



By Tim Holtan, CEO

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

District Committee Election



Riverland Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

This month, members in Districts 1, 6, and 7 will receive a list of all the members in their districts who can be nominated to the District Committee. The members of those districts receiving the highest number of votes shall be the District Committee representative. Please exercise your right as a member of this cooperative and vote for representatives in these districts. Those people elected to the District Committee will be involved in a District Committee meeting, which will take place later in the month of February.

Once elected, delegates will serve a four-year term, provided they continue to reside in their districts and are not absent from two consecutive District Committee meetings. District meetings are scheduled every year, usually mid-to-late February. If you are elected to the district committee, you will receive a notice in the mail letting you know the date, location, and time of the meeting.

The primary purpose of the District Committee Meeting is for members to nominate one or more candidates to run for the co-op's board of directors. While there are no board of director elections this year, the District Committee is still important. This committee is responsible for establishing rules to govern the conduct of the annual meeting. This may include making recommendations to the annual meeting regarding the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, policies of the board, member resolutions, or other matters for the good and welfare of the cooperative. The committee also reviews

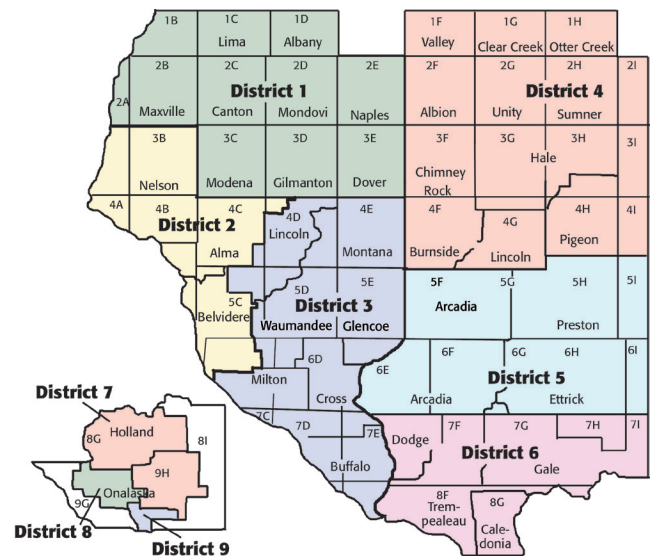
the business operations of the cooperative along with the cooperative's finances, and receives updates on the electric industry issues that affect your cooperative.

Any member wishing to present a resolution to the annual meeting shall submit the proposed resolution to the cooperative for consideration at the District Committee meeting. The committee members will consider the resolution and determine whether additional information is needed before determining if it will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting. The deadline for submitting a resolution is February 7, 2024.

The District Committee election is at the very root of what our cooperative is all about. The fact that we as cooperative

members have the right to elect our District Committee representatives and our cooperative directors is what sets us apart from other electric utilities. You have a voice in the operation through the elected representatives.

I encourage you to vote for your District Committee representative if you get a ballot in the mail.



Make a Difference as a Director

As an electric cooperative, Riverland Energy is guided by an elected board of directors who represent their members' best interests when making important decisions. Being a member of the co-op's board is an important position in our community. A director's decision will impact issues, such as service rates, work plans, and budgets. They approve the co-op's strategic level plans, budgets, and capital credits.

Our board is a democratically elected body nominated by members of the District Committee and voted into position by any member of the cooperative residing in the board district. Directors represent their members' interests and concerns as they develop policies that guide the cooperative's operation.

Because the directors are members of the cooperatives, they live with their rates and policies. Their decisions are made to carry out the business of the cooperative.

There are no director elections this year, but next year districts 3, 4, and 8 will be up for election. If you're interested in serving as a director, or being a representative at our District Committee, contact our office. We'll guide you through the process and answer any questions regarding qualifications or responsibilities as a director.

BILLING STATEMENTS INCLUDE A MONTHLY DEMAND LINE ITEM

You may notice a line item on your electric bill called “demand charge.” Demand charge, currently a zero charge, is based on each member’s maximum “demand” put on the cooperative’s distribution system. The amount of electricity you consume in a month is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh), while “demand” is measured in kilowatts (kW). The max demand is the highest energy used in a 15-minute period over a month. It is monitored every 15 minutes, and billed on a monthly basis. That means the 15-minute interval during which your business or residence is consuming (or “demanding”) the most electricity, in a given month, establishes your demand for the month. The demand charge line item will have a date and time stamp of when it occurred for your service, with a zero charge.

This structure aligns with how the co-op is charged from its wholesale provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative.

Demand is a key component in Riverland’s wholesale power costs. The ability for the membership to recognize what demand is and how it can be reduced will help Riverland control wholesale power costs. It is important to understand that demand isn’t necessarily about how much energy you use, but how and when you use it over the course of a month. For instance, a typical residence can control demand by turning off the air conditioner while doing laundry. By not allowing the A/C to run at the same time as the electric water heater and/or electric dryer, you are reducing your demand.

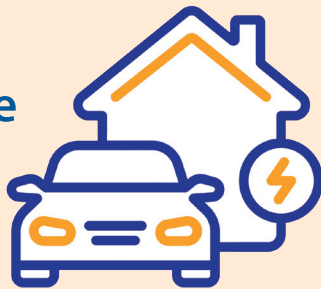


PRE-PAY OPTION COMING JAN. 29

Pre-pay is a new optional billing program that lets members pre-pay for their electricity. Instead of receiving a bill at the end of the month for power you have already used, you have the flexibility of purchasing electricity when you want. Pay amounts that fit your budget!

*Details will be found in
The Outlet and on our website.*

New EV Charge-N-Save Rate Set



The new EV Charge-N-Save Time-of-Use (TOU) Rate is a voluntary residential electric rate that helps reduce demand for electricity during peak times of the day. It encourages EV drivers to charge their vehicles when electricity costs less. This reduction in peak energy helps keep the overall cost of electricity down for the entire co-op.

EV Charge N Save Rate

Service Charge: \$.16 per day

Energy Charge:

On-peak (6 a.m. – 9 p.m.) \$0.21148 per kWh

Off-peak (9 p.m. – 6 a.m.) \$0.05595 per kWh

You are not required to sign up for the new rates; it is simply a new billing option available to members interested in reducing energy costs by charging their EV during off-peak times.

**To get signed up for this rate,
give us a call at 800-411-9115.**

MONTHLY BASE SERVICE ELECTRIC CHARGE

Many of you may have wondered why the base service charge is a different amount each month. The current base electric charge is \$1.26 per day and covers each member’s share of the cost for construction and maintenance of poles, wires, transformers, meters, right-of-way clearing, and other fixed expenses that enable you to access electric service at your location. This is a daily charge, so it may be different total each month, depending on how many days are in the month.

Cost regardless of usage

It costs the same to build and maintain the system, regardless of how much energy you use. Fixed costs are spread among all members, meaning the base charge is—and should be—the same for all members, regardless of energy use.

Fewer members in rural areas to share costs

Fixed costs to build and maintain the system are shared equally among all co-op members. REC has just five members per mile of line to share fixed costs, while urban utilities spread costs among 20 or more consumers per mile. The basic charge is higher in rural areas because costs are shared by fewer members.

**Rates are based on a cost-of-service study
Riverland Energy has done every few years.**



YOUTH AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM BEGINS

Riverland Energy's Youth Ambassador Program began on November 15, 2023, at the Riverland Energy office in Holmen. The students, who are high school juniors, learned about the cooperative business model, engaged in a teamwork activity, and formed a co-op. They were also treated with lunch and learned what was ahead as a youth ambassador. We're looking forward to a great year!

2023–2024 Youth Ambassadors, front row l-r: Max Stuber, Anna Jarvis, Hannah Gierok, Nathan Pyka, Hope Conrad, Miriam Sandberg, Amber Lund, Gao Kou Yang, Leah Green. Middle row: Alex Stuber. Back row, l-r: Clayton Kegel, Ridge Lodermeier, Elena Gomez Juarez, Fanny Gomez, Addison Johnson, Allidah Luff, Madalyn Wick, Mya Stewart, Finley Noll, Chloe Reed.



SEEKING GRANT APPLICATIONS

We are currently seeking applications for the next cycle of our Community Cares grant program. Funds are used for local projects that benefit members of our communities.

Eligibility:

1. Non-profit groups and organizations that serve communities located within the Riverland Energy service area.
2. Projects should fit in one or more of these categories: Community Service, Economic Development, Education and Youth Development, Environment, and/or Disaster Relief.
3. Community Cares funds may not be used for political purposes or to pay electric bills.

To apply for a grant, fill out the application found on our website at riverlandenergy.com.

Applications are due Feb. 15, 2024.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Additional \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded in 2024

Each year, Riverland Energy Cooperative awards 32 \$1,000 scholarships to area high school seniors. **New this year**, Riverland Energy will draw one additional \$5,000 scholarship from all of the qualified applicants. The students, or their parent or guardian, must attend the cooperative's annual meeting on Saturday, March 23, at the Arcadia High School.

- Applicants must be graduating seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of Riverland Energy Cooperative.
- Students attending public, private, parochial, or home school are eligible to apply.
- Scholarships are selected in a random drawing at our annual meeting on March 23.
- The student or their parent/guardian must be present at the annual meeting in order to qualify.
- The 2024 deadline to apply is March 15.

Applications can be found on our website or through your guidance counselor.



ENTER OUR PHOTO CONTEST

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$25
ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT

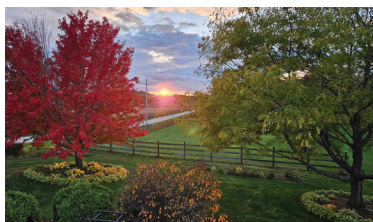
Congratulations to Cindy Lyga for getting the most votes for our November photo contest.

Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving most votes will win a \$25 electric bill credit and will be printed in our magazine, along with a few other favorites. By entering, you will also be entered into a drawing for a \$250 electric bill credit.

The January theme is Wildlife. Photos can be submitted through January 25. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit and vote.



Left: Elizabeth Engel – Cutest Leaf Pile
Below: Jerald Dekan – Fall in Wisconsin



Above: Malinda Vazquez – Glorious Sunset

Right: April (Art) Gillmeister – Love Living in the Country



2024 REBATE PROGRAM

Members wanting to save energy and money in the new year should review Riverland Energy's 2024 rebate forms. Riverland Energy annually publishes a list of energy efficient items that are eligible for a rebate when a member makes a qualifying purchase and submits the required paperwork.

Eligibility criteria for each category is listed on the forms. To receive a rebate, the member must purchase a qualifying item, fill out the rebate form, and return the form and documentation to the cooperative within three months of purchase or installation (this will be clarified on the form). Equipment must be installed within the cooperative's service territory and, in most cases, must be ENERGY STAR® rated. Rebate forms can be found at one of our offices or online at riverlandenergy.com.

ENERGY STAR Appliances & Recycling Rebates

Clothes Washer (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Clothes Dryer (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Dishwasher (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Dehumidifier (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Refrigerator (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Freezer (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Inductive Range	\$25
Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling	\$25
Room A/C Unit Recycling	\$25

Electric Water Heater Rebates

75-99 gallons (Uniform Energy Factor .88 or greater)	\$150
Over 100 gallons (Uniform Energy Factor .88 or greater)	\$300
Heat pump water heater (integrated)	\$300
Commercial Water Heater 75-99 gallons	\$150
Commercial Water Heater 100+ gallons	\$300

Lighting Rebates

Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamp (5 lamp min.)	\$.50/lamp
Occupancy Sensor	\$5 each
LED Exit Sign	\$5
LED Fixture	\$.50 per 800 lumens

HVAC

Heat Pump – Air Source & MiniSplit	\$300/ton
Heat Pump – Geothermal	\$500/ton
Heat Pump – Air Source & Mini-Split	\$300/ton
New furnace w/efficient ECM Blower Motor	\$35/each

Electric Vehicle

Electric vehicle charging station	\$400
Electric Vehicle Smart Charger with integrated metering	\$800

For qualifications, forms, and a complete list of our rebates, please visit our website at riverlandenergy.com.

Tim Holtan, CEO

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • www.riverlandenergy.com

Beth Alesch, Editor



**Riverland Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Arcadia Office

N28988 State Road 93,
P.O. Box 277,
Arcadia, WI 54612

Holmen Office

1800 Granary St.
Holmen, WI 54636

Outages & Emergencies

Call 1-800-927-6206
24 hours a day

Office Hours

Arcadia: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Holmen: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Officers of the Board of Directors:

Bea Zingsheim, Onalaska, President
Dan Filla, Arcadia, Vice-President
Dennis Frame, Osseo,
Secretary/Treasurer