

# The Outlet

DECEMBER  
2021

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

## Season of Giving

Riverland Energy Cooperative was able to make \$6,000 in donations to area organizations through CoBank's Sharing Success Program and through Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) recently.

**The Garden of Eden Preservation Society**, photo right, received \$2,500 from Riverland Energy, with matching funds from CoBank for a \$5,000 donation to support the rehabilitation efforts for the A.A. Arnold House in Galesville.



**Blair-Taylor FFA**, photo left, received a \$1,000 donation from our Federation Youth Foundation to go towards updates to its greenhouse. FYF is funded by unclaimed capital credits of the cooperative.

## Community Cares program benefits local communities

Riverland Energy offers members an opportunity to help neighbors and communities in which they live with Riverland Community Cares. Riverland Energy will simply "round up" the electric bill of participating members to the next highest dollar with the additional cents going to the Community Cares Fund.

All donations are placed in a trust and donated to worthy organizations in the community. You can sign up for this program through our website or through SmartHub.

To apply for a grant, visit our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com). **The application deadline is Feb. 21, 2022.**

## 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.

## Happy Holidays

Our offices will be closed on December 24 and 31 for the holidays.

Outages can be reported 24/7 by calling 800-927-6206 or through SmartHub.



## General Manager's Message

Jerry Sorenson

### Power Cost Adjustment Credit Applied to Bills

As a member-owned cooperative, Riverland Energy is committed to controlling costs and purchasing electricity at the lowest prices available. When the co-op exceeds its financially needed margins, it is returned to you as a power-cost-adjustment (PCA) credit on your monthly electric bill. At the October board meeting, the board approved an additional \$500,000 in credits back to the membership as our power costs have been less than anticipated. You should have seen the credit on your November bill.

The PCA is an optional rider to the rate schedule. It's used when the actual costs to generate electricity are different from what was projected at the beginning of each rate year. Each month the amount and cost of power purchased and power sold are compared with the annual budget. Any variations in the actual versus projected power costs go into a formula that estimates what the PCA should be.

The PCA helps mitigate the impact to members by spreading the wholesale price variations over the projected kilowatt-hour sales that remain in the year. Calculated monthly, the PCA can be zero, positive or negative.

## Rebate forms due December 31

Riverland Energy has rebates available for all members purchasing items that promote energy efficiency and conservation. Rebates are only available as long as funds are available, so turn in paperwork as soon as possible.

Please review the forms prior to making a purchase to ensure your item meets the requirements. Appliances must have the ENERGY STAR logo to qualify.

Rebate forms are available online at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com). **Forms and receipts due by December 31, 2021.**

## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
Accounting  
Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2021	2020	2021
KWHS PURCHASED	22,179,838	22,271,130	242,413,835	248,716,509
KWHS SOLD	21,333,169	21,309,033	232,933,620	239,592,820
REVENUE	2,855,072	2,561,284	32,730,897	32,687,281
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,530,982	1,488,969	19,184,737	19,461,165
OTHER EXPENSES	1,089,045	1,148,830	12,510,232	12,129,783
OPERATING MARGINS	235,045	(76,515)	1,035,928	1,096,333
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	8,809	9,099	138,777	125,706
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	47,307	57,474	906,000	1,126,232
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>291,161</b>	<b>(9,942)</b>	<b>2,080,705</b>	<b>2,348,271</b>

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** *"All power corrupts, but we need electricity." ~Diana Wynne Jones*





Light up  
the holiday  
season *safely.*

Before hanging holiday lights outside, look out for overhead power lines. Never throw light strands into trees near power lines.

- **Inspect all the lights you plan on using.** Make sure the wires are in good condition—not cracked, brittle, or frayed. The sockets should not be damaged, and no light bulbs should be missing.
- **Check that all light strands are certified** and rated for the conditions in which they'll be used.
- **Never string more than three strands of lights together** unless the packaging says it is safe to do so. Overloaded cords or outlets could start a fire.
- **Never tack or nail through a strand of lights.** Do not place cords under rugs or in high traffic areas.
- **Lighted and electrical outdoor decorations should be plugged** into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected outlets.
- **Turn holiday lights off before going to sleep** or leaving the house. A timer can help you do this.

Get more safety tips at [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org)

## Winter load control begins

December through February, REC's power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, may call for full load control (reduced electricity consumption) on days when the demand for electricity is high, which equals more expensive electricity purchased at these times. If you participate in our controlled electric heat program, make certain your back-up heating system and fuel source are fully functional.

Winter full load control, including residential Dual Fuel heat, water heaters, and commercial/industrial loads, will begin by 5 p.m. and begin being restored between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

You can check our website anytime for the status of load control. Peak alert notices will also be broadcast by area radio stations.

## BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER & OUTAGES

### 3 WAYS TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

- Call: 800-927-6206
- SmartHub
- Text: 55050 (must be signed up)

### UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBER

Please make sure we have your up-to-date phone number. Call us at 800-411-9115, or update your phone number through SmartHub or through our website. Having your phone number up-to-date allows our automated phone system to identify your location when you call in an outage.

### ONLINE OUTAGE MAP

Our outage map shows the location and size of the outage. You can access it from our website with your computer or electronic device.

### COMMUNICATIONS

During large or prolonged outages of 500 members or more, updates are posted on website and on our Facebook page.

[www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)

## Enter our photo contest for a chance to win a \$25 electric bill credit



Submit a photo of Holiday Lights for this month's photo contest before Dec. 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.

## Colder days are coming

Colder days are on the way. We know you maybe wanted to wait as long as possible before turning on the heat and accepting that cold weather is arriving but there are some ways to prolong this. One is to use the sun for free heat by opening blinds during the day where the sun shines in to allow the sun to naturally warm the house and to bundle up with some extra clothes or blankets.

Another step to take before turning on the heat is to check all fire and carbon monoxide alarms to keep you and your family safe.

As you begin to turn the heat on, your electric bill will raise as you use more power to run the heat but if you are ever having difficulty paying your bill, please call our office to talk about what you can do to decrease your electricity use. You can also view your usage through SmartHub!



## Energy Assistance

### Need help with heating costs?

If you require emergency assistance due to potential disconnection, there are various agencies that may be able to assist you.

#### **Trempealeau County:**

Trempealeau County Social Services: 715-538-2311  
Western Wisconsin E.O.C.: 715-985-2391

#### **Buffalo County:**

Buffalo County Human Services: 608-685-4412

#### **La Crosse County:**

La Crosse County Human Services: 608-784-4357  
Salvation Army: 608-782-6126  
CouléeCap: 608-782-4877

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### **Headquarters:**

N28988 State Rd 93  
P.O. Box 277  
Arcadia, WI 54612

#### **Branch Office:**

1800 Granary St., Holmen

#### **Phone:**

800-411-9115  
608-323-3381

#### **Outages & Emergencies**

Call 800-927-6206,  
24 hours a day

[www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)

