

# The Outlet

JULY 2022

*A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative*

## Member Appreciation Event coming in October

October 5, 2022 is the date set for our Member Appreciation Day event. It will be held at the Omni Center in Onalaska from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Details are in the works!

## Energy efficiency rebates

From appliances to heating and cooling to insulation and weatherization - small changes can mean big energy savings. Riverland Energy Cooperative provides rebates to our residential and commercial members for the purchase of a variety of energy-efficient equipment and appliances.

Visit our website for more information and rebate forms.

## Photo contest ends July 25

July is the last month for the photo contest! We had a lot of great photos throughout the year. We will be drawing for the \$250 electric bill credit on or around August 1 from all photos submitted.

We thank everyone for their participation.

## Recycling drive a success

Thank you to everyone who participated in the electronics and appliances recycle drive in May. We filled six semi-loads of items to be recycled. We hope to see you next year!

## Pete Boos Retires after 34 years



Line Foreman Pete Boos retired on July 5 after 34 years of service to Riverland Energy Cooperative. Pete began his career at then, Trempealeau Electric Cooperative, on September 6, 1988 as a lineman. Since February 14, 2020 he has been the Line Foreman at the Arcadia branch.

We wish Pete all the best in retirement and thank him for his years of service to the cooperative and its members!

## Grant applications due August 20

Community Cares Funds are collected from members who voluntarily have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar. The funds are held separately from the Riverland Energy operating accounts and are administered through the Community Cares Foundation Board. Applications for funding are considered by the Community Cares Board twice a year. Grants are awarded to local non-profits, schools, and community-based organizations for projects involving community service, economic development, education and youth, and disaster relief.



*Spare change for community needs.*

For more information and to apply, visit our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com). The deadline to apply is **August 20, 2022**.

## Poster contest winners announced

### Torey Eggenberger wins first place


Torey Eggenberger (photo right) of Mondovi was the first place winner of the poster contest held in May. Third-grade students from across the Riverland Energy service territory submitted safety posters in May for National Electrical Safety Month.

Isaak Leverance of Cochrane was the second place winner and Avery Overlien won third place. All three posters were submitted for WECA for the state contest. Thank you to all who participated!



## Peak Alert and Max Gen Event Notifications

**PEAK ALERTS:** Notice of Peak Alerts are typically posted on the website and our Facebook page. Peak Alerts are also broadcast on local radio stations.



TODAY | 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

# PEAK ALERT!

Due to high demand on the regional grid, please shift flexible electricity use until after 6 p.m.

**MAX GEN EVENT:** We intend to send out an e-mail and text message to all who have that information on their account, as well as our website, social media, and the local radio stations. Please make sure we have your e-mail address on file as well as cell phone listed for texting. You can sign up for this information through SmartHub, or call our office and we can make sure we get that information.

## General Manager’s Message

### Understanding Peak Alerts and Energy Emergencies such as a Max Gen Event

A limited number of times throughout the summer months, when Dairyland Power Cooperative, Riverland Energy’s wholesale power provider, is approaching a period when energy use is expected to be very high, we’ll issue a “Peak Alert”. This aims to reduce electricity use during the time of day when power use peaks, such as winter mornings or evenings when temperatures are often at their lowest, or late summer afternoons when the temperatures are the highest.

The idea behind this is to shift energy usage away from the times when demand is highest. Doing so could save the Cooperative and its member’s significant money over time by keeping the whole wholesale power costs low and stable. This is voluntary, and benefits all members. Summer peak alerts typically occur in the warmest summer afternoons, usually between hours of 2:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Members are encouraged to avoid using appliances, adjust their thermostat, and turn off unnecessary items when a Peak Alert is issued.

#### Max Gen Event (Energy Emergency Alert)

Riverland Energy Cooperative has a progressive series of emergency procedures that may be used when operating reserves drop below specified levels. These procedures are designed to protect the reliability of the electric system as a whole and prevent an uncontrolled system-wide outage.

Per Midcontinent Independent System Operators (MISO) requirements, the grid operator is required to declare an emergency alert called a Max Gen Alert, when system frequency cannot be maintained above certain levels and durations. When conditions warrant, MISO will instruct all power providers to begin shedding load in order to align the demand for electricity with the available power supply. We may then be required to rotate outages to help preserve the reliability of the system as a whole.

I do want to assure you that, under normal conditions, the grid will be just fine. If this were to happen, we will work to keep our members informed of the situation through our website, social media, and by direct communications with you.

## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
Manager of Finance

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	May 2021	May 2022	2021	2022
KWHS PURCHASED	20,226,441	22,076,595	97,585,671	104,530,719
KWHS SOLD	19,466,832	21,207,641	93,957,541	100,405,270
REVENUE	2,785,392	2,986,913	12,839,922	13,442,121
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,551,569	1,640,100	7,577,118	8,042,092
OTHER EXPENSES	1,155,010	1,501,049	4,657,529	5,155,138
OPERATING MARGINS	78,813	(154,236)	605,275	244,891
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	4,739	205,804	82,425	228,887
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	59,891	56,898	292,441	281,989
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>143,443</b>	<b>108,466</b>	<b>980,141</b>	<b>755,767</b>

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** “Don’t be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.” ~ John D. Rockefeller

## Help prevent electric shock drowning



A dip in the pool is a refreshing way to cool off on a hot summer day. However, a little-known electrical hazard can darken even the sunniest afternoon.

Electrical equipment in or near the pool should be checked to ensure electricity is not traveling outside of the intended circuit. If it is, it could leak into the water and create an electric shock drowning (ESD) hazard.

If you own a boat and/or dock make sure it has proper safety equipment and complies with applicable standards and codes. Have boat and dock electrical systems checked at least once a year. All electrical installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards.

Safe Electricity wants to help raise awareness of ESD and shares the warning signs and safety tips for those enjoying water recreation activities this summer.

For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Small change from you, big change for the community

Nine years ago Riverland Energy Cooperative developed a program called Community Cares. Every month, many of you have helped fund Community Cares just by letting us round your electric bill up to the nearest dollar amount. Even though your donation never amounted to more than 99 cents per month – it added up to make things happen in the community.



The Foundation board sorts through numerous applications, determining how to make the dollars you've entrusted to them have the biggest impact. While it would be great to give to everyone, which isn't possible, we are happy to have this program in place and it's an even better thing that people like you support it.

We hope you feel a sense of pride in knowing the role you play in making our area a better place. We hope you feel a good sense of ownership in the good work Community Cares does.

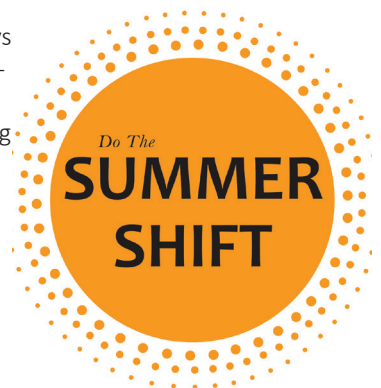
If you are not part of the program, consider joining now. You can sign up through our website or through your account on SmartHub. You can also sign up at one of our offices or call us at 800-411-9115 and request a form.

## Summer Shift: Small Steps for Savings

When members save energy, they tend to save money. However, there is always something in our homes using electricity – whether to cool the home, turn on the lights or run appliances. While using electricity is inevitable, HOW members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, is not as expensive. So, how does Summer Shift work?

If a member shifts their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative's wholesale power provider – Dairyland Power Cooperative – did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members.



## Use backup generators safely

Does your household or small business run electric equipment that requires backup for critical equipment in the event of an outage? Consider a backup generator for emergencies. However, never directly connect a standby generator to household wiring. Make sure your generator is properly grounded and kept dry.

**Portable Generators** should be 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. Do not overload the generator. Start the generator first before connecting appliances.

**Stationary Generators** are hardwired and should be installed by a professional.



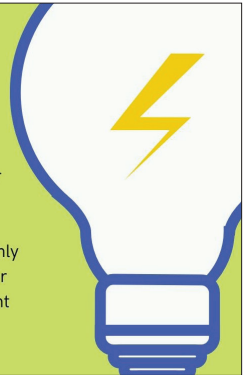
## Enter our photo contest for a chance to win a \$25 electric bill credit



Submit a photo of **"American Pride"** for this month's photo contest before July 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. This is our last month for the contest. We will be drawing for the \$250 bill credit on or around August 1.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.



**RIVERLAND**  
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

**Branch Office:**  
1800 Granary St.  
Holmen, WI 54636

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

**Phone:**  
800-411-9115  
608-323-3381

**Outages & Emergencies**  
Call 800-927-6206,  
24 hours a day

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