

The Outlet

December 2024

Office Closings

Our offices will be closed on Friday, December 20 for an all-employee meeting.

Our offices will be closed on December 24, December 25, and January 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Rounding Up For Community Cares

Tis' the season for giving! Riverland Energy offers members an opportunity to help their neighbors and communities in which they live through our Riverland Community Cares program. Riverland Energy will simply "round up" the electric bill of participating members to the next highest dollar with the additional cents going to the Community Cares Fund.

All donations are placed in a trust and donated to worthy organizations in the community. You can sign up for this program through our website or through SmartHub.

To apply for a grant, visit our website at riverlandenergy.com.

The application deadline is Feb. 14, 2025.



Staying safe during winter storms

Winter can bring thoughts of gently falling snow or sparkling ice, but it can also bring unpredictable weather with high winds, whiteouts, and ice storms. This can cause hazardous roads and power outages.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get the power back on. If you find yourself in this situation, make sure to contact Riverland Energy Cooperative as soon as you can so they know you have lost power. Please utilize one of these options to report outages:

1. Call 800-927-6206
2. Text 55050
3. Report through SmartHub



If you encounter a downed power line, **stay away** as it may be energized; call Riverland or 911 to report.

NEW Outage Alert Notifications for Co-op Members! Riverland Energy has launched a new outage text notifications for members! Please visit our website and social media for more information on how to sign up!

To prepare yourself for winter storms, make sure you pay attention to weather forecasts and understand the differences between the warnings provided by the National Weather Service:

Winter Storm Warning – issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet is coming or occurring. The warnings are issued 12 to 24 hours prior to the storm.

Winter Storm Watch – alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet. Watches are issued 12 to 48 hours before the storm.

Winter Storm Outlook– alerts the public when winter storm conditions are possible and are issued three to five days in advance of a winter storm.

Blizzard Warning – issued for gusty winds of 35 mph or more, and falling or blowing snow that creates visibilities of a fourth of a mile or less. These conditions usually last at least three hours.

Winter Load Control

December through February, REC’s power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, may call for full load control or Peak Alert (reduced electricity consumption) on days when the demand for electricity is high. This means electricity purchased by the Co-op is more expensive at these times. If you participate in our controlled electric heat program, make certain your back-up heating system and fuel source are fully functional.

Winter full load control Peak Alerts are between 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

You can check our website anytime for the status of load control. Peak Alert notices will also be broadcast by area radio stations and on our Facebook page.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you’re planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Simple steps to lower heating costs and keep you warm

Nearly half of the energy used in a typical U.S. household goes to heating and cooling, making it the largest energy expense for most homes. There are some simple steps that can help you save on your energy use and energy bills such as sealing air leaks to keep cold air out.

- Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different building materials meet, or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.
- Weather stripping is relatively easy to use and available at your local home improvement store. Stop drafts from coming in and heat from leaking out of your home through doors and windows.
- If you have older or leaky windows, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits.
- Open curtains to the sun to help warm a room with radiant energy. Close them at night and on gloomy days to keep heat in.
- Lower the temperature setting when you leave home and at night when you go to sleep. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically make these adjustments for you.
- Replace your furnace filter monthly to save energy and improve heat circulation.
- Set the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and if it’s an older unit, install an insulating blanket to prevent heat loss.
- If you have a fireplace, be sure to close the damper when it is not in use. This prevents heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.



OPERATING STATISTICS

	October			
	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
KWHS PURCHASED	22,716,743	21,542,741	253,074,793	241,806,782
KWHS SOLD	21,581,854	20,894,989	244,172,683	234,901,204
REVENUE	\$3,416,854	\$3,511,385	\$36,381,098	\$37,137,425
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	\$1,929,013	\$1,826,042	\$21,016,275	\$20,672,978
OTHER EXPENSES	\$1,376,443	\$1,513,810	\$14,446,308	\$15,408,916
OPERATING MARGINS	\$111,398	\$171,533	\$918,515	\$1,055,531
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	\$7,070	\$18,893	\$87,160	\$96,564
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	\$421,110	\$73,602	\$1,288,929	\$1,122,447
TOTAL MARGINS	\$539,578	\$264,028	\$2,294,604	\$2,274,542