

The Outlet

AUGUST 2023

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

Offices Closed on Labor Day

Our offices will be closed on Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. Line crews are on-call to respond to any outages or emergencies. You can report an outage by calling 800-927-6206, or through SmartHub.

Buy Renewable Energy Blocks from Your Co-op

We make it easy to be green! No equipment or installation costs, no panels or turbines on your property, and no maintenance. Our Evergreen program allows you to purchase 100kWh block for \$.65 a month for renewable energy above and beyond the state requirements. To sign up, visit our website at riverlandenergy.com, and click on renewable energy tab.

Electric Vehicles and Chargers

Electric Vehicles (EVs) have been around for a very long time, but have become a growing market more recently. As your trusted energy professional, it's our job to be able to help you make energy choices that make sense for you.

We also offer a \$400 rebate for an electric vehicle charging station and a \$800 rebate for a Smart Electric Vehicle Charging Station.

If you have questions about EVs or charging them, feel free to give us a call and we'll do everything we can to help.

Grant applications due August 20

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



Community Cares

Spare change for community needs.

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

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27
4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

DANZINGER'S VINEYARD
ALMA, WI

ENTERTAINMENT:

- **KEVIN THE BALLOON GUY**
- **KATIE and MAC**

FREE FOOD

PRIZES

GAMES

- ✓ Free registration gift
- ✓ Chance to win electric bill credit
- ✓ Kids activities and prizes
- ✓ Bucket trucks
- ✓ Co-op information



Beware of scams

Riverland Energy reminds members to be suspicious of calls asking for payment information.

Scammers call threatening to disconnect your utility service, demanding immediate payment, and insist you call them back with the card information to make payment. They often use caller ID spoofing, and their call-back numbers may even include recorded replicas of utility company greetings.

If you receive a suspicious call, please call Riverland to verify the request for payment before providing any personal information. Also, report scammer calls to the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC also provides great information on identifying scammers and how to protect yourself.



From the CEO, Tim Holtan
Power is in your hands

Because we’re a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. Riverland Energy’s decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here – to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn’t line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We’re a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say, such as our annual meeting or member appreciation day event. Because you’re part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy—and supply chain issues—throw at us.

Riverland Energy is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through our energy audit program and efficiency rebates.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we’ve grown over the years, we’re still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands.

OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,
Manager of Finance

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	June 2022	June 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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: The word “finance” is derived from the old French word meaning “end, ending”. TGI Finance!

DO THE SUMMER SHIFT:

Reduce electricity weekdays

11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Set the thermostat to 78 degrees during the summer when no one is home. Using a programmable thermostat means one less thing to remember!
- Delay starting a load of laundry until after 7 p.m. (use cold water, if possible). Or, wash clothes first thing in the morning and dry your clothes outside on a clothes line during the day.
- Program the dishwasher to avoid running between 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Shut off lights when you are not using them.
- Enjoy a picnic lunch and/or dinner a few days a week that do not require a microwave or stove to prepare.



Members helping members

Members can help family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers stay current on their electric bill. If you would like to help a member by paying \$50, \$100, \$200 or any amount desired towards their electric bill, please send a check with the member's name, address and phone number.

Local Youth Attend YLC



Four high school juniors attended the 60th Annual Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at UW-Stout July 11-13. Wisconsin Energy Cooperative Association (WECA) sponsors the event to demonstrate to high school students the basics of cooperatives and participate in

various leadership activities. Adysen Slusser, Josie Alesch, Claire Goeldner, and Roland Goeldner (pictured photo above, l-r), were among the 75 teens who participated in the YLC.

Attention: High School Juniors Riverland is seeking Co-op Youth Ambassadors

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2023-2024 Youth Ambassador Program. Students must be a junior in high school.

The Riverland Energy Youth Ambassador Program is an educational experience and enjoyable program designed specifically for high school juniors. It's a great way for students to interact and work with other students by examining the business of operating an electric cooperative.

Students will learn about the cooperative business model, explore career options, network with other students and professionals, learn about renewable energy, and have the opportunity to participate in youth leadership conferences and tour a power plant. Volunteer opportunities and scholarship opportunities are also available.

The program will run October 2023 - September 2024 and will be held from 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. at our offices in either Arcadia or Holmen. Lunch is provided at all meetings. Students get paid a per diem for each meeting and will get reimbursed mileage.

The deadline for applications is October 1, 2023. For an application visit our website at www.riverlandenergy.com.

Safety tip for dorm rooms

Kids off to college? Remind them when using space heaters, toasters, stoves, TV's, or any heat-producing appliances, to keep combustibles such as paper, drapes, or furniture clear of the appliance.

Stay in your vehicle if power lines are down



Following an accident or storm that drops power lines around your car:

- Stay inside your car until power is shut off; the ground outside may be energized.
- Do not drive over wires; they may be live with high-voltage electricity.
- Call 911 and keep others away until help arrives.
- If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear so no part of your body touches the car when you land.
- Keep both feet together and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away. Keeping feet together and on the ground minimizes the chance for shock.

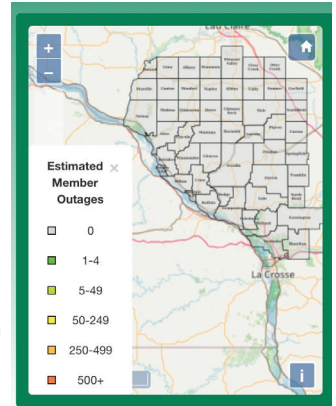
Photo contest is back

Beginning in September, Riverland Energy will hold a photo contest through its Facebook page for a chance to win an electric bill credit. Each month the co-op will post a theme for the contest, and members can submit their photos and vote by clicking on the link to the contest page. The member whose photo has the most votes will win. Details will be in our September publications.

Summer storms can cause power outages

Check out our outage map to see how outages are affecting your area

Summer season is here, and with that can mean storms and power outages. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time. We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. The big problems are handled first – like damage to transmission lines which serve the most people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage has occurred.



We do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Be sure to check the live outage map on our website to view if outages are in your area. We also try to keep you up-to-date during large outages on our Facebook page and our website.

During large outages we experience high call volume. We encourage you to sign up for outage texting to text in your outage, or report your outage through SmartHub.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of theMonth



DID YOU KNOW CEILING FANS CAN MAKE A ROOM FEEL 4 DEGREES COOLER? TO SAVE ENERGY THROUGH CEILING FAN USE, REMEMBER TO RAISE YOUR THERMOSTAT A FEW DEGREES WHILE FANS ARE TURNED ON. CEILING FANS CAN HELP IMPROVE COMFORT YEAR-ROUND. IN THE SUMMER, OPERATE CEILING FANS IN A COUNTERCLOCKWISE DIRECTION. REVERSE THE DIRECTION TO CLOCKWISE DURING WINTER MONTHS AND SET FANS ON A LOW SPEED SO WARM AIR CAN CIRCULATE FROM THE CEILING TO THE LOWER LEVELS OF THE ROOM. REMEMBER, CEILING FANS COOL PEOPLE, NOT SPACES. BE SURE TO TURN THEM OFF WHEN YOU LEAVE THE ROOM.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



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® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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