

The Outlet

SEPTEMBER 2023

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

Update your contact info

If we need to contact you, do we have the right information? For us to deliver important information regarding your electric service, we need to have accurate contact information on file. This includes your name, phone number, and email address. If you have not done so recently, please take a few minutes to verify the telephone number(s) and email address(es) we have on file for you. This allows us to utilize multiple methods of communication to ensure you stay informed.

Update your contact information by:

- Visiting SmartHub, our account management tool.
- Calling us at (800) 411-9115.
- Sending an email to info@riverlandenergy.com.
- Fill out the form on our website under Your Account/Update Contact Information.

Help us help you by taking the time to ensure we have your contact information up to date!

Back to school safety

We'd like to remind you to proceed with caution while driving as the kids head back to school. Remember to slow down in school zones; take extra time to look for kids at intersections; enter and exit driveways with caution; reduce any distractions inside your car; and concentrate on the road. Take precautions in school zones and neighborhood areas where children and teenagers might be riding.

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 &
MILKSHAKES

PRIZES

GAMES

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

Wine available for purchase (on your own)

FARM SAFETY

FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Take these steps to help keep you and everyone on your farm safe during a busy harvest.

Meet Daily

Have morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day ahead and to discuss potential electrical hazards. Review power line locations, clearance requirements and the proper positioning of extensions for transporting.

Train Others

Train anyone working on your farm, including seasonal workers and family members, on potential electrical hazards.

Use a Spotter

Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines or poles. Always keep equipment and extensions at least 10 feet from power lines.

If your equipment makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, stay in the cab, call 9-1-1 and warn others to stay away.

Safe
Electricity.org®

September is National Preparedness Month
Be prepared for storms and power outages

Riverland Energy works year-round to strengthen the electric grid and prevent power outages, but Mother Nature is a tough opponent and it's important to plan ahead for storms and power outages.

- If your lights go out this fall:
- 1. Check circuit breakers, fuses and the neighbors.
 - 2. Report outages on SmartHub or 800-927-6206.
 - 3. Keep away from fallen power lines, and trees and branches near lines. Report these hazards.

Crews respond to hazards first, then substations and major distribution lines, followed by smaller tap lines and individual service lines.

Visit riverlandenergy.com for a live outage map and follow our Facebook page for outage updates.



From the CEO, Tim Holtan

High Temperatures Challenge Regional Power Grid

During the month of July, high temperatures across the Midwest caused Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to manage demand on the power grid. Our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is a member of MISO.

On Thursday, July 27, MISO issued a Maximum Generation Alert for its North and Central Regions based on above normal temperatures and forced generation outages. Riverland Energy was part of this alert and on standby to take emergency measures including load shedding if called upon. According to real-time data on the MISO website, total load peaked close to 120,000 megawatts late that afternoon. Fortunately, demand for electricity was able to be reduced through load management measures taken throughout the Midwest, thus allowing MISO to cancel the Max Gen Alert around 6 PM without further emergency measures.

Per MISO requirements, the grid operator must declare an emergency alert called a Max Gen Alert when system frequency cannot be maintained above certain levels and durations. When conditions warrant, MISO will instruct all power providers to begin shedding load to align the electricity demand with the available power supply. We may then be required to rotate outages to help preserve the system's reliability.

Riverland Energy will make every effort to keep you in the loop and what to expect and when to expect it, but once a Max Gen Alert is issued, members should assume their power could go out without advance warning. Efforts will be made to provide advance notice, when possible. Once notified by MISO to shed load, the cooperative is obligated to respond within minutes. Therefore, advanced notice to members can be a challenge.

OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,
Manager of Finance

| | Monthly | | Year-to-date | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| | July 2022 | July 2023 | 2022 | 2023 |
| KWHS PURCHASED | 29,545,236 | 28,691,416 | 181,114,265 | 177,169,101 |
| KWHS SOLD | 28,518,460 | 27,716,961 | 174,371,213 | 170,683,622 |
| REVENUE | 3,928,882 | 4,267,463 | 23,847,562 | 24,972,297 |
| COST OF PURCHASED POWER | 2,367,552 | 2,534,115 | 14,617,346 | 14,265,658 |
| OTHER EXPENSES | 1,442,162 | 1,445,312 | 9,285,881 | 10,124,076 |
| OPERATING MARGINS | 119,168 | 288,036 | (55,665) | 582,563 |
| NON-OPERATING MARGINS | 5,799 | 8,623 | 343,056 | 67,008 |
| CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS | 81,726 | 82,334 | 508,571 | 465,097 |
| TOTAL MARGINS | 206,693 | 378,993 | 795,962 | 1,114,668 |

DID YOU KNOW? Cirque du Soleil changed the color of it's tent? By changing it from blue and yellow to blue and white (or completely white) they had a 20% reduction in energy usage due to air conditioning.

Do you need help paying your bill?

If you need financial assistance, we suggest you contact one of the following agencies:

Buffalo County:

Buffalo County Human Services
(608) 685-4412

La Crosse County:

La Crosse County Human Services
(608) 785-5582

Trempealeau County:

Social Services: (715) 538-2311
Western Dairyland E.O.C.:
(715) 985-2391

Energy Services, Inc.:

(800) 506-5596 or
energyandhousing.wi.gov

WI Help for Homeowners:

(855) 246-6394 or
homeownerhelp.wi.gov

Salvation Army: (608) 782-6126

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.



RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE
Co-op Youth Ambassador Program







The youth ambassador program is designed to help students learn about cooperatives, energy issues, renewable energy, and gain leadership skills. You'll also make lifelong friends.

- ✓ Scholarship Opportunities
- ✓ Leadership Opportunities
- ✓ Co-op Volunteer Opportunities
- ✓ Per Diem & Lunches Provided
- ✓ ENetwork with other students
- ✓ Learn About Cooperatives & Careers
- ✓ Attend Youth Leadership Conference

Qualifications

Must be a junior in high school

Commitments

5 meetings are held from Oct. -Sept., 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Riverland Energy office in Arcadia or Holmen.

Lunch is provided at each meeting.

SCAN ME!

Contact Us 608-323-3381 www.riverlandenergy.com info@riverlandenergy.com

10 EASY WAYS TO \$AVE

Here are 10 habits you can tweak to save energy:

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
8. Reduce the setting on your hot water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider ENERGY STAR versions.



Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org®

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

Each month, Riverland Energy will hold a photo contest through its Facebook page for a chance to win electric an electric bill credit. The co-op will post a theme for the contest each month, 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 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.

The photo with the most votes each month will appear in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine.

To submit a photo or vote, visit our Facebook page and click on the link to direct you to the contest page. The link will also be available on our website.

Rules/Criteria:

- You must own rights to the photo.
- Photos can be taken outside of the date range, but must be submitted by the deadline given for that month.
- Only one photo per member will be accepted.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Riverland Energy permission to use your photo in our publications.

The contest will run each month through September 2024.

SEPTEMBER PHOTO CONTEST: Favorite Local Parks

MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Show your photography skills & win \$25 off your next bill!

Every entry will be entered to win a \$250 bill credit at the end of the contest!

This month's theme: **FAVORITE LOCAL PARKS**



CONTEST DEADLINE
SEPT. 25

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of theMonth



DID YOU KNOW FALL IS THE PERFECT TIME TO SCHEDULE A TUNE-UP FOR YOUR HEATING SYSTEM? HOME HEATING ACCOUNTS FOR A LARGE PORTION OF WINTER ENERGY BILLS, AND NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF SYSTEM YOU HAVE, YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY BY REGULARLY MAINTAINING YOUR EQUIPMENT. COMBINING PROPER EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES WITH RECOMMENDED INSULATION, AIR SEALING AND THERMOSTAT SETTINGS CAN SAVE ABOUT 30% ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



RIVERLAND
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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

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

www.riverlandenergy.com