

# The Outlet

January 2023

*A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative*

## Annual Meeting date set for March 25

Riverland Energy's Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, March 25 at the Arcadia High School. We are planning for the traditional meeting with pancake breakfast, door prizes, scholarship drawings, etc. Watch for details in future publications.

## Electronic voting details coming soon for director elections



Again this year, you may vote for your board of directors electronically. We partnered with a third-party vendor to administer the 2023 director election. This year, director elections will be held in Districts 1, 6, and 7. Details will be coming soon.

## Community Cares grant application due Feb. 15

Riverland Energy provides financial support to community programs through its Community Cares program. Grants are awarded by a board of directors to non-profit organizations, programs, or projects that improve our local quality of life.

To apply for a grant, download the application on our website. Deadline to apply is February 15, 2023.

## Billing Statements to Include a Monthly Demand Line Item

You will soon see a line item on your electric bill called "demand charge."

Demand charge is based on each member's maximum "demand" put on the cooperative's distribution system. The amount of electricity you consume in a month is measured in kilowatt hours (KWH), while "demand" is measured in kilowatts (kW). The max demand is the highest energy used in a 15 minute period over a month. That means the 15 minute interval that your business or residence is consuming (or "demanding") the most electricity, in a given month, establishes your demand for the month. The demand charge line item will have a date and time stamp of when it occurred for your service, with a zero charge.

Demand is a key component in Riverland's wholesale power costs. The ability for the membership to recognize what demand is and how it can be reduced will help Riverland control wholesale power costs. It is important to understand that demand isn't necessarily about **how much** energy you use, but **how and when** you use it over the course of a month. For instance, a typical residence can control demand by turning off the air conditioner while doing laundry. By not allowing the A/C to run at the same time as the electric water heater and/or electric dryer you are reducing your demand.

You should see this added to your statements in February or March. If you have any questions, feel free to call and ask for our Energy Services department.



## 2023 REBATES

Riverland Energy continues to offer several types of rebates for residential, agriculture, and business accounts, including custom options. Forms are available on our website, in our offices, or by contacting the cooperative. There are eligibility criteria that must be met in order to qualify for rebates.

Rebates include:

- Home Performance Testing and Upgrade Rebates
- Appliance and Appliance Recycling Rebates
- Lighting Rebates
- EV Charger Rebates
- Water Heater Rebates
- Commercial and Ag Efficiency Incentives



More information about our rebate program can be found on our website by visiting [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com).

## Run for a seat on the co-op board

Riverland Energy holds elections each spring for the co-op board of directors. This year, board positions in districts 1, 6 and 7 will be on the ballot. Members in those districts have an opportunity to get involved in co-op decision making by running for a seat on the co-op board.

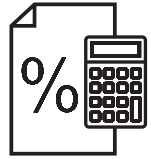
Directors serve four-year terms and represent all co-op members at monthly meetings.

If you are interested in running for an open board position in district 1, 6, or 7, contact our office at 800-411-9115.

Learn more about board of directors and see a map of co-op districts on [riverland-energy.com](http://riverland-energy.com).

## The Co-op's Challenge

Today our world faces a volatile and uncertain future. Changes on so many different fronts have created challenges for the Cooperative. Inflation is hitting the Cooperatives just like it is hitting you.



Over the last few years, we kept our rates level, even as costs of supplies escalated. The pressure on our rates has been increasing this year as costs of power are rising. Dairyland Power Cooperative, our power supplier, is informing us about the potential for higher costs of generation. Power cost is more than half of all our expenses (60%), so an increase in this area can be impactful.

Over the last 18 months, we have seen material prices rise quickly along with their corresponding delivery lead times. This has caused us to change the way we source materials. As an electric utility, we must maintain inventories to allow us not only to do our daily line construction and maintenance, but to be prepared to respond to storms and potential disasters where material can be wiped out in a couple of days. And like everyone else, fuel costs have affected us too, and we are incurring higher diesel and gasoline cost to run our trucks and some of our equipment.

We have not changed our rates in three years, and while the Cooperative is strong financially, we have to keep up with the market forces that are impacting us. Members can expect a rate change this year, but we do not have the final numbers in place yet. We are still working on a new rate schedule, and any rate change will likely take effect in May 2023.

We will make every effort to ensure that we limit any increase to you, while ensuring the Cooperative operates as efficiently as possible and maintains a sound financial position.

## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
Manager of Finance

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Nov. 2021	Nov. 2022	2021	2022
KWHS PURCHASED	23,688,956	24,759,963	272,405,465	277,834,756
KWHS SOLD	22,823,592	23,775,013	262,416,412	267,352,951
REVENUE	2,745,406	3,416,138	35,432,687	37,351,223
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,634,619	1,820,811	21,095,783	22,731,369
OTHER EXPENSES	1,050,192	1,207,094	13,179,976	14,327,205
OPERATING MARGINS	60,595	388,232	1,156,928	292,649
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	39,884	9,289	165,589	407,071
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	63,096	63,746	1,189,328	1,127,264
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>163,575</b>	<b>461,267</b>	<b>2,511,845</b>	<b>1,826,984</b>

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** *The InSight lander, the solar panel ran robot which landed on Mars in November 2018, has finally succumbed to the martian dust.*

# 2023 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.



## Line Worker Scholarships

Two \$1,000 Line Worker Scholarship will be awarded to individuals pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical line worker program. The applicant must be a senior in high school.

*Applications with details and qualifications can be found on our website, at any of our offices, or through the high school guidance counselor.*

## Non-traditional Scholarship

Three \$750 non-traditional scholarships will be awarded to non-traditional students at schools of higher learning. These will be awarded to those returning to a university or technical college after spending a minimum of 3 years in the work place or raising a family.

*Applications with details and qualifications can be found on our website.*

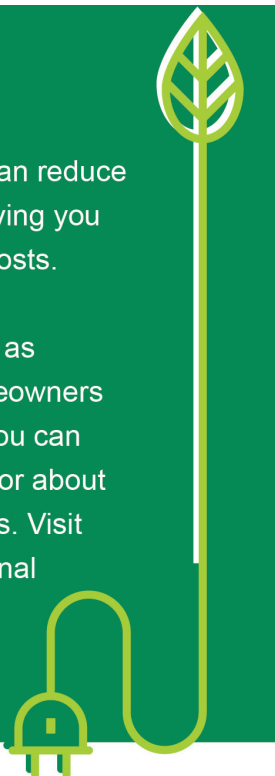
**The application deadline for all scholarships is 4:00 p.m. March 15, 2023.**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%, saving you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

The Dept. of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Need help?

If you need financial assistance, we suggest you contact one of the following agencies:

### Buffalo County:

Buffalo County Human Services  
(608) 685-4412

### La Crosse County:

La Crosse County Human Services  
(608) 785-5582

### Trempealeau County:

Social Services: (715) 538-2311  
Western Dairyland E.O.C.:  
(715) 985-2391

### Energy Services, Inc.:

(800) 506-5596 or  
[energyandhousing.wi.gov](http://energyandhousing.wi.gov)

### WI Help for Homeowners:

(855) 246-6394 or  
[homeownerhelp.wi.gov](http://homeownerhelp.wi.gov)

### Salvation Army:

(608) 782-6126

## 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 our billing department at 800-411-9115 for more details.

## Carbon dioxide safety

Often called the “silent killer” because of its odorless, tasteless, and colorless nature, carbon monoxide remains the leading cause of accidental poisonings in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in your home, following these tips:

- Have your fuel-burning appliances inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season.
- Make certain that flues and chimneys are connected, in good condition, and not blocked.
- Never use a charcoal grill indoors or charcoal briquettes in a fireplace.
- Do not sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- Do not use any gasoline-powered engines (mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers, chainsaws, small engines, or generators) in enclosed spaces.
- Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector in your home and check or replace the battery twice a year.



## Generate Safely.

Never use a portable generator indoors.

Do not plug generators into standard electrical outlets.

Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances into the generator.

Start the generator before connecting appliances.

## BE ENERGY SMART

DOWNLOAD THE SMARTHUB APP



- Report Outages
- Monitor Energy Use
- Pay Bills
- Contact Us



**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)