



By Tim Holtan, CEO

BASELOAD POWER PLANTS ENSURE RELIABILITY

Every day, many of our Riverland Energy members travel the Great River Road (Hwy 35), which goes by Dairyland Power Cooperative's John P. Madgett (JPM)

Generating Station in Alma. I've received several questions from members noticing two coal piles at JPM and coal being transported between the two.

Dairyland—like other utilities—signs multi-year coal contracts based on how much JPM is expected to operate each year. When Dairyland's Genoa Station #3 (G-3) Generating Station closed in 2021, Dairyland was still in a coal contract for the plant so it rerouted coal deliveries from Genoa to JPM. This coal was stored on a second pile north of the primary coal pile at the JPM site.

Having this additional coal worked out in Dairyland's favor because, in 2022, rail transportation constraints delayed coal deliveries to most coal units, including JPM. As a result, the coal on the north pile was consumed. Without this additional coal from G-3's contract, the coal supply at JPM would have been dangerously low and the plant would have reduced its availability to the regional grid operator, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO).

In this situation, Dairyland would have purchased the extra power it needed off the MISO market at a time when prices were higher than normal. Not only did the coal from G-3

help keep our wholesale electricity rates stable—preventing additional power cost adjustment charges—but it also ensured reliability for the entire region by providing power when we needed it. Coal deliveries picked up throughout 2022 and are back on schedule; the second coal pile will be replenished over the course of 2023.

Dairyland and its member cooperatives, including Riverland Energy, are committed to meeting your electricity needs. This commitment is reflected in the planned outage underway through mid-June at JPM. Part of the multi-week

outage included an entire overhaul of its generating turbine, as well as improvements to precipitator equipment that will more than double the amount of fly ash able to be collected. Dairyland markets the fly ash for beneficial reuse, where it is recycled as an additive to cement and concrete applications.

MISO recently released results of its seasonal capacity resource auction, which forecasts the grid's ability to keep the lights on during times of peak

demand. In the north/central region where we are located, MISO is expected to have sufficient generation resources to meet the electricity needs of members and regional consumers for normal summer peak demand. MISO utilizes available wind and solar energy, but reliable electricity also hinges on baseload power plants, such as JPM, to be available when wind and solar production are low.

Thank you for your questions and your cooperation to conserve energy during times of peak demand. I want to wish everyone a fun and safe summer.

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SMALL CHANGE MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

In 2014, Riverland Energy launched the Community Cares program. The mission of the program is to assist in strengthening the communities served by Riverland Energy. Through this program, the “small change” is donated to community groups and programs in need of financial assistance. To date, our members have donated \$25,442.50 back to our communities through this program.

How does it work?

Members who wish to participate in the program have their electric bill rounded up each month and those few cents are deposited into the Community Cares fund. The rounded up amount will be listed on your account each month. You can keep your billing statements for tax purposes.

Who determines where the funds go?

The Community Cares Foundation is a separate organization from Riverland Energy Cooperative and is governed by a board of directors. The directors receive and review applications from individuals/organizations requesting funding for charitable purposes and approve of the distribution of the funds according to the bylaws.

Who will benefit from Community Cares?

Contributions will generally be made to 501c3 organization whose activities benefit members of the Riverland Energy service area. The program can help replenish food supplies for local food pantries, help support senior citizen hospice programs, purchase supplies and equipment for rural fire departments and emergency response services, provide funds for community programs, and help children of all ages by supporting community youth activities and school programs. These are only a few examples; funding is not limited to these items. The funds will not be used to pay members' bills, nor will they be used for political purposes.

How can members participate?

To participate in Community Cares, fill out the form on our website, or you can sign up through SmartHub. You can also fill out a form in one of our offices or have one emailed to you. This program is voluntary.

How do I apply for a grant?

To apply for a grant, community groups and organizations that serve communities in the Riverland Energy service area may request the form and instructions by calling our office at 800-411-9115 and requesting one, or you can print one from our website under the Community tab.



The next grant application is due August 20, 2023.



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DRIVE STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 13 YEARS



Thank you to all who participated in our recycle drive and dropped off items to be recycled. Six semi loads of appliances and electronics were hauled away to be recycled.

Riverland Energy teamed up with Dynamic Lifestyle Innovations to put on the event and offered free and low-cost recycling for old appliances and electronics that are no longer wanted and are no longer energy efficient.

“We’re happy this event is still going strong after 13 years,” said Tim Holtan, CEO. “It’s a great way for our members to be more energy efficient and keep things out of the landfill.”

The event was held in June at all three Riverland Energy office locations.



Do The **SUMMER SHIFT**

When members save energy, they tend to save money. However, there is always something in our homes using electricity—whether to cool the home, turn on the lights, or run appliances. While using electricity is inevitable, HOW members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, is not as expensive. So, how does Summer Shift work?

If a member shifts their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative’s wholesale power provider—Dairyland Power Cooperative—did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members.

LET US HELP YOU BEFORE INSTALLING SOLAR ON YOUR HOME

If you are interested in installing solar on your home or in your yard this summer, please consult Riverland Energy before you begin the process. We are here to help you become more knowledgeable and make informed decisions.

We will work closely with you for advice and assistance on interconnecting with the grid. Before choosing a solar system, research solar and solar contractors thoroughly before investing in a system and get at least three quotes before choosing one. If the installer/contractor doesn't have a local address, good references, and a service center within 50 or 100 miles, please think twice. Our region has many reputable solar dealers and installers who are trusted and respected.

Double-check the cost and savings numbers and ask if they are using Riverland Energy's actual rates and your actual usage. We can provide information and history of your energy usage that can help you size your system and evaluate savings.

Please contact one of our experts on staff if you are interested in solar so you can learn more about all the true costs and benefits of owning a solar system. We can also help you determine the rates that will apply to you.

More information can be found on our website at riverlandenergy.com.

SAVE THE DATE!



Member Appreciation Day Event

Wednesday,
September 27, 2023
4-7 p.m.

Free meal • Entertainment
Games & Prizes...and more!

RIVERLAND ENERGY'S SOLAR PANELS

Many of you have noticed the solar panels behind our office building in Arcadia. This project began in 2016, originally as a community solar project with individual members purchasing subscriptions. However, after researching costs and rates, we decided to partner with our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and build a utility-scale solar array, benefitting all members.

The array was built and is owned and operated by SoCore, a leader in solar development and construction based in Chicago. SoCore handles the maintenance of the

system, eliminating the hassle for Riverland Energy and its members.

Riverland Energy is leasing the land to SoCore and purchases the energy output from an estimated 150 KW of the array. Dairyland Power purchases the output of approximately 1M of the array.

The system consists of 4,320 modules on over six acres East of the Arcadia Riverland office. The panels will electrify approximately 233 homes.



Tim Holtan, CEO

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Beth Alesch, Editor



**Riverland Energy
Cooperative**

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