



# The Outlet

October 2021

*A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative*

## REC retires capital credits

Riverland Energy's Board of Directors announced the retirement of \$1,041,608.60 in Capital Credits to eligible current and former members for their patronage with the cooperative. Current members who paid for electricity at any time during the years 2001-2018 should see a credit on their bill this month.

We also retired all accounts that only had \$35 or less remaining with the cooperative. Only inactive members will receive a check in the mail.

For more information on capital credits, visit our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com), or contact Barb at 800-411-9115.

## Riverland Energy awards Community Cares Grants

The Riverland Community Cares Foundation Board of Directors met last month to award the following organizations with a grant:



*Spare change for community needs.*

- Salute to Rhubarb: \$500
- Arcadia Ambulance Service: \$500
- Gentle Lambs Childcare Center: \$500

The next applications are due February 15, 2022. Applications are available on our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com).

## Riverland Energy Cooperative Celebrates National Cooperative Month

Riverland is proud to be one of 900 electric cooperatives powering more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states. Thank you to all the co-op members and employees that keep Riverland and the cooperative tradition thriving.

**FREE SWAG!** For members during Co-op Month in October

Visit us in our Holmen or Arcadia office during business hours (7:30 - 4:00).



## Community born. Community led. Focused on YOU.

October is  
National Co-op Month



## Why We Celebrate Co-ops

Jerry Sorenson,  
General Manager

Every October, cooperatives from all sectors across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and allow Riverland Energy Cooperative to highlight our purpose.



Celebrating National Cooperative Month showcases our unique business model, which is based on the Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training, and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

For co-op employees and members that are familiar with the principles, the month of October is a great opportunity to renew our connection to each other and the purpose of our co-op. To celebrate National Cooperative Month, look for a variety of programs we offer – from energy optimization savings to time-saving services like Auto Pay plus promotional contests to celebrate you. Stop in one of our offices and get a gift this month.

In the U.S., there are more than 29,000 co-ops serving in every single industry. Many co-ops from different sectors join together during the month of October to promote the benefits that cooperatives provided to their members and the communities they serve. According to the latest data, more than 130 million people belong to a co-op in the U.S. alone, and co-ops employ more than 2 million Americans. This factor speaks to the heart of why we must take every opportunity to celebrate and to promote the value of the cooperative business model. Participate in these celebrations by purchasing co-op products and look to do business with co-ops right here in our local community. We celebrate you as an active member of Riverland Energy Cooperative!

## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
Accounting  
Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Aug 2020	Aug 2021	2020	2021
KWHS PURCHASED	28,416,526	27,939,671	196,787,694	204,879,336
KWHS SOLD	27,373,202	26,949,467	189,913,208	197,500,537
REVENUE	3,861,390	3,722,705	25,445,505	27,141,545
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	2,240,376	2,194,158	15,976,781	16,271,470
OTHER EXPENSES	1,276,745	1,087,999	9,252,239	9,821,397
OPERATING MARGINS	344,269	440,547	216,485	1,048,678
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	6,936	13,573	103,139	108,329
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	69,228	84,695	428,849	788,370
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>420,433</b>	<b>538,815</b>	<b>748,473</b>	<b>1,945,377</b>

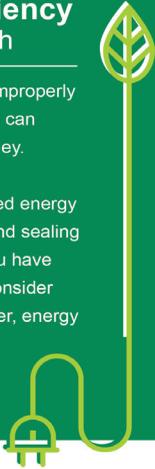
**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito." ~Dalai Lama

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## RENEWABLE ENERGY

Evergreen is an opportunity for members to voluntarily contribute to the increased use of renewable energy sources. Evergreen is an easy way for Riverland Energy members to do their part and be green.

Evergreen renewable energy comes from wind, sun, hydro and biogas sources. Your participation in Evergreen supports our efforts to increase renewable generation above and beyond any state requirements.

In addition to your normal electric bill, you elect to pay \$1 each month per Evergreen block.

Sign up through our website at [riverlandenergy.cm/renewableenergy](http://riverlandenergy.cm/renewableenergy) or call our office at 800-411-9115.



## Enter our photo contest for a chance to win a \$25 electric bill credit

Submit a photo of Wisconsin's Natural Beauty for this month's photo contest before October 25th!

The photo that has the most votes will win a \$25 electric bill credit! Each member who submits a photo will be put into a drawing at the end of the contest for a chance to win a \$250 electric bill credit.

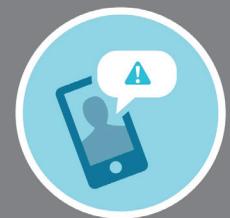
Go to our Facebook page to submit a photo and vote.

## October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

### Beware of email and phone scams

Co-op members are reporting calls from scammers claiming to be Riverland Energy and unless payment is provided they will be disconnected. We will never call you and ask for payment information over the phone. Power is never disconnected by Riverland Energy for nonpayment until multiple notices have been sent.

Be careful who you share your information with and when in doubt, give us a call! Please be vigilant and share this warning with others. Together, let's prevent our friends and neighbors from getting caught in a scam. Thank you.



Don't fall for  
scammers  
pretending  
to be utilities.

## Winter Construction Guidelines

If you need electrical service for a new home or a service upgrade for increased loads, such as crop drying equipment, contact our Operations Department now. After Oct. 15, Riverland Energy will not guarantee underground service to any member ready for or requesting service.

## Youth Ambassador Application Deadline Extended to Oct. 15

The deadline for our youth ambassador program has extended to October 15. We are seeking juniors in high school to be a part of this educational and fun program.

The first meeting is Oct. 27. More detailed information can be found on our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com), or through your guidance counselor at your school.

## Need help with energy costs?

Contact your county's provider at the number below:

- Trempealeau County:**  
Trempealeau Co. Social Services:  
715-538-2311
- Western Wisconsin E.O.C.:**  
715-985-2391
- Buffalo County:**  
Buffalo County Human Services:  
608-685-4412
- La Crosse County:**  
La Crosse Co. Human Services:  
608-785-5582
- Salvation Army:** 608-782-6126
- CouleeCap:** 608-634-4575

## Don't mess with that meter

Tampering with your electric meter is dangerous and illegal! Seals are placed on electric meters for your protection. Breaking that seal and tampering with your meter exposes you to high voltage that could be deadly. Report any signs of damaged electric meters to us.



## ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

## TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES



**RIVERLAND**  
Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Headquarters:**  
N28988 State Rd 93  
P.O. Box 277  
Arcadia, WI 54612

**Branch Office:**  
1800 Granary St.  
Holmen, WI 54636

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

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

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