

# The Outlet

Riverland Energy Cooperative

JANUARY 2024

## Annual Meeting set for March 23

Riverland Energy's Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, March 23 at the Arcadia High School. We are planning the traditional meeting with a pancake breakfast, door prizes, and scholarship drawings. Watch for details in future publications.

## Community Cares grant application due Feb. 15

Riverland Energy provides financial support to community programs through its Community Cares program. Grants are awarded by a board of directors to non-profit organizations, programs, or projects that improve our local quality of life.

To apply for a grant, download the application on our website. Deadline to apply is February 15, 2024.

## Energy Assistance

If you need financial assistance, we suggest you contact your local agency. Contact information can be found on our website under Your Account/Energy Assistance.

## Photo Contest

Submit a photo of Wildlife for this month's photo contest before Jan. 25. The photo that has the most votes will win a \$25 electric bill credit! Each member who submits a photo will be put into a drawing at the end of the contest for a chance to win a \$250 electric bill credit. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit a photo and vote.

## 2024 Rebates

Riverland Energy continues to offer several types of rebates for residential, agriculture, and business accounts, including custom options. Forms are available on our website or in our offices. There are eligibility criteria that must be met in order to qualify. Rebates include:

- Audit & Audit Recommended Improvements
- Appliances & Recycling
- Heat Pumps
- Smart Thermostats
- LED Lamps & Fixtures
- EV Chargers
- Water Heaters

More information about our rebate program can be found on our website by visiting [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com).

## 2024 Scholarships

### Traditional and At-Large Scholarships

Riverland Energy will award thirty \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parent or guardian resides in the Riverland Energy service territory.

### Luck of the Draw \$5,000 Scholarship

New this year, we will be drawing one recipient from all applicants present at the Annual Meeting for a \$5,000 scholarship.

### 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 3 years in the work place or raising a family.

***Applications with details and qualifications can be found on our website.***

**The application deadline for all scholarships is 4:00 p.m. March 15, 2024.**

## Consider SmartHub

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet, you can pay your bill, view your usage, contact member service, and view your billing history. You'll be able to view your actual usage and be able to see important notices with SmartHub. You can select how you want to be notified about your bill — including email and text messaging.

Register through our website or download the free app on your phone.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



## MONTHLY BASE SERVICE ELECTRIC CHARGE

On your bill, you will see a monthly base service charge. The current base electric charge is \$1.26 per day and covers each member's share of the cost for construction and maintenance of poles, wires, transformers, meters, right-of-way clearing, and other fixed expenses that enable you to access electric service at your location. This is a daily charge, so it may be different total each month, depending on how many days are in the month.

### Cost regardless of usage

It costs the same to build and maintain the system, regardless of how much energy you use. Fixed costs are spread among all members, meaning the base charge is—and should be—the same for all members, regardless of energy use.

### Fewer members in rural areas to share costs

Fixed costs to build and maintain the system are shared equally among all co-op members. REC has just five members per mile of line to share fixed costs, while urban utilities spread costs among twenty or more consumers per mile. The basic charge is higher in rural areas because costs are shared by fewer members.

Rates are based on a cost-of-service study Riverland Energy has done every few years.

**ERROR: Please note there was an error in the printed copy of the Wisconsin Energy News magazine on the base service rate. The current rate is 1.26 per day, not \$1.18. Our sincerest apologies.**

## Generator Safety

Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

### Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

### Portable Generator:

- Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.
- Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- Start the generator first before connecting appliances.

## Members Helping Members

Members can help family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers stay current on their electric bill. If you would like to help a member by paying \$50, \$100, \$200 or any amount desired towards their electric bill, please send a check with the member's name, address and phone number. Contact us at 800-411-9115 for more details.

## OPERATING STATISTICS

Kristina Marsolek, Finance Manager

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Nov. 22	Nov. 23	2022	2023
KWHS PURCHASED	24,759,963	25,139,530	277,834,756	278,869,157
KWHS SOLD	23,775,013	23,964,327	267,352,951	268,137,010
REVENUE	3,416,138	3,622,187	37,351,223	40,003,285
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,820,811	1,937,096	22,731,369	22,953,371
OTHER EXPENSES	1,207,094	1,184,406	14,327,205	15,630,714
OPERATING MARGINS	388,232	500,685	292,649	1,419,200
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	9,289	20,415	407,071	107,574
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	63,746	64,115	1,127,264	1,353,044
TOTAL MARGINS	461,267	585,215	1,826,984	2,879,818