



MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

By Tim Holtan, CEO

Each May, Riverland Energy Cooperative recognizes Electrical Safety Month, but the work behind it does not fit on a calendar. Electrical safety is a year-round responsibility shared by all of our line crews, our operations staff and the members we serve.

National safety experts continue to report that thousands of people across the U.S. are seriously injured or killed each year in electrical fires and home electrical accidents. Many of those incidents could be avoided with basic precautions and quick action when something looks or sounds wrong. Electricity keeps our homes comfortable, charges the devices we rely on and powers the equipment that makes modern life run. The same energy that is so useful can become deadly when wiring is damaged, circuits are overloaded or people get too close to energized equipment.

At Riverland Energy Cooperative safety is not a slogan. It is a core value

and a responsibility that starts with how we train and support our employees. Our teams train on safety year-round through field exercises, classroom refreshers and regular discussions built

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into daily job briefings and post-storm after-action reviews.

Riverland Energy Cooperative provides safety education through school and community demos, covering pad-mounted transformer safety, overloaded outlets and power strips and the rule to treat every downed line as energized. The *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* and *Outlets* also

share practical safety reminders and what to do in emergencies such as a vehicle accident involving a utility pole or finding a line down after severe weather.

Parents and caregivers can reinforce outdoor safety: don't climb trees near overhead lines, keep kites and drones away from electric equipment and stay clear of substations and transformers. A few changes in habits can go a long way, such as replacing damaged cords, avoiding "daisy-chaining" power strips, and using GFCI protection where needed. Call REC right away if you see sparks, a down power line, or smell burning odors.

Riverland Energy Cooperative's mission is to provide safe, reliable, innovative and affordable energy and related services. We meet that mission by making safety part of our everyday decisions and by encouraging our members to do the same. Let's keep electrical safety at the top of the list, this May and every day.



RIVERLAND ENERGY HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING

Members and guests attended Riverland Energy's Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 28, at Arcadia High School. Registration was open and breakfast was served from 8 to 10 a.m.

Chief Executive Officer, Tim Holtan, introduced guest speaker Doug Booher of RESCO. Doug shared that RESCO is an electric supply cooperative formed in 1936 by rural electric cooperatives to combine purchasing power for their members. He noted that RESCO serves co-ops across 12 states, is governed by an 18-member board, and has seen material costs rise sharply by roughly 60 percent over the past three to four years. He also explained that RESCO operates with a minimum-margin model and reported a 2025 margin of 2.8 percent.

Holtan emphasized that the day's message centered on providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. He delivered a brief manager's report covering Riverland Energy Cooperative's history, the organization's safety-first focus, recent retirements, and new employees. He also highlighted member programs such as Federated Youth funding, paperless billing, SmartHub and the WI Political Action Committee (PAC). Holtan reviewed director terms, board election information, the Alma shop, and a financial overview. Board

President Bea Zingsheim recognized Dan Filla for 16 years of service on the board. Due to term limits, Filla stepped down after serving four consecutive terms. Michelle Weisenberger of Ettrick ran uncontested and was elected to fill the District 5 seat vacated by Filla. Incumbent Bryce Lisowski won the uncontested election in District 2 and Bea Zingsheim won the uncontested election in District 9.

Immediately following the annual meeting, the board reorganized and elected Dennis Frame as president, Brad Schmidtknecht as vice president and Bea Zingsheim as secretary-treasurer. Frame was also re-elected as Riverland Energy Cooperative's representative on the Dairyland Power Board of Directors, with Steven Hogden as the alternate.

During the meeting, Riverland Energy Cooperative held a random drawing for high school seniors that were present. The students whose names were drawn received \$1,000 scholarships and one student received a \$5,000 scholarship. Scholarship funding comes from the Federated Youth Foundation, which is supported through unclaimed capital credits.

The meeting concluded with drawings for electric bill credits, a BBQ Basket, a Gardening Basket, and kids' prizes.



ASK WILLIE 2026

1. I find it frustrating that the fees I pay are now equaling and sometimes exceeding the amount I pay for electricity. At the same time, when I compare the amount of electricity I actually used this year compared to years past, it is less. I use less, but am paying substantially more. Seems like a punishment.

Much of an electric bill is tied to costs that do not change with monthly energy use. Riverland Energy Cooperative has significant fixed costs for poles, wires, transformers, meters, substations, protective equipment, and the crews and contractors who build, maintain and restore the system. The basic service charge covers only part of what it takes to keep that capacity available. As Riverland unbundles costs to better reflect the true cost to serve each account, it becomes clearer that members with low total kWh but higher-than-average peak demand still require the system to be sized for their peak, and if their bill is mostly kWh-based, some of those capacity costs shift onto other members.

2. When I was in New England last year, I seen they put Solar Farms on top of landfills. I also seen they put them in the middle of clover leaf intersections for interstates. These are both wasted land. What good use of the land rather than farm land is not taken.

Solar on closed landfills or in highway right-of-ways can make good use of already disturbed land but it is not common because many sites are not suitable or are costly to build and maintain. Landfills need stable slopes and caps that cannot be penetrated plus added engineering for settling and methane, while interstate cloverleaf areas are governed by DOT rules and approvals that can require setbacks, glare and safety studies, access planning and clear liabilities. Even when the space looks available, interconnection can be

expensive if nearby lines lack capacity and ongoing maintenance access for crews can be difficult. Riverland Energy Cooperative supports solar projects that are well-sited and cost-effective for members.

3. Why do we need to wash clothes & dishes between 9 p.m. & 6 a.m.?

Not required: washing clothes or dishes between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. is simply an option. Refraining from using multiple large electrical appliances at the same time can also reduce the overall demand.

Riverland Energy Cooperative offers that overnight window because overall demand on the grid is typically lower then, which can lower the energy cost to you as a member if you choose to shift flexible usage like laundry or dishes. Members can still run appliances at any time, the overnight hours are just a way to save when it fits your household.

4. Can you tell me why you feel the following facts are untrue? When you pay one price and sell it for four times more than you paid that's profit. When you bill a net producer for something they do not use (demand charge) that's theft.

A typical 12 cent per kWh rate bundles three costs: generation (the power itself), transmission (moving bulk power over high-voltage lines) and distribution (the local lines, transformers and service drops that deliver power to your meter), often illustrated as roughly 4 cents each. At Riverland Energy Cooperative, a major part of what we plan and pay for is capacity. That means having enough generation and a distribution system sized to meet demand when members need it most, including evenings, cloudy days and winter peaks when solar is not producing, so reliable service is there when you flip the switch.



Riverland Energy Cooperative Appliance & Electronics Recycle Drive



Tuesday, June 9

Arcadia REC
N28988 State Rd 93
7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 10

Alma REC
S2196 Twilight Rd.
7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 11

Holmen REC
1800 Granary St.
7:30 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)
- Copiers & Printers (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)
- LCD TVs (FREE)
- Laptops (FREE)
- Landline 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 & Controllers (FREE)

ACCEPTED ITEMS - FOR A FEE

- Refrigerators (limit 2 per member).....*FREE (Non-member pays \$20)
- Freezers (limit 2 per member).....*FREE (Non-member pays\$20)
- Air Conditioners (limit 2 per member)..*FREE (Non-member pays \$20)

** Bring a copy of your electric bill to qualify.*

- CRT, Wood & Projection TVs (limit 3).....\$10
- Dehumidifiers.....\$10
- Dishwashers.....\$5
- Dryers.....\$5
- Furnaces.....\$5
- Humidifiers.....\$5
- Microwaves.....\$5
- Monitors.....\$5
- Stoves.....\$5
- Washers.....\$5

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- Batteries
- Ballasts
- Bulbs/Lamps
- Capacitors
- Gas Cylinders
- Ink & Toner Cartridges
- Liquids
- Medical & Radioactive Waste
- Medical & Lab Equipment
- Vape Pens
- Smoke Detectors
- Treadmills/Exercise Equipment



RIVERLAND
Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Recycling by:



DYNAMIC
LIFECYCLE INNOVATIONS

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!

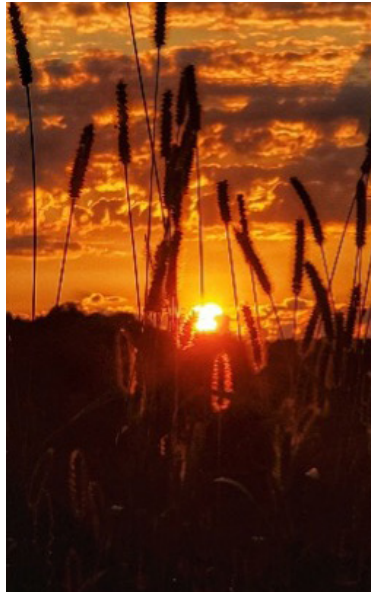
How to Participate:

- 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**.

How to Enter:

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!



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Tim Holtan, CEO

Jordan Tamke, Editor



RIVERLAND
Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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:

Dennis Frame, Osseo, President
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Bea Zingsheim, Onalaska, Secretary/Treasurer