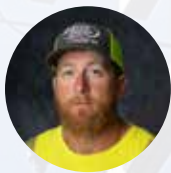
Bill



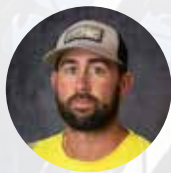
Brian



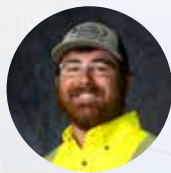
Cameron



Cole



Colton



Garrett



Gavin



Gina



Jackson



Jay



Korbin



Levon



Parker



Rick



Steven



Tony



Trever



Trey



**DANIEL PHILIPS**  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

## OPERATIONS AT A GLANCE

► **2,316 miles of overhead and underground line to maintain.**

► **Tree and brush trimming completed in 2024:**

**180 miles** in Mount Pleasant area

**120 miles** in Denmark area

**160 miles** in Primrose area

► **Vegetation spraying completed in 2024:**

**90 miles** south of Burlington

**90 miles** west and south of Mount Pleasant

**160 miles** in Selma area

**90 miles** in Franklin area



*Line maintenance and new construction.*



**KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
DIRECTOR OF MEMBER  
SERVICES/PUBLIC RELATIONS



## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- 25** energy audits conducted
- 534** members using paperless billing
- 3,441** Members using SmartHub
- \$11,000** donated to high school seniors for scholarships
- \$292,742** spent on energy efficiency rebates and education
- \$2,045,829** loaned for economic development projects through the cooperative's Revolving Loan Fund program

### MEMBER SERVICES TEAM



Alan



Cherity

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Being local makes it easy for Access Energy Cooperative to have personal connections with our members and our communities. Our employees and directors live and work in the communities we serve and are actively involved in projects and events that enhance the lives of our members. We encourage all members to get involved with the cooperative! Come to the Annual Meeting of Members. Vote for directors. As a member, you could even run for a seat on the board of directors.

You can also use SmartHub to manage your account, payments and monitor your energy usage. Take advantage of billing options like auto pay, paperless options and budget billing.



Access Energy Cooperative donated water heaters to Habitat for Humanity projects in Henry and Jefferson counties.



Employees participating in the Old Threshers Parade.



Employees volunteering at Fellowship Cup (left) and Lord's Cupboard (right) distributing food.

**KURT LOWENBERG**  
SAFETY DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT  
OPERATIONS MANAGER



## SAFETY EDUCATION

- 24** public safety presentations
- 1,455** individuals reached
- 51** accident investigations
- 66** cooperative crew observations

## SAFETY

Part of our commitment to communities involves dedication to providing safety education to our members, employees and the public. Our focus is on teaching people not only to respect electricity, but how to identify and react to dangerous situations. Safety tips are promoted on our website, Facebook and in our magazine. We provide safety training programs for employees and outside entities and perform live safety presentations for groups of all ages.



Safety demonstrations at schools.

**Congratulations to Kurt Lowenberg,** who completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Certified Loss Control Program in 2024, an intensive training program in electric utility safety and loss control.



## DAL (RED LENTIL) SOUP

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons ginger, grated
- ½ teaspoon Hot Madra curry
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- ½ teaspoon ground turmeric
- pinch cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 2 cups dried red lentils
- 6 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 14-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- fresh cilantro for topping, chopped

In a large pot, heat oil for 1 minute. Add onions and cook for 5 minutes until soft and clear. Stir in garlic, ginger, curry, cumin, turmeric, cayenne and salt. Cook for 1 minute then add lentils and broth. Turn up heat to bring mixture to a boil. Once boiling, lower heat and add coconut milk. Simmer soup for 20 minutes. Add tomatoes and continue simmering for another 5 minutes or until lentils are soft. Remove from heat. Stir in lemon juice and add salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot in bowls, topped with cilantro. *Serves 4*

Jacqueline Minikus • Pisgah  
Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative

## CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP

- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cheddar cheese soup
- or 4 ounces Velveeta cheese
- 1 can spicy nacho cheese soup
- 2 cans milk
- 1 4-ounce can green chiles
- 1 15-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1½ cups chicken, diced
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- optional: nacho chips, sour cream

Mix ingredients and heat through. Serve with nacho chips, sour cream and more shredded cheese, if desired. *Serves 8*

Carla Jansma • Hudson  
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

## FIRE CRACKERS

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons crushed red peppers
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- 2 tablespoons dry ranch seasoning powder
- 1 box saltine crackers (4 sleeves)

Mix oil, red peppers, garlic powder, onion powder and ranch seasoning together. Microwave for 1 minute to infuse flavors. Pour over crackers and stir gently. Let stand 15 minutes before eating. These are great with meat or cheese, crushed onto a salad, or just as a snack.

Carol DeJong • Sibley  
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Visit [www.ieclmagazine.com](http://www.ieclmagazine.com) and search our online archive of hundreds of recipes in various categories.



## CHICKEN JALAPEÑO LASAGNA

- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup jalapeño peppers, chopped
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 8 ounces cream cheese, cubed
- 2 cups chicken, cooked and cubed
- 1 cup chicken broth, divided
- ½ teaspoon hot sauce, optional
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 8 ounces lasagna noodles, cooked
- 8 ounces pepper jack cheese, shredded
- 8 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, shredded

In a large skillet, sauté garlic, onion and jalapeños in butter until tender. Add cream cheese. Cook and stir until melted. Stir in chicken and ½ cup chicken broth. Add hot sauce if desired and season to taste. Combine the pepper jack and cheddar cheese. Pour the remaining ½ cup broth into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Layer three noodles, half the chicken mixture and half the cheese mixture. Repeat layers. Cover and bake at 350 degrees F for 30-45 minutes, until bubbly. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing.

Sue Warner • Rock Rapids  
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

## PEPPER JACK CHICKEN DIP

- 8 ounces pepper jack cheese
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 large can chunk chicken
- 1 can jalapeños, optional
- chips or crackers

Mix first four ingredients together and heat in a slow cooker or microwave. Serve with chips or crackers.

Stephanie Messner • Rock Rapids  
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

### WANTED:

## PIE RECIPES

**THE REWARD:**  
**\$25 FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!**

### Deadline is July 31

Submit your favorite pie recipes. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name, recipe category and number of servings on all submissions.

**EMAIL:** [recipes@ieclmagazine.com](mailto:recipes@ieclmagazine.com)

### MAIL: Recipes

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine  
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48  
Des Moines, IA 50322



# RV AND CAMPING SAFETY

BY KURT LOWENBERG



Camping is a delightful way to unwind and connect with nature. Take time to understand electrical safety

measures to ensure a worry-free experience.

## Before you go

- Know the correct amperage (amp) service for your RV/camper and your family's needs so you can book an appropriate campsite. Typically, the two options to choose from are either a 30- or 50-amp site, determined by the maximum current flow your RV/camper is designed to handle. A 30-amp RV/camper is built to consume up to 30 amps of current flow, while a 50-amp RV/camper is built to consume up to 50 amps. Exceeding this current flow will result in a tripped breaker or blown fuse.
- Surge protection is a must for connecting an RV/camper to an electric outlet at a campground to safeguard your RV/camper's electrical system from power surges and fluctuations, which can cause damage to appliances and electronics.

## AVERAGE AMP DRAWS FOR AVERAGE RV/CAMPER APPLIANCES

**Air conditioner:** 15 amps

**Electric heating element for water heaters:** 10 amps

**Microwave:** 10 amps

**Refrigerator:** 5 amps

For more information, scan the QR code.



## Other basic RV/Camper safety tips

- 1 Regularly inspect and maintain your RV/camper's electrical system, including cords, outlets and appliances.
- 2 Keep electrical cords and outlets away from water sources to prevent electric shock hazards.
- 3 Never attempt to repair or modify electrical components unless you're qualified to do so.
- 4 In case of electrical emergencies, know how to shut off power to your RV/camper and have emergency contact information readily available.
- 5 If the weather is chilly and requires the use of a space heater, be sure it has safety features such as tip-over and overhead protection. Place on a stable surface away from flammables.
- 6 Install carbon monoxide detectors and test them regularly.

- Invest in high-quality, weather-resistant cords and connectors designed for outdoor use to ensure reliable power supply throughout your camping trip.
  - Charge your RV/camper's battery before your camping trip to ensure a reliable power supply during your outdoor adventures.
  - Ensure that children understand the dangers of playing near electrical outlets and cords. Establish clear boundaries and designate a safe play area away from electrical hookups where children can play freely without risk of injury.
  - If you are hooking up electricity during rainy conditions, take extra care to keep yourself and your equipment dry by using a waterproof cover. Avoid standing in puddles or wet areas while handling electrical cords and plugs.
  - Unplug electrical cords and disconnect from campground power sources during storms to reduce the risk of electrical damage or injury when lightning is near. Seek shelter in designated campground facilities until the severe weather passes.
- When you arrive at the campsite**
- Follow the campground instructions when hooking up to the electrical equipment. Use the appropriate electrical adapters and connectors for your RV/camper's power requirements and double-check that all connections are secure.
  - Before hooking up to the electrical pedestal at the campground, inspect it fully. Look for signs of damage, corrosion or exposed wiring. Ensure it is properly grounded, and outlets are in good working condition. Notify campground staff with concerns.

*Kurt Lowenberg is the safety director/assistant operations manager for Access Energy Cooperative.*



# ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to area high school students who were recently named as recipients of the 2025 Access Energy Cooperative scholarship program and each received a \$1,500 award.

The parents or guardians of the applicant must be members of Access Energy Cooperative. Winners are chosen based on their academics, achievements, community involvement and a submitted application with a few electric industry-related questions.

## IN DISTRICT 1



**Avery Morris**, daughter of Geoff and Libby Morris, will be attending Indian Hills Community College to pursue a career in nursing.



**Cason Miller**, son of Stephen and Heather Miller, will be attending Iowa State University majoring in finance/business and turf management.



**Grace Lyon**, daughter of Troy and Melinda Lyon, plans to attend Iowa State University to major in animal science.



**Madison Yarnell-Shaw**, daughter of Derek Shaw, will be attending the University of Iowa studying criminology and law and justice.

## IN DISTRICT 2



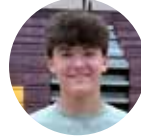
**Alexa Fuller**, daughter of Andrea and Bruce Hudson, plans to major in psychology at the University of Northern Iowa.



**Ethan Graber**, son of Kendall and Shelley Graber, will be studying agricultural business-agricultural education at Des Moines Area Community College and then transferring to Iowa State University.



**Halaina Crane**, daughter of Andrew Crane and Dixie Crane, will be majoring in ecosystem restoration and management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.



**Owen Baker**, son of Jeff and Jill Baker, will be attending Kirkwood Community College.

## IN DISTRICT 3



**Brylie Lorence**, daughter of Andrew and Tonya Lorence, plans to attend Indian Hills Community College to pursue a career in healthcare administration.



**Chase Johnson**, son of Ryan and Karen Johnson, will be attending Loras College and William Penn University studying kinesiology/strength and conditioning.



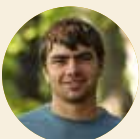
**Jalyn Hawk**, daughter of Joe and Joanie Hawk, plans to attend St. Ambrose University to major in exercise science and pursue a career in physical therapy.



**Nicholas Powell**, son of Marcus and Annie Powell, plans to pursue a career in health science.

# 2025 LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2025 Access Energy Cooperative Lineworker Scholarship program! Receiving \$2,000 each toward a lineworker educational program are **Kayden Calfee**, **Corbin Jacobs-Jewell** and **Blake Waste**.



**Kayden** graduated from Central Lee High School and plans to attend the powerline program at Northwest Community College.



Marshalltown Community College.



**Blake** graduated from Danville High School and plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College to participate in the electric utility technology program.

**Corbin** graduated from New London High School and will attend the powerline program at Marshalltown Community College.

In addition to the \$9,000 in scholarships awarded to students whose parents or guardians of the applicant are members of Access Energy Cooperative, up to two \$2,000 lineworker scholarships can be awarded to students planning to pursue a career as a lineworker. Winners are chosen based on their academics, achievements, community involvement and a personal interview. They must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a qualifying lineworker educational program.

# GENERATE SAFELY

BY SCOTT FLOOD

The wind howls outside your windows as a major storm system blows through the area. Your lights flicker for a moment or two before you're plunged into darkness. The social media feed on your phone is packed with reports of damage and power outages. Whether it's a destructive summer or winter storm, outages in any season are unwelcome events.

Iowa's electric cooperatives understand power outages are an inconvenience, and we do our best to prevent them. However, when severe weather strikes, outages can sometimes persist for several hours or even days after a major storm. Lineworkers may have to check many miles of power lines to pinpoint the problems before they can begin their work to restore service. That's why some co-op members consider purchasing backup generators to meet their family's needs while waiting for service to resume.

## Types of generators

Backup generators fall into one of two categories. Standby generators are permanently wired into the home's electrical system by a qualified electrician. They come in a variety of sizes, allowing homeowners to match the generator to their home's specific power needs. Portable generators, as the name implies, can be moved to wherever they are needed. Because they're small enough to move, they generally provide less power than standby models. Most use gasoline or diesel fuel, and when they're operated correctly, both types provide a safe source of backup power.

## Safety considerations

Some homeowners make the mistake of plugging their backup generators directly into a wall outlet or connecting them to their home's electrical panel. Beyond the significant risk of electrocution and

fire, plugging generators directly into your outlets can send the voltage your generator creates into the power lines connecting your home to the electric grid. This creates a dangerous condition called "backfeed," which can seriously injure the lineworkers who are working hard to restore your electricity, as well as anyone who accidentally comes in contact with power lines. Backfeed can also damage the generator.

Permanently installed backup generators are required to have a transfer switch, which should be installed by a qualified electrician. The transfer switch creates a barrier between your home's electrical system and the outside wires, so backfeed cannot occur. When the transfer switch senses that power has been restored, it switches the power back from the generator to the outside lines.

The biggest danger associated with backup generators is that they generate a variety of gases, most notably carbon monoxide. Generators should only be used in dry, well-ventilated areas away from your home and garage.

When starting a portable generator, make sure nothing is plugged into it. In addition, you can reduce the potential for damage to your appliances and lighting by turning them off or unplugging them from the wall. After the generator starts, plug them in and turn them on one at a time to make sure you aren't overloading your generator's capacity. Unplug them from the generator before turning it off. Unless the manufacturer recommends otherwise, always turn the generator off and allow it to cool before adding fuel.

As with many home appliances, regular maintenance is the key to



If you purchase a portable backup generator, protect your home and family by taking the time to read the manufacturer's instructions. Photo Source: City of Bryan



Standby generators are permanently wired into the home's electrical system by a qualified electrician. Photo Source: All Star Electrical Services

ensuring your portable generator operates safely for years to come. When storing it, drain the fuel from the tank. In addition, check the oil and fuel level, filters and other components once a season so you know it will be ready to run safely and efficiently the next time a big storm blows through.

*Scott Flood writes on energy-related topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*



# POWERING THE DIGITAL FRONTIER

BY ALLISON HAMILTON

Data centers are the backbone of the internet. They store and manage everything from social media to cloud computing, artificial intelligence and our favorite streaming services. As more people and businesses transition to digital operations, the number of data centers is rapidly increasing. While many of these centers were once built near large cities, more are now being sited in rural areas.

Electric cooperatives are receiving regular requests from companies seeking to build large data centers within their service territories. These requests bring both significant opportunities and major challenges.

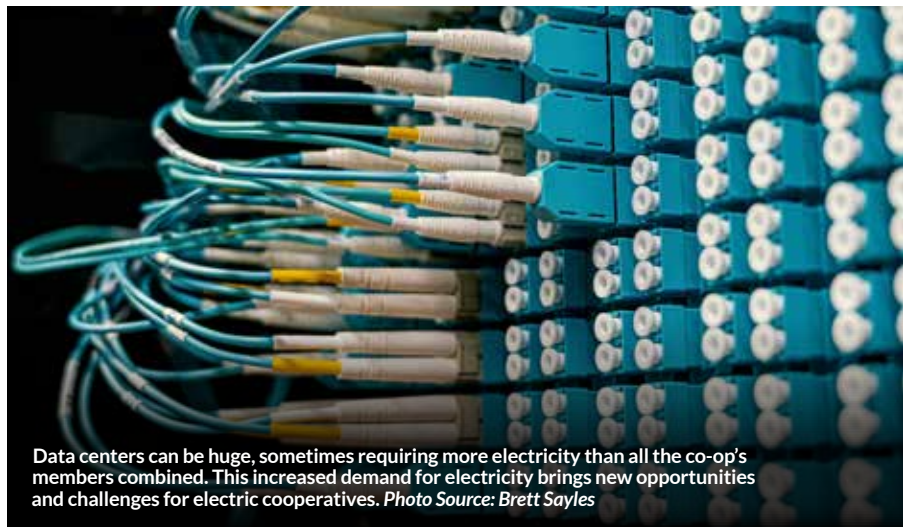
## Why are data centers coming to rural areas?

There are several reasons why companies are choosing rural locations for their data centers:

- **More land.** Rural areas have plenty of space for large buildings.
- **Resource diversity.** Electric cooperatives own and operate reliable sources of energy.
- **Lower costs.** Land and labor are usually less expensive outside of cities.
- **Tax breaks.** Local and state governments may offer tax benefits to attract these businesses.

Data centers can be huge, sometimes requiring more electricity than all the co-op's members combined. This increased demand for electricity brings several new opportunities for electric cooperatives.

- **New jobs and growth.** Data centers can bring jobs and revenue to small communities.
- **Stable revenue.** These centers require a lot of power and typically sign long-term contracts. This provides the co-op with steady income, which can help pay for system upgrades and keep rates lower for other members in the community.



Data centers can be huge, sometimes requiring more electricity than all the co-op's members combined. This increased demand for electricity brings new opportunities and challenges for electric cooperatives. Photo Source: Brett Sayles

- **Improved infrastructure.** To serve a large data center, the co-op might need to build new power lines or substations. While this is expensive, it can also enhance service for all co-op members.

## New potential challenges

While data centers create significant opportunities for electric co-ops by driving demand and investment, they also present new challenges in meeting increased electricity needs while maintaining reliable and resilient power delivery.

- **High upfront costs.** Building the new infrastructure to power a data center can cost millions, which is why co-ops work diligently with data center customers to ensure upfront costs are covered.
- **Risk of losing a big customer.** If the data center moves away or shuts down, the co-op could be left with expensive equipment it no longer needs. This could negatively impact the co-op's finances.
- **Permitting and siting.** Obtaining permission to construct new power lines and substations requires time. There may be zoning rules, environmental reviews and public meetings that slow things down.

## Planning for the future

To manage both the risks and rewards that data centers present, electric co-op leaders are taking a careful and informed approach. They are working closely with their generation and transmission providers, economic development offices and financial experts to plan these projects.

Co-ops are also ensuring contracts with data center operators include protections for the co-op. For example, if the data center leaves early, the company may be liable for paying part of the infrastructure costs. Forecasting tools are also helping co-ops understand how the new load will impact the local system.

Serving large data centers could be a game-changer for many electric cooperatives. These projects can bring jobs, revenue and new technology to co-op communities. But they also come with financial risks and planning challenges. By asking the right questions and building smart partnerships, electric cooperatives are poised to make decisions that serve their members well – now and in the future.

Allison Hamilton writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

## CONGRATULATIONS, LINEMEN!

Access Energy Cooperative is proud to announce the advancement of three apprentice linemen to the status of journeymen linemen. Congratulations, Jackson, Cameron and Garrett!



JACKSON



CAMERON



GARRETT

## BUILD MY FUTURE

Access Energy Cooperative, assisted by employees from Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative (Northeast Power), interacted with seventh grade students from southeast Iowa in the 2025 Build My Future event in Burlington. The event was hosted by the Southeast Iowa Builders Association and offered hands-on construction-related activities for students interested in careers in the trade industry.

More than 1,200 students actively participated in a variety of activities throughout the day, including those available at the Access Energy Cooperative and Northeast Power station. At our station, students could try on safety equipment, experience tools and equipment of a lineworker, and open and close breakers in a simulated electrical environment.



## ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

Access Energy Cooperative welcomes Gavin Veatch to our team as a staking technician. Gavin graduated from the University of Missouri in May. He was previously an intern with the cooperative in our engineering department.



## SAVE TIME WITH PAPERLESS BILLING



Paperless billing reduces your monthly paper usage, carbon footprint and mailbox clutter. You can review and pay your monthly electric bill online. It is free, convenient and secure!

To sign up for paperless billing, you must first have a SmartHub account. (However, paperless billing is not required to have a SmartHub account.) SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of your utility account. In SmartHub, you can view and pay your bill. Visit our website at [accessenergycoop.com](http://accessenergycoop.com) or download the SmartHub app on your mobile device to create your account.

Once you sign up for paperless billing in SmartHub, you will receive monthly notifications by email when your bill is available for viewing. This email includes the amount due and the due date. You can pay securely on our website or in the app, anytime, anywhere as long as you have an internet connection.

We are happy to answer your questions. Call us at 866-242-4232 or email our billing department at [billing@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:billing@accessenergycoop.com).



## NEW CO-OP WEBSITE

The Access Energy Cooperative website has a whole new look and user-friendly environment.

**With the updated website, users will find:**

- ✓ Improved search functionality
- ✓ Enhanced mobile capabilities
- ✓ Mobile-friendly enhancements
- ✓ Accessibility tool enhancements

We are working to make things easier to find, plus incorporating a powerful search engine on the site. The updated site has new calculators, energy efficiency and demand educational assistance tools, and safety information. It is fully responsive whether you use a desktop, tablet or smartphone.

**Check out the new site at the previous address: [accessenergycoop.com](http://accessenergycoop.com).**



## FORD LIGHTNING EV

As part of a research project, Access Energy Cooperative is tracking data from the cooperative's Ford Lightning electric vehicle to share with members. The following is the data for May.

- 1,103 miles driven
- 2,479 total minutes charge time with a Level 2 charger
- 627 total kWh for charging
- \$78.40 total cost of electricity at 12.5 cents per kWh
- 63 gallons of gas equivalent
- \$175.80 total cost of gas equivalent at \$2.79 per gallon

*Note: Dollar values are dependent on electric and gas prices.*



## 2025 ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE REBATE PROGRAM

Updated rebates are effective July 1. For details, requirements and application forms, visit [www.accessenergycoop.com/rebates-and-low-interest-loans](http://www.accessenergycoop.com/rebates-and-low-interest-loans).

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025**

REBATE	TOTAL TO MEMBER
Water heater - through Dec. 31, 2026	\$100
Water heater - heat pump	\$1,050
Air source heat pump - new - ducted minisplit (dual fuel)	\$500 per ton
Air source heat pump - replace existing - ducted minisplit (dual fuel)	\$300 per ton
Ground source heat pump - new	\$750 per ton
Ground source heat pump - replace existing indoor unit	\$400 per ton
EV charging station level 2 - through Dec. 31, 2025	\$250
Minisplit ductless air conditioning	\$250
Weatherization rebates	up to \$750
Thermostat	\$50
Lighting rebates	varies up to 40%

## 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*





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine  
for members of  
Iowa's electric  
cooperatives

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Visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

# WHERE WE HAVE MEMBERS WE ACTIVELY LIVE OUR COMMITMENT

We're not just a service provider – we're active members of our community. We take pride in serving our members and going the extra mile in everything we do. Get closer to your **local cooperative** for ways we support you and strengthen our community.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®