



WORKING TOGETHER TO LOWER DEMAND

By Tim Holtan, CEO

When outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder weather drives us indoors, where we rely more heavily on home heating systems, more lighting and household appliances. Heating systems run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. Combine that with the fact that most people use electricity at the same times, typically in the mornings and early evenings—and the result is significant pressure on our electric grid.

Riverland Energy Cooperative works closely with Dairyland Power Cooperative, our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, to plan for these seasonal weather patterns and changes and ensure you have reliable power every day of the year. This partnership involves detailed resource and infrastructure planning to make certain electricity is available whenever you need it. However, it's important to remember that our local system is part of a much larger regional and national electric grid.

During the winter months, when homes and businesses across the country are using more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can approach, or occasionally exceed, available supply. This is especially true during severe weather events, such as ice storms, sudden temperature drops or equipment malfunctions that reduce generation capacity.

To prepare for these scenarios and minimize risks, REC and DPC take proactive measures to strengthen reliability year-round. These include routine system maintenance, investments in grid modernization and comprehensive disaster response planning. These proactive steps are designed to ensure our portion

of the grid remains resilient even under extreme conditions. Yet, maintaining a reliable electric system requires a collective effort and every member plays an important role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress.

You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use, especially on the coldest days of winter:

1. Lower your thermostat slightly. Even reducing the temperature by a few degrees can help.
2. Try to avoid using big appliances during peak hours, which are between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the fall, winter, and spring. Instead, use dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers during off-peak times, like midday or late evening.
3. Adjust your water heater. Setting it to 120 degrees F and spacing out showers helps conserve both energy and hot water.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.

Understanding how winter weather impacts electricity demand is key to maintaining system reliability. By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bill, but you also help strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community. Together, through small actions and shared awareness, we can ensure that our homes remain warm, our lights stay on and our local grid continues to serve us reliably throughout the season.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY—APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY CARES GRANT

Riverland Energy's Community Cares Foundation is on the hunt for inspiring projects to support in the next round of grant awards! This program is all about bringing Riverland Energy Cooperative (REC) members together to create a ripple of positive change in our communities.

Here's the magic: participating members simply "round up" their monthly bills to the nearest dollar. Each contribution, as small as \$0.01 to \$0.99, may seem tiny—but when combined, these funds make a powerful difference for local charitable organizations in need.

We're looking for applications that

focus on local projects or programs that benefit our members and enhance the communities we serve.

Who's Eligible?

- Non-profit groups and organizations serving areas within Riverland Energy's service area.
- Projects must fall under at least one of these categories: Community Service, Economic Development, Education & Youth Development, Environment, or Disaster Relief.
- Funds cannot be used for political purposes or paying electric bill.

The deadline to submit your application is **4:00 p.m. on February 12, 2026**.



To submit your application or to learn more about our 'Rounding Up for Community Cares' program, visit riverlandenergy.com. Simply click on the 'Community' tab and select 'Rounding Up for Community Cares'.



Riverland Energy
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

CONGRATULATIONS TAMMY HILMANOWSKI ON YOUR RETIREMENT



new chapter.

If you've attended our Annual Meetings or Member Appreciation Day events, chances are you've seen Tammy's hard work in action. Perhaps you've spoken with her on the phone or stopped by the office, her friendly, reliable presence has been a constant for decades. Her contributions have made a lasting impact, both on our team and the members she served.

Tammy, your dedication has been nothing short of inspiring. From all of us at Riverland Energy, thank you for everything. Enjoy your well-earned retirement, you will be greatly missed!

"For 32 years, Tammy has made an incredible impact in her roles in operations, payroll/accounting, and capital credits, always stepping up wherever needed to ensure everything ran smoothly. Her focus has consistently been on supporting the team and prioritizing the needs of our members. I've

Saying goodbye is never easy, especially when it's to someone as remarkable as Tammy Hilmanowski. After joining the Riverland Energy Cooperative family in 1993, Tammy has dedicated her career to serving our members with unwavering commitment and care. Now, as she embarks on her retirement, we're wishing her every happiness in this

been fortunate to work alongside Tammy during this time, and I'm deeply appreciative of her dedication, expertise, and patience—even when she had to put up with me! Thank you, Tammy, for all you've done to keep us on track and for the outstanding contributions you've made to Riverland Energy."

— Tim Holtan, CEO

"Congratulations on your retirement, Tammy! It's hard to imagine the team without you after 32 incredible years. Your commitment and hard work have meant so much to everyone, and while it's tough to see you go, you've more than earned this time to enjoy life, family, and friends. Best wishes as you start this new adventure, you'll truly be missed!" — Todd Hong

32 years. Wow. What a great accomplishment. How time flies. It feels like yesterday that you were working in the old Trempealeau Electric office building. I am glad to have had a chance to work with you these past 32 years. It's been awesome getting to know you as a coworker and friend. Your energy, enthusiasm and dedication to your coworkers and the members have been greatly appreciated by all. I will miss your chipper and friendly voice on the phone when I have a payroll question. Thank you for taking care of any issue in a professional and timely manner. Well, it's time for you to leave the payroll spreadsheets behind and start a new chapter in your life. Congratulations on your retirement, and here's to many years of leisure and relaxation, you have earned it. — Kevin Helgeson

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE



Riverland Energy Cooperative is proud to provide educational support by offering thirty-two \$1000 scholarships and one \$5000 scholarship to area high school seniors.

Student, or their parent or guardian, must attend the cooperative's annual meeting on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Arcadia High School.

Scholarship Eligibility:

- Applicants must be graduating seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of Riverland Energy Cooperative.
- Students attending public, private, parochial, or home school are eligible to apply.
- Scholarships are awarded through a random drawing held at our annual meeting on Saturday, March 28, 2026.
- The student or their parent/guardian must be present at the annual meeting to qualify.**
- The 2026 deadline to apply is Friday, March 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Applications can be found on our website or through your guidance counselor.

CALLING ALL RIVERLAND ENERGY MEMBERS



ENTER OUR PHOTO CONTEST!

Get ready to show off your photography skills! Riverland Energy is kicking off a brand-new **Member Photo Contest**, and we're thrilled to invite YOU to participate!

Here's your chance to submit your favorite photos and compete to win a \$25 electric bill credit. Plus, the top-voted photos will appear in our special 2027 calendar, showcasing the incredible talent of our members!

How to Participate:

- Members can submit up to three photos.
- Photos should highlight the beauty of the seasons and demonstrate electrical safety.
- The deadline to submit is **August 31, 2026**.

Submit your photos online! Watch our Facebook page or visit our website for the submission link. Don't miss out on this fun opportunity to be creative, celebrate our community, and win a little extra for your energy bill!

Start snapping and good luck!

2026 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

Riverland Energy provides an annual list of energy-efficient items that qualify for rebates. Each category's eligibility requirements are detailed on the rebate forms. To receive a rebate, members need to:

1. Purchase an eligible item.
2. Complete the rebate form.
3. Submit the form and required documentation to the cooperative within three months of the purchase or installation date (as specified on the form).

The equipment must be installed within Riverland Energy's service area and, in most cases, must be ENERGY STAR® certified. Please note: the energy guide alone does not confirm ENERGY STAR® certification. Be sure to check that your purchase has the official ENERGY STAR® label, as shown below. To find more information or to complete a rebate form, visit our website at riverlandenergy.com.



HVAC

Heat Pump – Air Source & Mini Split (SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+ OR SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+)	\$200/ton
Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs (less than 20 ton: EER 11+, 20 to less than 60 ton: EER 10.5+, greater than 60 ton: EER 10+)	\$200/ton
Heat Pump – Geothermal	\$400/ton
New Furnace with Efficient ECM Blower Motor – Unit MUST be member's primary heat source. AHRI Certificate must state unit is either: Variable speed OR kWh/Yr Eae <=670	\$35/unit

CONSERVATION

Electric Vehicle Charging Station (Required to be on load control)	\$500/unit
EV Charging Station Installation Costs (ONLY for installation costs of secondary meter with regular EV Charger)	\$200 unit

ENERGY AUDITS

Audit Recommended Improvements	Capped at cost, \$500 max
Compressed Air Audit	Capped at cost, \$500 max

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

All-in-One Washer/Dryer Combo – must use ventless heat pump drying	\$50/unit
Clothes Washer	\$25/unit
Clothes Dryer – electric only	\$25/unit
Dishwasher	\$25/unit
Dehumidifier	\$25/unit
Inductive Range (requires specific cookware)	\$25/unit
Freezer – Must be \geq 10 cubic feet to qualify	\$25/unit
Refrigerator – Must be \geq 10 cubic feet to qualify	\$25/unit
Appliance Recycling – Freezer/Refrigerator/Room Air Conditioner (Signed certification required)	\$25/unit

AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-Cooler	\$500/unit
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery w/electric back up - used with controlled electric water heater	\$300/unit
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer (50 watts or less, insulated tank)	\$50/unit
Scroll Refrigerator Compressor (1,000 cap per compressor)	\$30/HP
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) (\$1,000 cap per drive - must provide motor size)	\$30/HP
Electric Forklift Battery Charger – Must be on load control as defined by the cooperative.	\$200/each
Ag Exhaust Fan, less than 36" must be \geq 18 cfm/Watt	\$1/inch diameter
Ag Exhaust Fan, greater than 36" must be \geq 21 cfm/Watt	\$1/inch diameter
Ag Circulation Fan, less than 36" must be \geq 18 cfm/Watt	\$1/inch diameter
Ag Circulation Fan, greater than 36" must be \geq 21 cfm/Watt	\$1/inch diameter

LIGHTING

LED Bulb – 50% capped at cost	\$.50/bulb - 5 bulb min.
LED Fixture – 50% capped at cost	\$.50/fixture per 800 lumens
LED Exit Sign – 50% capped at cost	\$5/sign
Occupancy Sensor – doesn't include motion detector bulbs or fixtures – 50% capped at cost	\$5/sensor

WATER HEATERS

Commercial & Residential – 75-99 gallons (Energy Factor .88+, Residential)	\$250/unit
Commercial & Residential – 100+ gallons (Energy Factor 0.88+, Residential)	\$400/unit
Heat pump water heater –Integrated (all in one) units, Energy Factor 2.20 or greater)	\$500/unit

SMART TIPS FOR USING SPACE HEATERS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS

When cold weather sets in, covert battles over thermostat settings take place at many homes and businesses. Some people just can't seem to get warm, while others feel that they're suffocating from the heat. Not everyone experiences the same level of comfort at the same temperature. As a result, many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth. Riverland Energy & Safe Electricity reminds those who use space heaters and electric blankets to keep safety considerations in mind and use these devices with caution.

While space heaters and electric blankets can provide needed warmth and comfort, they can also be deadly if they are not used with care.

Tips for Safety:

- Choose Certified Products:** When purchasing a space heater or electric blanket, look for safety certification marks to ensure the product has been tested and approved.
- Opt for Safety Features:** Select models with built-in safety features, such as automatic shut-off capabilities, which can prevent overheating and accidents.
- Avoid Used Products:** Be cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. Older models may lack up-to-date safety mechanisms and reliability. Investing in a new heater or blanket is always a safer choice.

To help you have both a warm and safe winter, Safe Electricity shares the following tips for using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Review and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using an extension cord.
- Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.
- Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.
- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.

- Be aware of pets and children near heating appliances. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
- Keep space heaters and electric blankets away from water. If they become wet, do not turn them on to dry.
- Regularly examine cords to make sure there is no cracking or fraying. Do not use damaged appliances. Also inspect your electric blanket to ensure that it is not worn or damaged. It should not have any charred or dark areas. Replace old or damaged blankets.
- Store your electric blanket in a manner which avoids creasing. If it cannot be stored flat, loosely fold or roll the blanket in a cool, dry closet.

Additionally, follow these general safety measures to protect your household:

- Test Smoke Detectors Regularly:** Check smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year.
- Create and Practice an Escape Plan:** Develop an escape plan that all household members are familiar with. Be sure to identify an outdoor meeting location a safety distance from potential fire hazards.

When it's time to dispose of an old or damaged space heater or electric blanket, do not place these items in general waste. Check with your local recycling facility to see if they accept these electrical appliances.

SAVE THE DATES

Board of Directors Informational Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 5 - 6 p.m.

If interested in attending virtually, please contact Emily Dregney at edregney@riverlandenergy.com or 608-409-7052 by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20.

Community Cares Application Deadline

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2026, Arcadia High School



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

Tim Holtan, CEO
608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • www.riverlandenergy.com

Jordan Lien, Editor

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