



Community Cares

Spare change for community needs.

COMMUNITY CARES GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 28

Riverland Community Cares is a grant program made possible by the members of Riverland Energy Cooperative. Participating members voluntarily contribute to Community Cares by allowing their monthly bills to be rounded up so that their change can help make an impact through the efforts of local groups and organizations, working to make our community a better place to live and work.

A Riverland Community Cares Board will review applications and distribute funds in March. The application deadline is February 28, 2020. Applications must be received by 4 p.m. on the due date.

Eligibility:

1. Non-profit groups and organizations that serve communities located within the Riverland Energy Cooperative service area.
2. Projects that fit into one or more of these categories: Community Service, Economic Development, and Education and Youth.


Restrictions:

1. Contributions will generally be made to only non-profit organizations with have been granted tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).
2. Contributions will generally not be made for lobbying, political, and religious organizations; veteran, fraternal and labor organizations; fundraising dinners, and raffles.

Refer to the guidelines found on our website for more information on eligibility requirements. Grant applications can also be found on our website at riverlandenergy.com.



Riverland Energy
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Jerry Sorenson,
General Manager

SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “What’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Riverland Energy’s annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

Riverland Energy exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to its members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, we will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years.

Riverland Energy is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It is worth noting that the health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Riverland Energy wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While Riverland Energy provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been awhile, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We’ll have food, door prizes, scholarship drawings, and a gift just for coming, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Saturday, March 28, 2020.

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Thanks for coming to our Open House!

Riverland Energy Cooperative held an Open House and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the grand opening of its new district office on January 8 in Holmen. Members of the co-op, co-op directors and employees, as well as representatives from River Valley Architects, Holmen Business Association, and La Crosse Chamber of Commerce participated in the event.

“We are very fortunate to have this new facility,” Jerry Sorenson, Riverland Energy general manager, said. “This facility will allow us to continue serving our growing membership in a more efficient work space.”

The new office is located at 1800 Granary St., just north of Bluff View Bank.



SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

Riverland Energy is once again offering scholarships to eligible graduating high school seniors and to those who are returning to a university or technical college after spending time in the work place or raising a family.

TRADITIONAL AND AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Riverland Energy will award 30 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parent or guardian resides in Riverland Energy service territory. Two eligible graduating seniors from each of the following schools will be selected: Alma, C-FC, G-E-T, Independence, Osseo-Fairchild, Arcadia, Durand, Gilmanton, Mondovi, Whitehall, Blair-Taylor, Eleva-Strum, Holmen, and Onalaska. In addition, two at-large scholarships will be awarded to an eligible senior who lives in our service territory, but doesn't attend any of the schools listed above.

The recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at the annual meeting from all of the completed and verified applications received for the scholarship. The recipient, or one of the recipient's parents or legal guardian, must be present at the annual meeting on Saturday, March 28, 2020.

LINE WORKER SCHOLARSHIPS

Two \$1,000 Line Worker Scholarships will be awarded to individuals pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical line worker program. The applicant must be a senior in high school. The recipient will be chosen in a random drawing at the cooperative's annual meeting in conjunction with the general scholarships. The applicant can apply for both the general scholarship and the line worker scholarship, but will only be eligible to receive one.

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Three \$750 non-traditional scholarships will be awarded to non-traditional students at schools of higher learning. These will be awarded to those returning to a university or technical college after spending a minimum of three years in the work place or raising a family. To be eligible, you or your spouse must be a member in “good standing” and a bona fide resident of the Riverland Energy Cooperative service territory.

Recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at the Riverland Energy Board of Directors meeting from all completed and verified applications. The disbursement of non-traditional scholarships will be awarded after all qualifications are met with receipt of transcripts and verification of enrollment as listed above.

All scholarship applications can be submitted online; e-mailed to baesch@riverlandenergy.com; or mailed to: Riverland Energy Cooperative, P.O. Box 277, Arcadia, WI 54612. Applications can be found on our website, at any of our offices, or through the high school guidance counselor.

The application deadline for all scholarships is 4 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020. The annual meeting will take place on Saturday, March 28, at the Arcadia High School beginning with a pancake breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and the meeting starting at 10:15 a.m.

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THREE DIY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS TO TACKLE THIS YEAR

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

1 Trim Dryer Vent

Level of difficulty: easy. Supplies needed: tin snips, gloves, measuring tape, and masking tape. Estimated Cost: about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have.

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line—it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster, and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark, and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out YouTube.com for a quick video tutorial.



2 Seal Air Leaks

Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed: caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels. Estimated Cost: \$25 to \$50 depending on the materials you purchase.

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring, and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weather stripping

materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>.

3 Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood. Estimated Cost: \$50 to \$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage that you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home.

WISCONSIN ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need financial assistance in paying your electric bill, we suggest you contact one of the agencies listed at right. The energy assistance program helps prevent the disconnection of electric service and long-term energy cost burdens for eligible families. Contact your county's Department of Human Services to apply:

Trempealeau County:

Trempealeau Co. Social Services: (715) 538-2311
Western Wisconsin E.O.C.: (715) 985-2391

Buffalo County:

Buffalo County Human Services: (608) 685-4412

La Crosse County:

La Crosse Co. Human Services: (608) 784-4357
Salvation Army: (608) 782-6126
CouléeCap: (608) 634-4575

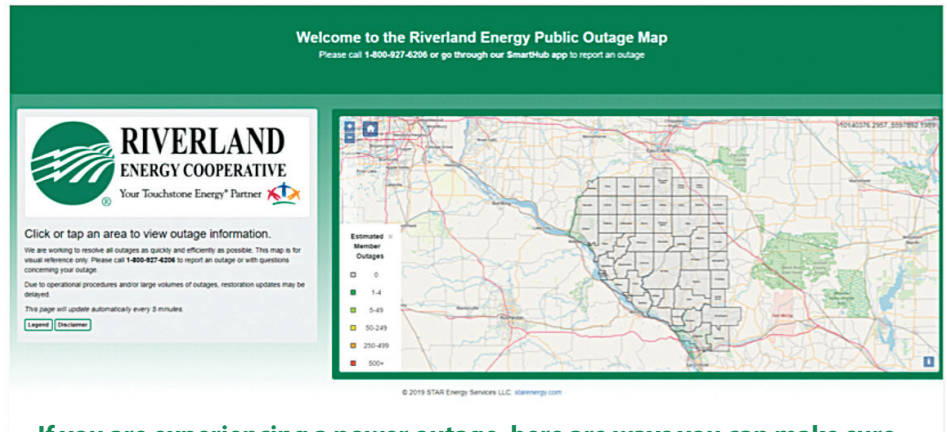


NEW! Live Outage Map on our Website

You can now access our outage map to view current outages we are working to restore. If there is an outage in an area, that area will be highlighted with the color indicating the estimated number of members out of power.

You can view this by clicking on the orange "Outage Map" button at the top of our home page at riverlandenergy.com.

This outage map is provided as a courtesy to keep members informed. Outage numbers are estimates at the time the map is updated and accuracy is not guaranteed for official publication purposes.



If you are experiencing a power outage, here are ways you can make sure we know you are still without power.

- Call us at 800-927-6206
- Report your outage through SmartHub app
- View our outage map to view current outages



YOU'RE INVITED
to your cooperative's
Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2020
Arcadia High School,
756 Raider Drive, Arcadia, WI

Pancake breakfast and registration begins at 8:00 a.m.
Business meeting begins at 10:15 a.m.

- Various informational displays
- Food pantry collection (bring in non-perishable food items and we'll donate to local food pantries)
- Attendance gifts
- Door prize drawings
- Scholarship drawings
- Activities and movie for kids during the business meeting

Jerry Sorenson, General Manager

N28988 State Road 93, P.O. Box 277, Arcadia, WI 54612
608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • www.riverlandenergy.com

Beth Alesch, Editor



Riverland Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

District Office

1472 Hwy. 35
Onalaska, WI 54650
1-800-411-9115

Outages & Emergencies

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

Office Hours

Arcadia: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Onalaska: 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