



# ANSWERING THE CALL

By Jerry Sorenson, General Manager

One of the principles that guides all electric cooperatives is Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Since rural electrification began in the 1930s, electric co-ops have relied on one another for help when disaster strikes.

Highly trained linemen and other employees from one cooperative can quickly assist another co-op that might need help recovering from electrical infrastructure damage caused by disasters such as tornadoes, floods, fires, ice storms, and hurricanes. That happened in June when a tornado ripped through Oakdale and Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's service territories. Some of our crews, as well as other crews from surrounding co-ops, rushed to help make repairs and restore power for those co-op members.

Riverland Energy sent six linemen to assist Oakdale Electric Cooperative: Josh Abramczak, Pete Boos, Marc Mades, and Dillon Marten. Oakdale had

outages impacting 7,081 members. By working with other cooperative crews, 29 poles and 11 transformers were replaced, and 13,200 feet of new wire was strung, with full power restoration occurring in only 48 hours.

Riverland sent linemen, Royce Kosik and Chase Stello, to help Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, which had approximately 6,000 members

without power and numerous poles, trees, and powerlines down caused by the June 15 storm.

Riverland was happy to be able to answer the call to help other cooperatives.

Through Cooperation Among Cooperatives, co-op members can be assured that their power will be restored faster with the help of cooperative neighbors and friends.



Left: Riverland Energy crew, l-r: Dillon Marten, Marc Mades, Josh Abramczak, and Pete Boos. To the right are Vernon Electric crews.

Above left: Royce at work in Adams-Columbia's territory.

Above right: Josh (at right) working with a lineman from another co-op in Oakdale's service territory.

# COMMUNITY CARES GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE AUG. 20



*Spare change for community needs.*

Grant applications for the Riverland Energy Cooperative Community Cares are due August 20, 2022. Funds are intended to benefit people and organizations within the Riverland Energy service area.

Contributions are generally awarded to non-profit programs and organizations that improve the quality of life in our local communities. Funding priorities include projects focused on community service, economic development, public safety, health care, self-sufficiency, disaster relief, and community leadership and social issues for youth.

Riverland Community Cares is a voluntary program in which members round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar each month, and the extra cents flow into a charitable fund that is earmarked for grants. Since the program's inception in 2014, Riverland Energy members have given more than \$20,000 back to support local causes.

Grant applications can be found on our website at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com).

## Donations since 2014

Holmen Food Pantry .....	\$475.00	NASA.....	\$225.00
Disability Action Network.....	\$475.00	Immaculate Conception Church .....	\$225.00
Scenic Valley Swimming Pool .....	\$475.00	Merrick State Park - T.U.R.T.L.E.S .....	\$225.00
Hope4U .....	\$475.00	Arcadia Community Food Pantry.....	\$300.00
Gentle Lambs Childcare Center.....	\$500.00	Whitehall Food Pantry .....	\$300.00
Arcadia Ambulance .....	\$500.00	Tri-County Food Pantry.....	\$300.00
Salute to Rhubarb .....	\$500.00	Trempealeau First Responders .....	\$300.00
Lyster Lutheran Church .....	\$325.00	Western Dairyland EOC.....	\$300.00
Hope 4 U Suicide Awareness.....	\$325.00	Boy Scouts of America -	
Community Parking Lot Food Pantry .....	\$325.00	Camp Decorah Waterfront .....	\$225.00
St. Boniface Child Care.....	\$325.00	La Crosse YMCA Arts & Humanity Dept. -	
Restorative Ink, Inc.....	\$325.00	Art in Nature.....	\$225.00
Buoyant Force .....	\$300.00	Scenic Valley Emergency Medical Service .....	\$225.00
C-FC Food Pantry.....	\$300.00	Fountain City Medical Emergency Team .....	\$225.00
Disability Action Network.....	\$300.00	St. John United Church of Christ - Fountain City ..	\$225.00
St. Patrick's Quilting Group .....	\$300.00	Trempealeau Youth Sports Club.....	\$225.00
Whitehall/Pigeon Rod and Gun Club .....	\$300.00	Family & Children's Center - Hope Academy .....	\$225.00
Arcadia Hummingbirds 4-H Club .....	\$300.00	Friends of Perrot State Park .....	\$300.00
Friends of Trempealeau Refuge .....	\$300.00	Trempealeau County Humane Society.....	\$300.00
Friends of Trempealeau Pool .....	\$300.00	Mondovi Youth Baseball .....	\$300.00
Immaculate Conception Food Pantry,		G-E-T Community Food Pantry .....	\$300.00
Fountain City.....	\$300.00	Coulee Region Children's Internet	
North American Squirrel Association.....	\$300.00	Protection Task Force .....	\$300.00
Arcadia Community Food Pantry.....	\$225.00	Friends of Merrick State Park .....	\$300.00
Eleva-Strum Community Support .....	\$225.00	Holmen's Hope .....	\$300.00
La Crosse County 4-H Dog Project.....	\$225.00	Strum First Responders .....	\$300.00
Mondovi Area Food Pantry .....	\$225.00	Dover-Gilmanon First Responders .....	\$300.00
Salute to Rhubarb Fest .....	\$225.00	Onalaska United Methodist Church .....	\$300.00
St. Patrick's Quilting Group .....	\$225.00	Friends of the Whitehall Library .....	\$300.00
New Horizons Shelter & Outreach Center .....	\$225.00	Gateway Area Council - BSA .....	\$300.00
Ettrick Eagles 4-H Club .....	\$225.00	St. Johns/St. Lawrence Churches .....	\$300.00
G-E-T Food Pantry .....	\$225.00	Dover-Gilmanon First Responders .....	\$250.00
Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial .....	\$225.00	Whitehall Girl Scout Brownie Troop 4433 .....	\$250.00
Abilities in Harmony.....	\$225.00	Cecil Weir .....	\$250.00
Mondovi Public Library .....	\$225.00	Onalaska Police Reserve .....	\$250.00
Holmen Lions Club .....	\$225.00	Communities off N' Funning.....	\$200.00
Eleva-Strum Community Support Network .....	\$225.00	Arcadia Ambulance Service .....	\$200.00
Arcadia Hummingbirds 4- H Club .....	\$225.00	Friends of the Onalaska Library .....	\$200.00
		Alma Area Schools Harvest of the Month .....	\$200.00

## BEFORE YOU SAY YES TO SOLAR

Today's consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for a less expensive form of energy with ongoing savings. Some are looking for a green energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring rooftop solar panels. The interest is also being fueled by decreasing costs for rooftop solar, the availability of financial incentives, and the proliferation of companies offering solar panel installation. However, as attractive and popular as rooftop solar may appear, it is important to fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy and actual energy savings.

**We're Here to Help** As your trusted energy adviser, we're here to explain how our net metering tariff works and details related to the application process. After all, our "bottom line" is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service—our cooperative exists for members like you, and

we constantly strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment and evolving technology, and we're exploring more options that will help you manage your energy use, such as our existing rebate program.

**Serious About Solar?** We recognize that consumer interest in green energy sources is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help our members determine their best options. For example, when assessing solar options, it might be an excellent time to examine other potential energy efficiency improvements, such as insulating the attic at the same time as installing solar. Riverland Energy must approve all applications for grid interconnection, so if you're serious about solar or any other renewable energy resource, it's important that you contact us as early in the process as possible. Email Scott at [shayes@riverlandenergy.com](mailto:shayes@riverlandenergy.com), or call our office at 800-411-9115.





# FIRST RESPONDER EV SAFETY TRAINING HELD IN JUNE

Local fire departments and first responder teams were in attendance on Tuesday, June 21, for a First Responder Electric Vehicle Safety Training session at the Mondovi Fire Department. Roger Carlson of Safety and Security Consultation Specialists shared information on types of electric vehicles, EV emergency response techniques, and dispelling EV myths with those in attendance.

While studies show EVs are just as safe to drive as conventional cars—both types of vehicles undergo the same extensive, long-established safety testing process—a question often asked is how emergency response might differ between traditional vehicles and EVs. Knowing members wanted more information on this topic, it became a priority for Riverland Energy to provide firefighters and emergency response

crews with information they need to safely respond to incidents involving EVs. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and Dairyland Power Cooperative embarked

on the venture with Riverland Energy. Riverland Energy is hoping to host more of these training sessions throughout the year.

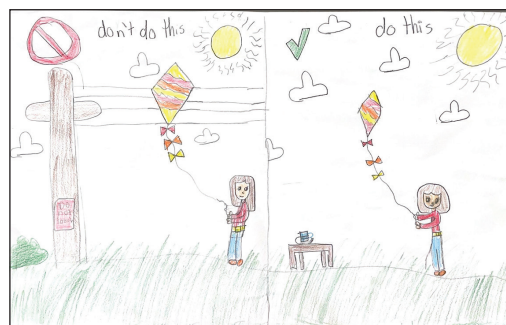
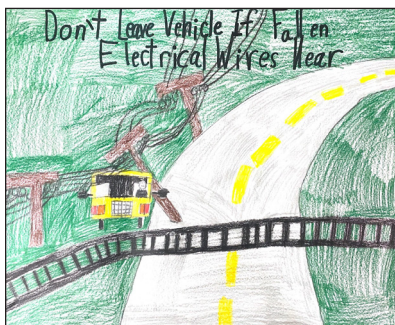


## SAFETY ARTISTS RECOGNIZED



Third-grade students from across the Riverland Energy service territory submitted safety posters in May for National Electrical Safety Month. Torey Eggenberger of Mondovi (left) was the first-place winner, Isaak Leverance of Cochrane was the second-place winner (below left), and Avery Overlien of Blair was the third-place winner (below right). The contest winners received a cash prize and their posters were sent to WECA for the state contest.

The most important tool in preventing electrical injuries is educating the youth and public about the potential dangers of working and playing around electricity. Thank you to all who participated!





# SAVE the DATE

Our Member  
Appreciation Picnic  
will be

**Wednesday,  
October 5**

from 4 – 7 p.m. at the  
Omni Center located at  
255 Riders Club Road,  
Onalaska.

Watch for details in future  
publications!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JUNE PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Dianne B. for getting the most votes for our June photo contest of “Water.”

July was the last month of the contest. Stay tuned for the July winners as well as the \$250 electric bill credit winner from all entries submitted.



### Other favorites for June:

Top left: Fast Flowing Rapids – Jerald D.

Middle left: Sunrise on the Lake – Penny B.

Bottom left: Peaceful End of the Day – Valerie A.

Below: Happy Swimmer – Naomi B.



## NOTICE OF CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

Beginning September 1, 2022, the office hours of Riverland Energy offices in Holmen and Arcadia will be modified. The offices will be open from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

We have a 24/7 call center that you can call after hours to pay your bill or report an outage. Keep in mind that we do have several options for paying your bill online, by phone, or by dropping it off in our drop box.

To report an outage after hours, you can call 800-927-6206.

Our offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays: New Year’s Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve (when it falls on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday) and Christmas Day.


**Jerry Sorenson, General Manager**

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)

**Beth Alesch, Editor**



**Riverland Energy  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

### Arcadia Office

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

### Holmen Office

1800 Granary St.  
Holmen, WI 54636

### Outages & Emergencies

Call 1-800-927-6206  
24 hours a day

### Office Hours

Arcadia: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Holmen: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

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