

MAY 2023

NEW Method for Allocation Notices – Members Take Note!

AS PART OF THEIR DUE DILIGENCE, your Board of Directors has voted to forego the production of a separate mailing for notifying members of their deferred patronage dividends. This will begin with 2022's allocation notices. Members will still receive notices about their deferred dividends in the month of May. However, the notices will now be listed under the "Message from ECI REC" section of your May bill rather than sent as a separately mailed statement. In making this change, your Cooperative will save nearly \$4,500 in mailing fees and materials.

What are deferred patronage dividends?

As a nonprofit electric cooperative, East-Central Iowa REC is owned by you and our other member-consumers. At the end of the year, we allocate our annual margins, or profits, from a past year to those of you who received electric service during that year. These profits are called "deferred patronage dividends." These dividends are allocated to you based on the amount you paid for electricity during that time and represent your ownership in East-Central Iowa REC.

ECI REC
Energy Wise, Community Connected
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

P.O. Box 248
Urbanda IA 52345-0248

Email: csr@ecirec.coop
Toll-free: 877-850-4343

JOHN L. SMITH
12345 EAST STREET
INDEPENDENCE, IA 52345

Statement Date	05/10/2023
Account Number	1234567
Payment Due	06/01/2023

Service Summary

Previous Balance	\$199.95
Payments Received 05/01/2023	\$199.95
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Current Charges	\$145.41
Total Amount Due	\$145.41

Message from ECI REC

Notice of 2022 Deferred Patronage Allocation

2022 Allocation \$47.45
Current Balance \$94.40
Your current balance represents your equity in the cooperative and will be refunded to you over time as determined by the Board of Directors.

Phone #: 123-456-7890

To	Days	Readings Previous	Present	Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	Rate Number and Description	Bill Type	911 Address and Map Location
05/01/2023	30	91655	92579	1.00	924	31 FARM AND RESIDENTIAL	Regular	1234 56th St 111 22 33

Deferred patronage dividends shown on this bill message from ECI REC cannot be applied to your energy bill.

As an owner, you provide equity to the Cooperative by allowing us to use this money for a period of time. We use it to repay our long-term debt, finance additions and upgrades to the distribution system, repair storm damage, and cover other contingencies. This amount is not cash sitting in an account; it is not payable at this time. It will be refunded to you at some point in the future as the Cooperative's financial condition allows.

Please notify us of any changes in your address. This will allow us to forward any patronage dividends to you, even if you are no longer a member. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 877-850-4343 or email ecirec@ecirec.coop.

Are you prepared for a TORNADO?

Opt in to weather alerts through the Smart911 app or your county opt-in page!

Emergency Alert
Tornado Warning in this area until 3:30 PM. Take shelter now.

POWERED BY:
ALERTIOWA Smart911®

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

Resilient Roots, Sustained Commitment

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Be on the lookout for an envelope marked **BALLOT**, and exercise your membership by voting!

How Do I Attend?

Visit ecirec.coop and look for the yellow button at the top of the home page, which will take you to the Annual Meeting of the Members page. Look for the green JOIN NOW button. The virtual meeting room will open at 10:30 a.m.

Are There Prizes?

Of course! Twelve \$50 bill credits and two \$100 bill credits will be given away as grand prizes this year.

How Do I Vote?

On May 26, ballots will be mailed and online voting will open. All votes—online and mail-in—MUST be received by June 26.

- 1** MAIL - A ballot will be mailed to every member with a self-addressed and stamped return envelope.*
- 2** SMART HUB - Log in to SmartHub at ecirec.smarthub.coop and click VOTE NOW. Please note: SmartHub voting must be done in a web browser, not the SmartHub mobile app.
- 3** ONLINE - Click the blue VOTE NOW button located on the home page at ecirec.coop. Enter your voter number and election passcode, which will be listed at the bottom of your mailed ballot. Follow online voting instructions.

*ECI REC partnered with Diamond/OSG to administer the Annual Meeting mailing and ballot validation processes. They will tabulate all the ballots, both paper and online.



Nominate a local volunteer and they could win \$2,500 for their charity!

Contest entries accepted during June at IowaShineTheLight.com

May is Electrical Safety Month

Take simple steps to keep your home safe.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Your Co-op Connections® Card offers you Healthy Savings and local and national deals. Use your card to start saving today! Questions? Email coopconnections@ecirec.coop.



Use SmartHub to pay for FREE online! Visa, Discover, American Express, and MasterCard accepted. While you're there, view your monthly usage data in helpful chart formats.