




By Tim Holtan, CEO

**Riverland Energy Cooperative**Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

As we enter the month of October, we have a unique opportunity to celebrate the cooperative business model. October is National Co-op Month, a time when we can reflect on the values and principles that define who we are as a cooperative and the positive impact we have on our members and communities.

At Riverland Energy Cooperative, we are proud to be a part of the cooperative movement, which traces its roots back to the earliest days of our country. Our cooperative was founded on the belief that by working together, we could achieve more than we ever could as individuals. Today, that belief still guides us, and it's more relevant than ever.

Cooperatives are unique in the business world. We are owned and governed by our members—the very people we serve. This means that our primary focus is not on maximizing profits for distant shareholders but on meeting the needs and priorities of our members right here in our community.

Here are some key reasons why cooperatives like ours are so vital:

Local Control: As a cooperative, we are accountable to our members. Our decisions are made locally, and our board of directors consists of individuals from our community who are directly affected by the choices we make. This ensures that our members have a voice in the direction of our cooperative.

Commitment to Service: Our mission is to provide reliable and affordable services to our members.

We are not driven by profit margins but by the goal of delivering the best possible value to those we serve. Our success is measured by your satisfaction.

Community Impact: We are deeply committed to the well-being of our community. Beyond providing essential services, we actively engage in community projects and initiatives that make a positive difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Cooperative Principles: We adhere to the seven cooperative principles, which include values like democratic member control, member economic participation, and concern for the community. These principles are the foundation of our cooperative identity.

Economic Participation: Unlike investor-owned utilities, which distribute profits to shareholders, electric cooperatives are operated by their members, who are also their customers. This unique structure allows cooperatives to allocate and eventually return any excess revenue, or “margins,” to their members in forms of capital credits. This month, members who joined the co-op in or prior to 2020 will see a credit on their bill called Member Credit.

As we celebrate National Co-op Month, we encourage you, our members, to take pride in being part of this cooperative community. Your support, participation, and feedback drive us to continuously improve and better serve you.

Happy National Co-op Month!

Office Remodel Coming Soon

Our Arcadia office will be under construction starting at the end of October. We are updating our lobby to provide enhanced security for our employees. During the construction process, you can access our office through our Community Room entrance on the north side of the building. This also means that our Community Room will be unavailable to rent during this time. We will keep you updated during the process and let you know when we are complete. We are hoping to be done in December. We appreciate your understanding!

ENHANCING OUR YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM WITH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline extends to Nov. 1, 2023



At Riverland Energy Cooperative, we are dedicated to more than just providing reliable electricity; we are committed to shaping the future by fostering the cooperative leaders of tomorrow. With this in mind, we have continually improved our Youth Ambassador Program to offer even greater benefits to young individuals in our Community.

This year, we are excited to announce improvements to the program with two key additions: scholarship opportunities and a business fair project competition.



OUR MISSION:

To educate youth about the cooperative business model, to prepare them for potential involvement in cooperatives, and to promote cooperative values such as democratic decision-making and community engagement. It can empower young individuals to become responsible and socially conscious entrepreneurs and citizens.

OVERVIEW:

This program will essentially be an in-person offering. Students will meet at various locations, depending on the event and purpose of the meeting, with a majority of them at Riverland Energy Cooperative Headquarters in Arcadia. They will occur during regular business hours, with specific events occurring outside the 9-5 hours. Meals will be provided during meetings or activities. Students will also get paid a per diem and reimbursed mileage for meetings and all activities.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO EARN:

Distinguished Youth Ambassador Scholarship: \$1,000

This scholarship is based on students' attendance at meetings, co-op events, attending the Youth Leadership Conference, and more.

Youth Leadership Scholarship Award: \$1,000

This scholarship is awarded to a student, or students, who participate in activities throughout the Youth Ambassador Program, with emphasis on the business fair competition.

WECA Essay Contest through attendance at Youth Leadership Conference: \$250, \$500, \$1,000

This scholarship is through our statewide association, WECA, for which students who attend the Youth Leadership Conference have a chance to write an essay on a topic/speaker following the conference.

Other awards include gift cards, apparel, and other trinkets earned at meetings or activities throughout the year as a Youth Ambassador.

The scholarships will be given to one, or divided between two or three, students.



To qualify:

Students must be a junior in high school during the 2023-24 school year.

To apply:

Fill out the application online at www.riverlandenergy.com, or through your guidance counselor.

Deadline is Extended to November 1, 2023.



LOCAL PROJECTS RECEIVE GRANTS



Spare change for community needs.

Giving back to the community we serve is a core cooperative principle. The Riverland Community Cares program from Riverland Energy Cooperative is a great way for the co-op and its members to give back. The Community Foundation Board met in August and awarded eight grants to local organizations.

Funds for the Community Cares program come from participating Riverland Energy Cooperative members who allow their monthly electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the change allocated to the Community Foundation Trust Fund.

Riverland Energy's Community Cares grant applications are reviewed and recipients selected two times a year by a member of the Community Foundation Board of Directors. The next application deadline is February 15, 2024.

The total donated is almost \$5,000 spread across our communities.

Local, nonprofit community service groups may apply for Community Cares grants by downloading the application form at www.riverlandenergy.com.

Arcadia CommUNITY Food Pantry	Purchase a new freezer	\$1,000
Coulee Cap	Provide accommodations for homeless	\$500
Eleva-Strum Community Support Network	After-school study and meal support for kids	\$500
Feed My People Food Bank	Pop-up mobile distributions	\$500
LifeLink Critical Care Services	Medical transport services throughout the area	\$500
Pigeon Falls Lions Club	New fence around softball field at Ekern Park	\$500
Safe Families for Children – Wisconsin	Program to support families to keep children safe and together	\$500
Town of Buffalo	Improve and enlarge the baseball field	\$500



Left: Sandra Witte, Arcadia CommUNITY Food Pantry volunteer, and Beth Alesch, REC manager of communications.

Below: Beth Alesch, REC manager of communications, and Fred Ackley, Pigeon Falls Lions Club.



Ann Kisor, Eleva-Strum Community Support Coordinator, Eleva-Strum students Ella McConnell and Neeley Lasher and Eleva-Strum faculty Traci Marsolek and Kaela Stendahl.



ENTER OUR MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

YOU COULD WIN A \$25 ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT

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.

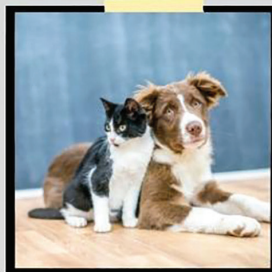
By entering, you will also be entered into a drawing for a \$250 electric bill credit. Our October theme is Pets. Photos can be submitted through October 25. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit and vote.

MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

SHARE YOUR MOST HEARTWARMING AND CAPTIVATING PET MOMENTS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN FANTASTIC PRIZES AND ETERNAL BRAGGING RIGHTS.

THIS MONTH'S
THEME:

PETS!



CONTEST DEADLINE
OCT. 25

*Show your photography skill & save
money on your next bill!*

*Every entry will be entered into a
\$250 electric bill credit*

CALL NOW FOR NEW ELECTRICAL SERVICE OR UPGRADE

If you need electrical service for a new home or a service upgrade for increased loads, such as crop-drying equipment, contact our operations department now. Unpredictable weather can cause delays in construction, so adequate lead time will help make sure that we're ready when you are.

**Contact our operations department at
608-323-3381/800-411-9115.**

SmartHub Redesign



Beginning this month, SmartHub will have a new look and feel, but will still contain all of the powerful features that allows you to take control of your account. SmartHub lets you manage all aspects of your account through the web or using your mobile device. If you haven't registered for SmartHub, do it today—it's simple! You'll just need a valid email address and your account number. Go to our website at riverlandenergy.com to create a SmartHub account.

Tim Holtan, CEO

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

Beth Alesch, Editor



**Riverland Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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24 hours a day

Office Hours

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

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