

The Outlet

March 2023

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative



YOU'RE INVITED Riverland Energy Annual Meeting

- WHEN:** Saturday, March 25, 2023
- WHERE:** Arcadia High School, 756 Raider Dr., Arcadia
- AGENDA:**
- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 8:00 AM - 9:50 AM | Registration and breakfast |
| 10:15 AM | Business meeting |
| | Director elections |
| | Scholarship drawings |
| | Door prize drawings |

Watch the Annual Meeting Virtually

Watch it from your home with your computer or electronic device.

1. Go to our website at www.riverlandenergy.com.
2. Click on the orange Annual Meeting button in the upper right corner.
3. Click on the YouTube Lives-stream link.

PRIZES: Door prize drawings include \$50 electric bill credits, a TV, gift baskets, and prizes for kids! Must be present to win.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Fifteen \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to eligible area high school seniors in a random drawing. The student or student's parent or guardian must be present to win.

Scholarship Applications Due March 15, 2023

Scholarship applications are due to the cooperative by March 15. Scholarships are \$1,000 each and recipients will be chosen at our annual meeting on Saturday, March 25 in a random drawing.

Applications and detailed information can be found on our website or through your high school.



Ballots coming soon for District Six

Online voting also an option

Official election ballots and candidate biographies will be mailed to members in district six, which includes Towns of Dodge, Trempealeau, Caledonia, and Gale in Trempealeau County. Districts 1 and 7 are uncontested at the time this publication is printed, so there will not be ballots for those two districts. Those will be conducted at the Annual Meeting.

Members in district six will also have the option to vote online through SmartHub. Online and mail-in ballots will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on March 24, 2023. You can only vote once. The first vote received will be the one that counts.



Line worker scholarship

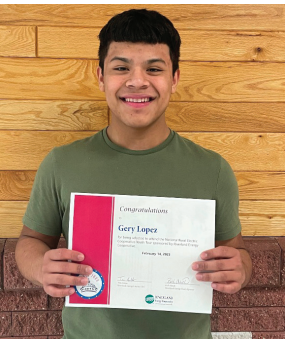
Riverland Energy proudly supports individuals interested in a career as an electrical line worker. REC will award two \$1,000 scholarships to individuals pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical line worker (electrical power distribution) program.

Recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at our annual meeting on Saturday, March 25 in conjunction with our traditional scholarship drawing. The applicant or the applicant’s parent or guardian must be present to win.

Applications and details can be found at your high school or on our website at www.riverlandenergy.com.

Deadline is March 15, 2023.

2023 Youth Tour Delegate



Gery Lopez was selected to represent Riverland Energy on the 2023 Youth Tour, an all expense-paid educational trip to Washington, D.C. He will explore the nation’s capitol in June with delegates from other Wisconsin electric cooperatives.

Gery was selected as part of Riverland Energy’s youth ambassador program by submitting an essay on what it means to him being a cooperative ambassador. He is currently a junior at Arcadia High School.

Round up your bill to help others

You have a unique opportunity to make a difference by participating in the Community Cares program. Community Cares is a charitable fundraising program for Riverland Energy Cooperative members to have their electric bill rounded up to the next whole dollar in order to benefit and support charitable community organizations within the bounds of our service territory.



Sign up through our website or through SmartHub.

OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,
Accounting
Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2022	2021	2022
KWHS PURCHASED	27,229,926	29,538,317	299,635,391	307,373,073
KWHS SOLD	26,133,989	28,389,140	288,550,401	295,742,091
REVENUE	3,024,249	3,844,168	38,456,936	41,195,391
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,887,224	2,101,804	22,983,007	24,833,173
OTHER EXPENSES	1,431,006	1,422,014	14,688,028	15,749,219
OPERATING MARGINS	(293,981)	320,350	785,901	612,999
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	8,076	(190,000)	173,666	217,071
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	226,434	166,100	1,437,722	1,293,365
TOTAL MARGINS	(59,471)	296,450	2,397,289	2,123,435

DID YOU KNOW? Due to a decrease in natural gas consumption and an increase in production, the U.S. Energy Information Administration is forecasting the price will average 47% lower in 2023 than in 2022. (Natural gas prices have a strong correlation to Riverland’s cost of power.)

Home Energy Audit Rebates Available

A home performance audit is the best way to identify problems and solutions to improve comfort and energy efficiency in your home. The test typically takes a couple of hours and costs about \$350-400. Have it arranged through Riverland Energy and we'll credit you \$150 of that cost.

In addition, Riverland Energy offers an incentive of up to \$500 for qualified improvements made after a home performance test.

Please visit our website at www.riverlandenergy.com for a form and qualifications.

Right-of-Way Maintenance Program

Our Right-of-Way maintenance program helps prevent power interruptions by trimming or removing trees and brush which could be potential fire hazards or cause power outages. Tree-to-line contact can also cause momentary interruptions or blinks in power. Tree trimming helps prevent extended outages during storms or strong winds. Riverland rotates around the service area each year to keep up with tree growth.

In 2023, we are focusing on **Elk Creek, Hegg, and Brice Prairie** substations for a total of 290 miles of line.

You may see bucket trucks from Zielie's, our tree trimming contractor, in your neighborhood. Members in those areas will receive an automated phone call when they will be in your area.

We ♥ Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.



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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures.

Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Source: *energy.gov*

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



Managing and paying your bill has never been easier!

To make managing and paying your bill easier, Riverland offers SmartHub, an online application to help you manage your account 24/7.

With SmartHub, you can:

- make a payment
- check your electric usage and view your usage history
- notify us of account issues
- receive email or text alerts
- report an outage
- make updates/changes to your account

SmartHub is available in both mobile apps and a web version to give members secure access whether at home, at work, or on the go. Members with smart phones or tablet devices can download the SmartHub app from iTunes or the Android Marketplace. (Use search term "NISC SmartHub" or scan the QR code at right.)



For more information about SmartHub or other programs, visit our website at riverlandenergy.com.



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® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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www.riverlandenergy.com