

# The Outlet

AUGUST 2022

*A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative*

## Offices Closed on Labor Day

Our offices will be closed on Monday, September 5 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 \$1.00 a month for renewable energy above and beyond the state requirements. To sign up, visit our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://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](http://riverlandenergy.com). The deadline to apply is **August 20, 2022**.

## NOTICE: Office Hours Change Sept. 1

**Our office hours will be 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. beginning on September 1, 2022.**

Outages can still be reported 24/7 by calling 1-800-927-6206. If you need to meet with someone in our office after 3:30, you may call and set up an appointment with that person in advance by calling 1-800-411-9115.



## Member Appreciation Day Event

**Celebrate with us on  
Wednesday, October 5**

**at the Omni Center  
255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI**

**4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Free meal, games and activities for kids and adults, a chance to win prizes, entertainment, and more!**

## 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.



## Working with local legislators

Riverland Energy and other co-ops through the U.S. are continually working with local, state and U.S. representatives and senators to ensure affordable energy costs for the future. Riverland Energy does not choose particular political parties, but instead works to educate all legislators on the possible effects particular bills can have on their constituents.

We think it's critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community.

This year is going to be another exciting election year. With all kinds of national, state and local races, electric cooperatives have the opportunity to have a seat at the table and make their voices heard.

Co-ops play a vital role in supporting political engagement, encouraging rural voter turnout, and engaging with candidates on issues that matter in our communities. It remains imperative that co-ops be involved in the conversation.

Because we're involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

You can take the time to show concern for your community and encourage everyone who is eligible to get registered to vote. You can visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) for election resources, register to vote, and learn about the upcoming elections.

## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
Manager of Finance

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	June 2021	June 2022	2021	2022
KWHS PURCHASED	28,738,768	25,004,531	147,439,411	151,569,029
KWHS SOLD	28,022,883	24,091,612	142,277,934	145,852,753
REVENUE	3,804,240	3,411,904	19,569,190	19,918,680
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	2,349,096	2,182,979	11,651,952	12,249,794
OTHER EXPENSES	1,577,439	1,345,587	7,529,678	7,843,719
OPERATING MARGINS	(122,295)	(116,662)	387,560	(174,833)
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	9,069	7,350	89,947	337,259
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	121,873	75,095	506,993	426,845
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>8,674</b>	<b>(34,217)</b>	<b>984,500</b>	<b>589,271</b>

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** "If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading." Lao Tzu

## 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



## 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.

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



Applications are currently being accepted for the 2022-2023 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 local business and a power plant. Volunteer opportunities and scholarship opportunities may also be available.

The program will run October - May and will be held at 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, 2022. For an application visit our website at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://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.**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



# BE ENERGY SMART

**DOWNLOAD THE SMARTHUB APP**



- Report Outages
- Monitor Energy Use
- Pay Bills
- Contact Us

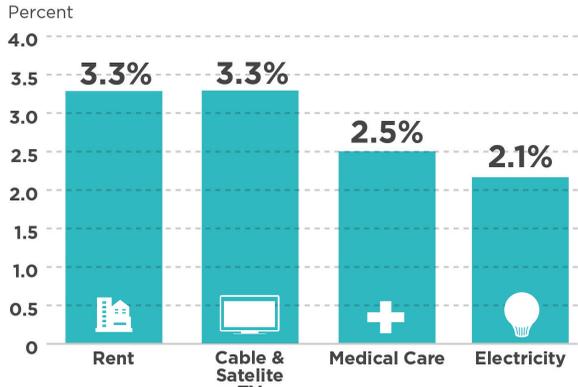
SmartHub is FREE for your iOS or Android device. Download the app from iTunes or your iPhone App Store; for Android, visit Google Play.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.

**Average Annual Price Increase 2016-2021**

Percent



Category	Average Annual Price Increase (2016-2021)
Rent	3.3%
Cable & Satellite TV	3.3%
Medical Care	2.5%
Electricity	2.1%

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Consumer Price Index



### RIVERLAND Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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**Phone:**  
800-411-9115  
608-323-3381

**Outages & Emergencies**  
Call 800-927-6206,  
24 hours a day

[www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)