



# THE SEASON OF GIVING



By Tim Holtan, CEO

s the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another—and at Riverland Energy Cooperative, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase—it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve—our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take our Rounding Up for Community Cares program, for example. Thanks to the generosity of members like you who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we're able to provide real help to local groups and organizations within our communities. Small contributions add up to big changes. Every little bit counts, so I encourage you to join in and make a difference.

If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions—please don't hesitate to reach out.

We're also proud to support local students through the Youth Tour program, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action and dream big about their futures. That's giving in the most meaningful way by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe

knowledge is a gift too and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work—coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events and parades to keep our local economy strong. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving back isn't a requirement it's just what you do.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At Riverland Energy Cooperative, we believe concern for community is more than a value, it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

To sign up for Rounding Up for Community Cares, visit our website and complete the participation form. From all of us at Riverland Energy Cooperative, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season.

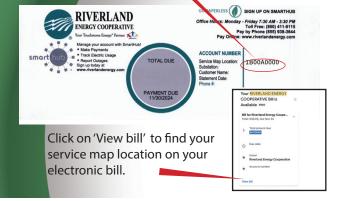
# **SPOT YOUR SERVICE LOCATION NUMBER**

Your service map location number can be found here on your paper bill:

## WIN A \$25 BILL CREDIT!

To reward our Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News Magazine readers, we are going to randomly select two service map location numbers to be hidden within the newsletter. The hidden service map location numbers are displayed in this format (Ex. 1B00A0000).

If you spot your service map location number, contact the cooperative by the 20th of the current month to claim your \$25 bill credit.





beautiful autumn evening welcomed members to the Riverland Energy Cooperative Member Appreciation Day on Wednesday, October 8, at Danzinger Vineyards.

The event gave members an opportunity to learn more about their cooperative. Highlights included our energy services area, which featured the Ford Lightning electric truck, a solar energy information display, and materials offering energy-saving tips. Member Service Representatives demonstrated how to sign up for SmartHub to view energy usage and pay bills online. Attendees could also enroll in the "Round Up for Community Cares" program, which rounds your bill up to the next dollar to support local causes. Tabletop safety demonstrations added an educational touch. There was plenty to keep the kids entertained, including pumpkin painting, a balloon artist, and a photo booth.

We sincerely appreciate the continued support and trust of our valued members. If you attended the event, we hope you had a wonderful time.



Roland Kube Mike Buchner Storage 93 Carol Rindahl Allen Hewitt Ronald W Kazmierczak Bryan Tamke Charles Guenther Margaret Eichstaedt Richard Stefanski W J Hamlin Robert Konsela Charles Seyforth Jon Linse Beth Killian Curtis Youngbauer

Gerald Christensen Bruce Schaffner George Ross Dennis Youngbauer Lee Bailey Don Hafeman Jane Bollinger Vernon Back Edcar Doris Anderson Lyle Skoyen Daniel Raasch John L Endris Ronald Funk Lee Gehrke





## 2026 RIVERLAND ENERGY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



Riverland Energy Cooperative is offering \$1,000 scholarships and one \$5,000 scholarship to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Parents or guardians must be an

active member of Riverland Energy Cooperative and reside full time within Riverland's service territory. An account number must be provided. Applicants are chosen by a random drawing at our Annual Meeting on March 28, 2026, at the Arcadia High School (the student, parent/guardian must be present to win).

The application is available at www.riverlandenergy.com. Go to the Community tab and click on Scholarships.

You can also can the QR code at the right. The deadline for submitting applications is 4 p.m. on March 20, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact Jordan Tamke at 800-411-9115, or jtamke@riverlandenergy.com.





# POWERING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES? EXPLORE ENERGY ASSISTANCE OPTIONS



### Who is eligible?

Riverland Energy Cooperative wants to ensure every member stays warm and supported this season. If your home is heated with wood, propane, natural gas, electricity, or fuel oil, and your household income meets the guidelines below, you may qualify for energy assistance. Additional help may also be available for your non-heating electric costs through Wisconsin Public Benefits.

Household Size	One Month Household Income	Annual Income
1	\$3,201.75	\$38,421
2	\$4,186.92	\$50,243
3	\$5,172.08	\$62,065
4	\$6,157.33	\$73,888
5	\$7,142.50	\$85,710
6	\$8,127.67	\$97,532
7	\$8,312.33	\$99,748
8	\$8,497.08	\$101,965

### How does it work?

WHEAP (Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program) provides a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). This funding helps cover a portion of your energy costs, but is not intended to pay your entire annual energy bill. The amount of energy assistance varies based on several factors, including the household size, income, and energy costs.

## What if you do not have heat or may be disconnected?

If you're out of heat, nearly out of fuel, or facing a disconnect notice, crisis energy assistance may be available to help you stay safe and warm. WHEAP agencies offer a 24-hour emergency line for urgent needs outside regular hours. (8G26A0149) For non-emergency support, you can also access budgeting help, energy-saving tips, and payment assistance. Contact your local social services office to learn more or apply.

### **Trempealeau County:**

- Trempealeau County Social Services—715-538-2311
- Western Dairyland E.O.C—715-836-7511

### La Crosse County

• La Crosse County Human Services—608-785-5582

### **Buffalo County:**

Buffalo County Human Services — 608-685-4412

## Load Management Test Set for November 19

The 2025 Winter Preparedness Test for interruptible heat (dual fuel) accounts is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 19, beginning at 7 a.m. This annual load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. During the test, residential Interruptible Heat load classes (2, 2W, 4B) will be controlled:

- 6:55 a.m. control start
- 7:00 a.m. all loads interrupted (2, 2W, 4B)
- 10:00 a.m. Class 2, 2W and 4B begin restoral
- 10:30 a.m. Class 4B loads fully restored
- 11:00 a.m. Class 2 and 2W loads fully restored

If you experience any problems during this test, or if you have questions, please contact Riverland Energy Cooperative at 800-411-9115.



# **ENERGY SAVINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR**

s Thanksgiving draws near, Riverland Energy Cooperative (REC) is reflecting on what we're most thankful for—our families, incredible members, and the chance to help you save energy and money. Through our incentive programs, we're proud to support upgrades that make homes and businesses more efficient, comfortable, and environmentally friendly. (5F01A0004) With the end of 2025 fast approaching, now's the perfect time to explore these valuable opportunities and wrap up the year with meaningful savings. Here are some of the incentives you can take advantage of before the calendar turns:

**Appliance Incentives:** Consider EnergyStar-rated models when replacing old appliances. EnergyStar models meet rigorous energy efficiency standards set by the EPA, and REC offers a \$25 rebate on qualifying appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, electric dryers, and dehumidifiers. Upgrading to more efficient appliances will help lower energy consumption and can reduce your monthly energy bill.



### Water Heater Incentives: Water

heaters play a significant role in your home's energy use, and the last thing anyone needs is a failed water heater. If you find yourself needing a new water heater, REC has incentives available for up to \$300 to help offset costs.

**HVAC Incentives:** Efficient heating and cooling systems are essential for managing energy costs throughout the year. REC offers a wide range of incentives for HVAC equipment. This includes \$35 for an energy-efficient ECM blower motor in a standard furnace and up to \$400 per ton for installing a geothermal heat pump, one of the most efficient heating systems available.

Home Energy Audits: REC pays \$200 towards the expense of a home energy audit. The audit must be scheduled through the Cooperative and conducted by a state-certified energy audit specialist. The invoice for the audit will be sent to REC, we will credit \$200 and you will be billed the remainder of the invoice. Once the home energy audit is finished, a list of recommended energy-saving measures will be provided. If the proposed improvements are implemented within a year, members can receive a credit of up to \$500.

**LED Lighting Incentives:** Switching to LED lighting is one of the easiest ways to reduce energy use. REC continues to offer rebates on energy-efficient lighting-members can earn \$0.50 per bulb (minimum of five bulbs) or receive \$0.50 per 800 lumens of light output.



Agricultural, Commercial & Industrial Incentives: If you operate a farm or business, energy efficiency improvements can lead to substantial savings. REC provides incentives for upgrades like exhaust and circulation fans (\$1/inch), heat recovery units (\$300), and variable frequency drives (\$30/HP).

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this November, Riverland Energy Cooperative is grateful for the opportunity to help our members make smart energy choices that lead to lasting savings and a more sustainable future. Whether you're upgrading appliances, improving your home's efficiency, or making changes in your business, our incentive programs are here to encourage you to be more energy efficient. Incentives are in place through December 19, 2025. Please refer to our forms out on the website for eligibility requirements and more information. If you have questions or want to explore how you can maximize your energy savings before the year ends, give us a call at (608) 323-3381 to speak with one of our friendly member service representatives. From all of us at Riverland Energy Cooperative, Happy Thanksgiving—and thank you for being a valued part of our cooperative community!

## Tim Holtan, CEO

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

### **Jordan Lien, Editor**



## **Riverland Energy** Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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### **Office Hours**

Arcadia: Monday-Thursday: 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday: 7 a.m. – 11 a.m

Holmen: Monday-Thursday: 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday: 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

### **Outages & Emergencies**

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

### Officers of the Board of Directors:

Bea Zingsheim, Onalaska, President Dan Filla, Arcadia, Vice-President Dennis Frame, Osseo, Secretary/Treasurer