

The Outlet

February 2023

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

2023 Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 at the Arcadia High School. A pancake breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., and the business meeting will start at 10:00 a.m.

Is your account information up to date?

Does Riverland Energy have your latest contact information? Whether it's the landline you canceled five years ago or the email that only gets junk mail, REC wants to remove outdated contact information and replace it with current information. Find out what your account says about you by visiting SmartHub. From there, you can easily view your account details and make any changes necessary. You can also update your information by calling our office or filling out the form online.

Payment Options:

In person. Our offices are open 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Mon.- Fri.

Dropbox. Payment drop-off boxes are available 24/7 at our offices in Holmen and Arcadia.

Phone. Call our toll-free payment line at 888-220-8233.

Online. Log in and/or download the SmartHub app today.

Automated. Deduct from a bank account on the 20th of each month.

Community Cares grant applications due Feb. 15

Riverland Energy provides financial support to community programs through our Community Cares program.



Community Cares is a grant program made possible by the generosity of the members of Riverland Energy Cooperative. Participating members voluntarily contribute by allowing their monthly electric bill to be rounded up so that their change can help make an impact through the efforts of local nonprofit groups working to make our communities a better place to live and work.

Grants are awarded by a board of directors. A list of qualifications and guidelines can be found at www.riverlandenergy.com or at one of our offices.

Applications for the Community Cares grant are due on Feb. 15, 2023.

Apply for Scholarship Opportunities

High School \$1,000 Scholarships: Thirty recipients will be selected in a random drawing at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 25. For the list of schools and eligibility visit our website at riverlandenergy.com.



Lineworker \$1,000 Scholarships: Specifically for students entering the field of electrical line work. Two students will be selected in a random drawing at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 25.

Non-traditional \$750 Scholarships: Three non-traditional scholarship recipients will be selected in a random drawing at our Board of Director's monthly meeting in March.

For details or to apply, visit our website at riverlandenergy.com.

Deadline is March 15, 2023.

5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy and money:

1. **Mind the Thermostat.** If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower.
2. **Get Cozy.** Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.
3. **Don't block out the heat.** If your air vents or heating elements are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.
4. **Take advantage of sunlight.** Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.
5. **Block air leaks.** Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

New Pricing for our Evergreen Green Power Program

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2023, Riverland Energy's Evergreen program will offer updated pricing for



members of \$0.65 per 100 kilowatt-hour (kWh) block. Blocks were previously \$1 per 100 kWh block.

Since 1998, Evergreen has been a voluntary green power program that supports more renewable energy resources within Dairyland Power Cooperative's generation portfolio.

The retired renewable energy credits (RECs) assigned to Riverland Energy's Evergreen program are generated at Dairyland's renewable generation facilities and power purchase agreements, which include solar, wind, hydro and biogas resources.

Evergreen blocks allocated to members are in addition to any federal or state requirements. Payment for a member's blocks will be included as a line item on their monthly electric bill and is in addition to the member's monthly electric bill.

For more information about the Evergreen program, visit our website at www.riverlandenergy.com, or give us a call at 800-411-9115.

Know what to do if your vehicle crashes into a power pole



- ✓ **Stay in your vehicle**
- ✓ **Call 911**
- ✓ **Tell bystanders to stay away**
- ✓ **ONLY get out of the vehicle if it is on fire**

IF you must get out, jump from the vehicle with both feet together, and bunny hop or shuffle as you move away from the scene without taking steps until you are at least 50 feet from the powerlines or electric equipment.



THIS IS YOUR
LICENSE TO LIVE

Voting Information

Elections to be held for three board districts

As a member of Riverland Energy Cooperative, you have the opportunity to elect a director for your district to represent your interest on the board of directors. This year, members in districts 1, 6, and 7 will be able to vote.

You have the option of voting by mail, voting online, or voting in person at the annual meeting if there is a contested election.

VOTE BY MAIL

Each member in Director Districts 1, 6, and 7 will receive a mail ballot for the director(s) up for election in that district. The ballot will contain the name of the candidates nominated at the District Committee meeting or by petition and well as candidate biographies. Simply complete the ballot using the instructions listed and return as directed in the postage-paid envelope provided with your ballot. ***Please do not bring ballots to the office or return with your bill payment.*** Ballots must be received by our voting firm by Noon March 24, 2023.

ONLINE VOTING

If you have an e-mail on file with Riverland, you will receive an email with a link that directs you to the login page of the official 2023 Riverland Energy Cooperative Ballot. You can also login to your SmartHub account and click "VOTE NOW" to vote. Internet votes will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on March 24, 2023. Details will be on the ballot.

Elections can also be done in person at the meeting. **You can not vote more than once. The first vote received will be the one that counts.**



Director Districts:

District 1: Towns of Maxville, Canton, Gilmanton, Dover, Mondovi, Modena and Naples, as well as portions of Towns of Durand, Lima, and Albany

District 6: Towns of Dodge, Trempealeau, Caledonia, and Gale in Trempealeau County; and a fringe of North Bend in Jackson County

District 7: Holmen and Town of Holland area as well as a portion of Onalaska

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.

Contact our billing department at 800-411-9115 for more details.

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

The District Committee

The foundation of an electric cooperative is its member-owners. Member involvement is critically important to the success of our cooperative.

A committee will meet next month to review the operations of the cooperative and express their thoughts and ideas regarding the future of the organization. The list of those attending can be found on our website. We encourage you to take the time to express any thoughts or concerns that you may have regarding the electric cooperative to one of those persons so that they can bring them forward to the committee.

District Ballots \$25 Bill Credit Winners

Members who returned their ballots for the REC District Committee were entered into a drawing for a \$25 credit on their electric bill. The winners include:

Orlan Noah
Bob Major
Jerry Haines
Gary Robinson
Michael Peterson
Huija Yan
Kerry Wozney
Allen Kujak
Kristi Smith
Sharon Candahl

Thanks to everyone who submitted their ballots!

2023 RESIDENTIAL REBATES

Riverland Energy's rebate program offers rebates and incentives to help you improve energy efficiency and comfort in your home, while lowering your electric bills. Visit riverlandenergy.com for qualifications and forms.

- Appliance, Lighting, and Appliance Recycling Rebates
- HVAC, Air Source and Geothermal Heat Pump Rebates
- Commercial and Ag Efficiency Rebates
- Electric Water Heater Rebates
- Energy Audit and Implementation Rebates
- EV Charger Rebate
- Home Performance Test and Subsequent Home Improvement Upgrades

Manage your account with SmartHub

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smart-phone or tablet, you can view your bill, pay your bill, view your usage, and contact us.



SmartHub is easy to navigate. As soon as you log in, you can view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous seasons, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual use.

You'll also be able to see important notices with SmartHub. Select how you want to be notified about your bill — including email and text messaging.

Reporting a service issue is a snap with the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call the office, just let us know about the issue with a few clicks. You can also contact us for member service requests or with any questions you may have.



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Holmen, WI 54636

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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800-411-9115
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Outages & Emergencies
Call 800-927-6206,
24 hours a day

www.riverlandenergy.com