

The Outlet

JULY 2023

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

Member Appreciation Event coming in September

September 27, 2023 is the date set for our Member Appreciation Day event. It will be held at Danzinger's Vineyard in Alma from 4:00- 7:00 p.m. Watch for details!

Safety Month Poster Winners

Third-grade students from across the Riverland Energy service territory submitted safety posters in May for National Electrical Safety Month. Waylynn Duellman of Buffalo City was the first-place winner, Ike Beckstrom of Onalaska was the second-place winner, and Elise Bittner of Fountain City was the third-place winner.

The winners received a cash prize and their posters were sent to WECA for the state contest.

Thank you to all who participated!

Call before you dig

Before you build a deck, install a fence, plant a tree or dig into any home improvement project, have utility lines marked. One call helps protect you from injury and expense. Call 811 three working days before you dig to have buried utility lines located. It's free.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Are you thinking of installing solar at your home or business?

We encourage you to call our office to discuss your solar project to review any requirements prior to the solar system being interconnected to our electric grid.

We will work closely with you for advice and assistance on interconnecting with the grid. Take the time to research thoroughly before investing in a system. Ensure the contractor is NABCEP certified, licensed, insured, and has experience and references. Get at least three quotes before choosing one.

Double-check the cost and savings numbers. Riverland can provide information and history of your energy usage that can help you size your system and evaluate savings.

More information on the process can be found on our website at riverlandenergy.com, or call us at 800.411.9115.

Community Cares Grant applications due August 20

Community Cares Funds are collected from members who voluntarily have their monthly bill rounded up to the next



Spare change for community needs.

dollar. The funds are held separately from the Riverland Energy operating accounts and are administered through the Community Cares Foundation Board. Applications for funding are considered by the Community Cares Board twice a year.

Grants are awarded to local non-profits, schools, and community-based organizations for projects involving community service, economic development, education and youth, and disaster relief.

For more information and to apply, visit our website at riverlandenergy.com. The deadline to apply is August 20, 2023.

Recycle drive a success after 13 years

Thank you to all who participated in our recycle drive and dropped off items to be recycled. Six semi loads of appliances and electronics were hauled away to be recycled.

Riverland Energy teamed up with Dynamic Lifestyle Innovations to put on the event and offered free and low-cost recycling for old appliances and electronics that they no longer wanted and are no longer energy efficient.

“We’re happy this event is still going strong after 13 years,” said Tim Holtan, CEO. “It’s a great way for our members to be better energy efficient and keeping things out of the landfill.”

The event was held in June at all three Riverland Energy office locations.



From the CEO, Tim Holtan

Cost of Service Study



A few months ago, the Cooperative engaged the service of a consultant to perform a rate study, or cost of service study (COSS). The Cooperative routinely conducts a COSS with an independent firm to review rate designs. This ensures appropriate levels of revenue are collected based on the cost of service for various classifications of electric users. It provides information and direction to the board on the need for an adjustment and suggests methods of where the adjustments are needed.

The consultant reviews the cooperative’s revenue requirements, investigates and determines the true cost of providing electric service to each member class, and then evaluates the needed adjustments by rate class to meet the revenue requirements. Electric utilities from across the country conduct similar studies. It is up to each Cooperative’s Board of Directors to determine how to allocate costs using its own rate philosophy, assumptions, and methodologies.

The main driver for a rate adjustment is a wholesale cost of power rate adjustment. Wholesale power costs represent over 60 percent of all operating costs of the cooperative, and accordingly, have a proportionately significant impact on your power bill. Due to these factors and based on the COSS results, a rate adjustment can be determined. Each rate component (energy, base service charge, and demand) is considered when developing rates. Once we get closer to the end of the year, we will have a better idea of what is expected for 2024.

On another note, I would like to remind you to be aware of Riverland Energy crews and contractors that may be working on the side of the road this summer. Please slow down and give them space to work. Stay safe!

OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,
Finance Manager

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	May 2022	May 2023	2022	2023
KWHS PURCHASED	22,067,883	21,462,112	126,535,998	120,961,960
KWHS SOLD	21,265,576	20,702,972	120,561,362	116,374,502
REVENUE	3,064,655	3,179,996	16,506,776	16,617,910
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	2,024,723	1,739,427	10,066,815	9,399,343
OTHER EXPENSES	1,342,995	1,485,859	6,498,132	6,944,424
OPERATING MARGINS	(303,063)	(45,290)	(58,171)	274,143
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	101,022	6,822	329,909	50,410
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	69,761	55,848	351,750	307,228
TOTAL MARGINS	(132,280)	17,380	623,488	631,781

DID YOU KNOW? The word “finance” is derived from the old French word meaning “end, ending”. TGI Finance!

Energy efficiency rebates

From appliances to heating and cooling to insulation and weatherization - small changes can mean big energy savings.

Riverland Energy Cooperative provides rebates to our residential and commercial members for the purchase of a variety of energy-efficient equipment and appliances.

Visit our website for more information and rebate forms.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Need help with your electric bill?
Contact your local agency:

Trempealeau Co. Social Services:
715-538-2311

Western Wisconsin E.O.C.:
715-985-2391

Buffalo County Human Services:
608-685-4412

La Crosse Co. Human Services:
608-784-4357

Energy Services, Inc.:
800-506-5596
energyandhousing.wi.gov

WI Help for Homeowners:
855-246-6394
homeownershelp.wi.gov

Energy Savings Hub Launched

The U.S. Department of Energy recently launched the Energy Savings Hub — an online one-stop shop to access the savings tools as part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to cut energy costs. The new website — [Energy.gov/Save](https://www.energy.gov/save) — provides information on tax credits and forthcoming rebates, to help people take control of their energy costs and have cleaner and more efficient options as a consumer — whether they are looking to purchase an electric vehicle, update an appliance, or make their home safer and more comfortable.

Purchases must meet specific energy efficiency requirements. Here are some basics on the tax credits available:

IRS FORM 5695 (2023-2032)

- Air conditioners, heating equipment, hot water boilers and water heaters: 30% of the cost paid by the consumer, up to \$600. Subject to a cumulative, annual cap of \$1,200.
- Air-source heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, biomass stoves/boilers: 30% of the cost paid by the consumer. Consumers have a \$2,000/year limit in total for heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and biomass stoves/boilers.
- Geothermal (ground-source) heat pumps: 30% of the cost paid by the consumer.
- Solar water heaters: 30% of the cost paid by the consumer.
- Home energy audit: \$30 of the cost paid by the consumer up to \$150.
- Residential solar photovoltaics: 30% of the cost paid by the consumer.
- Residential energy storage systems: 30% of the cost paid by the consumer.

IRS FORM 8936 (2023-2032)

- Electric or fuel cell vehicle (new): Up to \$7,500 for incomeeligible buyers of qualified vehicles.
- Electric or fuel cell vehicle (used): Up to \$4,000 for incomeeligible buyers of qualified vehicles.

Guidance on how rebates will be implemented isn't expected until late 2023. Another helpful site is [energy.gov/credits-and-deuctions-under-the-inflation-reduction-act-of-2022](https://www.energy.gov/credits-and-deuctions-under-the-inflation-reduction-act-of-2022).

Please talk to your tax advisor about home energy improvements, and keep in mind that Riverland Energy also offers rebates for co-op members. Visit riverlandenergy.com or call 800-411-9115.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy



BILLING MADE EASY

Riverland Energy Cooperative understands how busy life can get. Whether working, getting kids to activities, spending time with family, or running errands, it can be easy to forget to make a payment. Luckily, Riverland Energy offers many ways to pay your bill, so you can use what is the most convenient and works the best for your lifestyle!



BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Pay Online - Log in to view your bill electronically through the SmartHub site or the mobile app. You may authorize payment from your checking account or Visa/Mastercard.

Quick Pay - One-time-Payment - Do you want to make a quick, one-time online payment without logging into your SmartHub account? All you need is the account number and the first five letters of the primary member's last name. If you choose to allow another person to make a payment on your account by this method, please be advised they will be able to see your current balance or past due balance, but no other account information.

Auto Pay Program - Sign up for recurring payments through SmartHub using your bank account or a Visa/Mastercard. Simply sign-in or register for SmartHub to get started. Once you sign in to SmartHub, choose Auto Pay Program under the Billing & Payments tab. After adding an account, the total bill amount will be withdrawn from your payment method on the 20th of each month. The program is ideal for travelers and snowbirds and assures your good credit rating with Riverland Energy.

Pay by Phone - Make payments by phone with your credit/debit card or checking account using our automated phone system. This service is available 24/7. Just call 888-220-8233 and follow the step-by-step instructions.

Pay by Mail - Please allow mail time for payment to be received before the due date. Please call the billing team if additional time is needed.

Pay in Person - Drop off your payment at one of our offices in Holmen or Arcadia. Use the drop box outside of each office for after hours to drop off your payment.



RIVERLAND
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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