

The Outlet

APRIL 2023

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

Our offices will be closed on

April 7, 2023 for Good Friday.

Our annual recycle drive dates are scheduled for:

Tuesday, June 6 - Arcadia

Wednesday, June 7 - Alma

Thursday, June 8 - Holmen

7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The list of accepted items and prices can be found on our website and in the WEC News magazine.

Electrical safety demos to be held in May

Riverland Energy will be offering electrical safety demonstrations to elementary students again this year. The demos are designed to teach students how our system works and educate them on the safety aspect of it.

If you're interested in having a presentation done at your school or youth group, you can request one by filling out the form on our website or give us a call at 800-411-9115.

Riverland Energy Advises Members of Scam

Riverland Energy would like to remind its members to not fall for scams. Members of the co-op report that they are being told they would be refunded \$50 for paying their bill on time, and will receive a discount on future bills. Another reported that he had overpaid on his bill and that the cooperative was refunding his money. In all cases, customers were asked to provide their bank information over the phone.

Riverland Energy employees will never request bank or payment information from members over the phone. Our member service representatives will only ask for information to identify who a member is.

We'd like to remind you to:

Never give your banking or personal information over the phone to someone you did not call.

Confirm before you act: If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent Riverland Energy or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at 800-411-9115 to verify the situation.



CELEBRATE
the Power Behind Your Power.
Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023

From the Interim General Manager, Tim Holtan



Member rate adjustment necessary to meet increased costs

Our board and staff work continuously to keep costs as low as possible, but as we analyze the costs of providing you electric service, along with financial projections for the next few years, the cooperative recognizes a need to adjust rates.

Much like the increasing cost of the goods we purchase for our homes and family, the cost of the cooperative's materials and supplies used for our operations and maintenance have also increased. In December, our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), announced a projected wholesale power base rate increase of 5.63 percent to electric cooperatives, effective January 2023. Wholesale power prices are the main driver to retail electric rates, as wholesale power is over 60 percent of our total expenses. A 5.63 percent base rate increase equates to an overall projected rate increase to Riverland Energy of 6.64 percent.

To cover this rate increase, in addition to increases in our costs to continue to maintain, grow, and improve the electric system into the future, we must adjust the rates to our members. Effective May 1, 2023, all members will see a 6.64 percent increase across the board. This is the first change in rates in three years.

The cost of electricity fluctuates based on things like weather, demand, and power plant outages. Each month, we evaluate the costs compared to the budgeted amount we need to run and maintain the cooperative. As a cooperative, we are a not-for-profit organization. This means that we charge you only enough to operate your cooperative. When the cost to purchase power is significantly more or less than anticipated, we pass a charge or credit onto our members. This is called a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) and it's a direct pass-through of the actual cost of energy.

The PCA is a line item on your bill each month that reflects the charge or credit. In 2022, the PCA allowed us to return over \$1,000,000 dollars to our members as the cost of purchased power was lower than predicted. The PCA could fluctuate in 2023, but having the PCA is a benefit to members because adjustments can be made on an as-needed basis without continually adjusting electric rates.

The rate increase will appear on members' bills in June for the May usage. The 6.64 percent increase includes the energy charge (from \$.1208/kWh to \$.1285/kWh) and a \$.07 increase in the base service charge. The base service charge, currently \$1.18/day, will go to \$1.25/day. This base service charge is common among electric utilities; it helps utilities recover the fixed costs of the equipment, poles, wire, and transformers necessary to get power to members' accounts. All members pay this fee regardless of how much energy they use each month. The cost of these items has gone up considerably in recent years. All other rate classes will also be adjusted to reflect the rate increase.

I encourage you to peruse our website and publications, or give our office a call for some energy usage tips. We also offer a time-of-use rate that provides members with pricing that encourages you to lower usage during peak times, either by using less energy during on-peak times, or moving usage to off-peak times. Please understand Riverland Energy's Board of Directors and its management have the responsibility of ensuring that the cooperative operates as efficiently as possible and maintains a sound financial position. We all take that responsibility very seriously and we will make every effort to ensure that we limit any increase to you, our valued members, and will keep the cooperative financially sound.

Support renewable energy through Evergreen

For as little as \$.65 per month you can support renewable energy without owning your own equipment through our Evergreen program. There’s no limit on the number of blocks that can be purchased. You pay \$.65 for each block of 100 kilowatt-hours monthly.

The payments are used to cover the additional costs required to provide energy from renewable energy sources above and beyond the state requirements.

Fill out the form online at www.riverlandenergy.com, or stop in to one of our offices to sign up.



Holmen Food Pantry Gets \$500 Donation



Riverland Energy Director Gary Dvoracek presents a \$500 check to Threse Frana of the Holmen Food Pantry. The donation will be used to purchase a heavy duty shelf truck to transport food.

Community Cares Grants Awarded

Organizations received grants through the Riverland Energy Community Cares Foundation last month. Each organization was awarded \$500 and include: Arcadia Youth Association, Friendship First, Elk Creek Lutheran, G-E-T Community Food Pantry, Pack 310 Cochrane, and the Gateway Area Council.

Community Cares is funded by participating REC members who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month. The program provides charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations that offer programs and support projects to enhance the quality of life for those within the communities served by the cooperative. Grants will be awarded again in October.

OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,
Accounting
Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2022	2022	2023
KWHS PURCHASED	26,536,974	24,671,837	257,464,050	52,723,293
KWHS SOLD	25,592,588	24,091,612	55,279,986	51,049,225
REVENUE	3,342,130	3,390,769	7,145,113	7,160,302
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	2,260,277	1,919,674	4,513,982	4,156,089
OTHER EXPENSES	1,149,979	1,215,909	2,393,911	2,616,103
OPERATING MARGINS	(68,126)	255,185	237,220	388,110
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	7,024	6,694	15,777	30,219
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	79,407	63,181	159,484	137,569
TOTAL MARGINS	18,305	325,060	412,481	555,898

DID YOU KNOW? According to the “World Happiness Report”, Finland is the world’s happiest country for the sixth year in a row. The U.S. came in 15th.



CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

You're invited to participate in the
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **May 31, 2023**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card**! The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

- 1st place – Chromebook**
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**



Posters should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches.

Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of the poster.

Contact your local electric cooperative or go to www.weca.coop for registration forms.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Need help with heating costs?
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

Salvation Army: 608-782-6126

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

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during summer and lost their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.com



RIVERLAND
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® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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www.riverlandenergy.com