

The Outlet

Riverland Energy Cooperative

FEBRUARY 2024

District Committee

A committee will meet next month to review the operations of the cooperative and express their thoughts and ideas regarding the future of the organization. The list of those attending can be found on our website. We encourage you to take the time to express any thoughts or concerns that you may have regarding the electric cooperative to one of those persons so that they can bring them forward to the committee.

The foundation of an electric cooperative is its members. Member involvement is critically important to the success of our cooperative.

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.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.

Community Cares grant application due Feb. 15

Riverland Energy provides financial support to community programs through our Community Cares program.

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

Grants are awarded by a board of directors. A list of qualifications and guidelines can be found at www.riverlandenergy.com or at one of our offices.

Applications for the Community Cares grant are due on Feb. 15, 2024.

High School 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.

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.

New rate structure coming May 1

The board of directors and management have been working over the last few months to examine our Cost of Service Study (COSS) results and how we can adjust our rates closer to the results. The board voted on rate modifications at the January board meeting.

The modifications ensure that rates are fair and equitable for all members and ensure that each rate class is paying for the proper costs associated with that cost of service. Each member should pay their fair share of costs without having one class subsidizing another. The COSS also revealed that a Demand Charge should be added to the rate classes. This is currently a zero charge on your bill. Demand is the maximum rate at which your household consumed electricity during the billing month, but only during peak hours (6 a.m. - 9 p.m.). In addition, residential rates will see an increase in the base service charge and a slight decrease in the kWh charge. Members enrolled in our Time-of-Use program will also see a change.

Details on these rate changes will be in our next couple publications.



Pancake Breakfast & Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Arcadia High School, 756 Raider Dr., Arcadia, WI

8:00 A.M. Registration & Pancake Breakfast

10:00 A.M. - Business Meeting

Prizes: Door prize drawings include \$50 electric bill credits, tv, gift baskets, and prizes for kids. Must be present to win.

Scholarships: Thirty \$1,000 scholarships and one \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to eligible area high school seniors in a random drawing. The student or student's parent or guardian must be present to win.

Watch the Annual Meeting from your home:

Go to our website at www.riverlandenergy.com.

Click on the orange Annual Meeting button in the upper right. Click on the YouTube Livestream link.

Prepaid Billing Option

Riverland Energy now offers a prepaid billing option for members who would like an alternative to the traditional method of billing. Prepaid allows members to pay for their power up front with the funds being withdrawn from their account as they use energy.

A member enrolled in prepaid billing will have money withdrawn from their account every day following a daily bill calculation. The funds that are withdrawn will cover the energy and flat costs associated with providing electricity to that member along with additional taxes and fees.

Once an account reaches the low credit balance threshold of \$15, or the amount you select, you will receive a daily email, text or automated phone message.

Please call our office for details.

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.

BEST BETS FOR Winter Savings

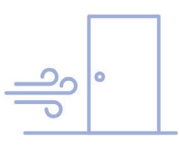
Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS



Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.

USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER



Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT



Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

LOWER THE THERMOSTAT



Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).