



# THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

## Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association recognizes Monday, April 11, as National Lineman Appreciation Day this year.

What does it mean to be a lineman?

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities.

Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, linemen are at the heart of our cooperative.

There would be no electric cooperatives without them. A big "THANK YOU" to our Riverland Energy linemen!



By Jerry Sorenson, General Manager



Riverland Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

# BOARD APPROVES 2022 BUDGET

## Electric rates remain stable

At the end of December 2021, your Board of Directors approved the 2022 budget. The cooperative's budget provides the necessary investments for the coming year and forecasts the cost of power we purchase on your behalf. I am happy to report the 2022 budget contains no rate increase.

Over the course of 2021, Riverland has focused its efforts to reduce spending where possible and control cooperative costs. We have also continued to monitor the pandemic's economic impact on the communities it serves and the members on its lines. While there has been a slow transition to normal functions, the result of the cooperative's cost-control measures has enabled us to once again avoid a rate increase, providing a little additional relief for members who continue to feel the pandemic's affects.

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Continued growth has also played a significant role in the cooperative's ability to maintain its current rate structure. As a not-for-profit cooperative, all of Riverland Energy's investments are made with the understanding that they can have impacts on our members' monthly bills. We understand you are managing your own budgets, either personal or business, and electric rates can have an impact on your budgets. We seek to make wise investments over time that deliver the quality and service you deserve, while maintaining the affordably you expect.

## CONTRACTORS HIRED FOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

In order to provide safe and reliable service to our members, Riverland Energy must do routine maintenance and inspection of our poles, lines, and other equipment. Riverland contracted with Karcz Utility Services to inspect our underground system as well as conduct our pole inspections and treatments in 2022. Karcz will be inspecting all transformers and boxes, including painting as necessary, on nine substations. The substations scheduled are Buffalo City, Elk Creek,

Gilmanton, Nelson, Osseo, Strum, and Mondovi. Karcz will also be inspecting approximately 4,000 poles on the Cream and Lookout substations.

While doing this inspection, they may have to dig around some poles to check for rot and decay below the ground. Their trucks are marked, and we will notify you by automated phone call when Karcz is working in your area. If you have any questions, please contact our office and ask to speak to someone in operations.



# RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE

## APPLIANCE & ELECTRONICS RECYCLE DRIVE

Tuesday, May 24  
Arcadia REC  
N28988 State Rd 93  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25  
Alma REC  
1225 S. Main St.  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 26  
Holmen REC  
1800 Granary St.  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### ACCEPTED ITEMS - FREE

Cable Boxes (FREE)  
Cables & Cords (FREE)  
Cameras & Camcorders (FREE)  
Cassette Tapes (FREE)  
Cell Phones/PDAs & Chargers (FREE)  
Clocks (FREE)  
Coffee Makers (FREE)  
Desktop Computer Towers (FREE)  
Docking Stations (FREE)  
DVD/VHS/Blu-Ray Players (FREE)  
DVD Disks & VHS Tapes (FREE)  
External Drives (All types) (FREE)

Fans (FREE)  
Fax Machines (FREE)  
Hair Dryers (FREE)  
Holiday Lights (FREE)  
Ink & Toner Cartridges (FREE)  
Laptops (FREE)  
Land Line Phones (FREE)  
MP3 & iPod Players (FREE)  
Projectors (FREE)  
Radios (FREE)  
Satellite Dishes & Receivers (FREE)  
Scanners (FREE)

Servers (FREE)  
Stereos & Speakers (FREE)  
Toasters (FREE)  
UPS & Jump Starters (FREE)  
Vacuum Cleaners (FREE)  
Video Game Consoles (FREE)

### ACCEPTED ITEMS - FOR A FEE

Refrigerators (limit 2 per member)	* FREE (non-member pays \$15)
Freezers (limit 2 per member)	* FREE (non-member pays \$15)
Air Conditioners (limit 2 per member)	* FREE (non member pays \$15)
TV's- All Types (limit 3 per member)	\$20
Monitors	\$2
Microwaves	\$2
Humidifiers	\$2
Printers & Copiers	\$5
Washers	\$5
Dryers	\$5
Dishwashers	\$5
Stoves	\$5
Furnaces	\$5
Water Heaters	\$5
Dehumidifiers	\$15

\* Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners are only free to Riverland Energy members. All others will pay \$15. Bring a copy of your electric bill to qualify. Your bill is only needed for refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.

### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Bulbs  
Capacitors  
Gas Cylinders  
Liquids  
Medical Waste  
Ballasts  
Radioactive Waste  
Smoke Detectors  
Vape Pens  
Treadmills  
Ink & Tonor Cartridges  
Batteries & Battery Containing Devices  
*(remove batteries from electronics if possible)*

Recycling by:

Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations  
Onalaska, WI  
877-781-4030  
[www.thinkdynamic.com](http://www.thinkdynamic.com)



# EARTH DAY

APRIL 22

## FORGING A GREENER TOMORROW

Earth Day provides an annual opportunity for people around the world to make positive changes that can improve our environment. At Riverland Energy Cooperative, the day is a reminder that being good stewards of the environment is part of our commitment to bringing our members safe, reliable, and affordable power. Electricity can provide a cleaner way to power vehicles and appliances that have traditionally depended on fossil fuels.

As your cooperative, Riverland continues to monitor the renewable energy landscape and recognizes the future of electrical generation will be an “all of the above” strategy of investing in a variety of generation sources. Here are some things your cooperative has done so far:

- **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations & Rebates**

Partnering with Dairyland Power Cooperative, we installed our first commercial EV Charger at the Kwik Trip location in Holmen. We will also be adding Level 2 chargers to our offices in Arcadia and Holmen.

Riverland also joined other electric cooperatives and formed a regional electric vehicle charging network across Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota called CHARGE EV, LLC, which allows for electric vehicle owners to know where EV chargers are on their route. Also last year, the co-op began offering rebates for residential chargers.



- **Solar Energy**

Riverland built its first solar garden at its headquarters in Arcadia in 2016, partnering with Dairyland Power and SoCore Energy. Last year, Riverland was part of another



project, Stromland Solar, located in Cochrane, which is the largest one so far, consisting of 8,000 panels, supplying power for over 550 homes. Riverland will be partnering in more projects like this in the future. At the end of 2021, Riverland had 140 residential members producing solar energy.

- **Evergreen Program**

Evergreen is an opportunity for members to voluntarily contribute to the increased use of renewable energy sources. Riverland has been a part of this program since the late 1990s. Participation in Evergreen supports our efforts to increase renewable generation above and beyond any state requirements. Members pay an additional \$1 each month per Evergreen block. Members can sign up online at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com).



- **Energy Efficiency & Appliance Recycling Rebates**

Riverland Energy promotes the use of energy efficient products by providing rebates to members who purchase energy efficient products. Appliance recycling rebates are also available. Rebates forms and information can be found on our website.



- **Paperless Billing**

Another way to reduce the carbon footprint is to sign up for paperless billing. Riverland had offered this program since the early 2000s. Transitioning to electronic statements, you can help the world take a step towards greater environmental sustainability. Sign up through SmartHub.



For more information on these programs, visit our website at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com) or gives us a call at 800-411-9115.

# RIVERLAND ENERGY WILL RESUME ELECTRICAL SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

Each year, Riverland linemen share their unique skillset and electricity safety tips with elementary school students throughout our community during Electrical Safety Month in May. After two years of not being able to conduct the safety demonstrations, the co-op will be offering these presentations to area schools throughout the month of May.

The presentations center around PowerTown®, a model town complete with transformers, poles, overhead and underground power lines, and other equipment.

The lineman takes his tools, hard hat, and rubber gloves to show students how they are used in the field. Often one or two lucky kids gets to put on the rubber gloves and wear the hard hat.

The demonstrations are designed to teach students how our system works and educate them on the safety aspects of it. The linemen energize the mock lines to show students what



happens when a tree falls across a line or when an energized line makes contact with a vehicle.

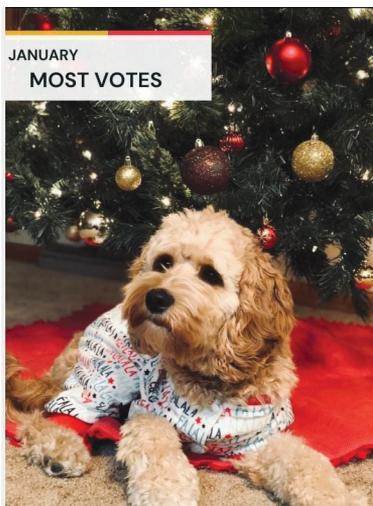
If you're interested in having a presentation done at your school or youth group, you can request one by filling out the form on our website at [www.riverlandenergy.com/Community/Safety-Demonstrations](http://www.riverlandenergy.com/Community/Safety-Demonstrations), or call our office at 800-411-9115.

## CONGRATS TO OUR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Dora B. for getting the most votes for our January photo contest and to Kim P. for getting the most votes for our February contest.

Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the 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 April theme is **Best of Spring**. Photos can be submitted through April 25. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit and vote.



**Jerry Sorenson, General Manager**

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://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.–4:00 p.m.  
Holmen: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

### Officers of the Board of Directors:

David Paudler, Onalaska, President  
Dan Filla, Arcadia, Vice-President  
Dennis Frame, Osseo,  
Secretary/Treasurer