



SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE

By Jerry Sorenson, General Manager

“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small, as well as companies

across all industries, are committed to safety. Safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For Riverland Energy Cooperative, it’s the number one priority. Over time, Riverland Energy has created a culture of safety by putting our employees’ safety, and that of the community, above all else.

It’s National Electrical Safety Month and according to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents, and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Don’t attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations, or padmount transformers that look amiss to us.

Everyone can stay safe by taking simple precautions. Here are some electrical safety tips:

Indoors:

1. Replace damaged appliance cords and don’t overload electric outlets.
2. Keep all electrical appliances away from water and make sure yours hands are dry when you touch anything electrical.
3. Do not stick objects other than electrical plugs in an outlet.

Outdoors:

1. Never touch downed power lines. If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized.
2. Before digging, call 811 to have underground utility lines and pipes marked for free.
3. Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment, including green electric boxes in your yard or neighborhood.

THIRD-GRADERS INVITED TO ENTER SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Calling all third-graders: Riverland Energy Cooperative and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) are seeking entries for the 2022 Electrical Safety Poster Contest. All local children in third grade are invited to submit an original poster that supports electrical safety.

Prizes All who enter will have a chance to win local and state-level prizes. Three local winners from Riverland Energy Cooperative service territory will each receive a cash prize from Riverland Energy and a \$25 gift card from WECA. The three winning entries will also be submitted to the state contest, for a chance to win state-level prizes. The top three prizes in the state contest are a Chromebook for first place, a \$100 gift card for second place, and a \$75 gift card for third place.

Winning posters will be shared by the co-ops to help educate all kids about the safe use of electricity.

Contest rules The contest is open to all third-grade students in Riverland Energy Cooperative’s service territory. There is no cost to enter. Posters must be original artwork by the student and must communicate an electrical safety theme. No computer-generated images will be accepted. The poster should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches. Entries must include a completed entry form and student’s name must be written on back of the poster.

Submit entries to Riverland Energy Cooperative, Attn: Safety Poster Contest, P.O. Box 277, Arcadia, WI 54612, or email to balesch@riverlandenergy.com. The deadline is May 31, 2022.

Entry forms can be found on riverlandenergy.com.

CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

You’re invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association’s **ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST**

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **May 31, 2022**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

1st place – Chromebook
2nd place – \$100 Gift Card
3rd place – \$75 Gift Card

Visit riverlandenergy.com for details and an entry form.

RIVERLAND ENERGY HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Riverland Energy Cooperative hosted its annual meeting on Saturday, March 26, at the Arcadia High School with approximately 450 members and guests in attendance. A pancake breakfast was served prior to the meeting.

The theme of the meeting was “Challenge and Opportunities.” The business portion of the meeting kicked off with General Manager Jerry Sorenson summarizing the year 2021 and the years going forward as challenges and opportunities.

Some of the challenges the co-op has

faced include inflation and lack of material availability. With the price increases on materials, the co-op had to change projects from underground to overhead and doing fewer projects while salvaging and re-using material. In addition to the price increases, it’s a challenge securing necessary materials in a timely fashion,



Sorenson stated. He also discussed the winter storm on December 15 that left 6,500 members out of power.

The co-op was able to add 227 new services, add or replace 25 miles of line, and set 577 poles for either new or replacement projects. Riverland Energy also has the lowest worker’s compensation insurance rates in the state, and continues to have low-to-no injury rates and vehicle accidents. Sorenson also indicated that Riverland purchased 23 substations from Dairyland Power Cooperative, which should result in a significant savings. Other opportunities include getting out to the members again, providing education through the youth ambassador program, safety demonstrations, and educating our members on solar and electric vehicles.

Sorenson also announced that there will be no rate increase again this year.

Attorney Niles Berman read the proposed Bylaw changes. Key items were virtual meeting attendance, no mail ballots if election is uncontested, and joint tenants for joint memberships. All were approved.

Director elections were announced, with all three incumbents running unopposed. Bryce Lisowski of District 2, Dan Filla of District 4, and Bea Zingsheim of District 9 were re-elected. The directors held a reorganizational meeting following the annual meeting in which the following were re-elected: David Paudler, president; Dan Filla, vice president; and Dennis Frame, secretary/treasurer.

At the end of the meeting, 32 high school scholarships were selected in the amount of \$1,000 each. The meeting concluded with door prize drawings for children and adults present.

RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE

APPLIANCE & ELECTRONICS RECYCLE DRIVE

Tuesday, May 24

Arcadia REC

N28988 State Rd 93

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25

Alma REC

1225 S. Main St.

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 26

Holmen REC

1800 Granary St.

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ACCEPTED ITEMS - FREE

Cable Boxes (FREE)	Fans (FREE)	Servers (FREE)
Cables & Cords (FREE)	Fax Machines (FREE)	Stereos & Speakers (FREE)
Cameras & Camcorders (FREE)	Hair Dryers (FREE)	Toasters (FREE)
Cassette Tapes (FREE)	Holiday Lights (FREE)	UPS & Jump Starters (FREE)
Cell Phones/PDAs & Chargers (FREE)	Ink & Toner Cartridges (FREE)	Vacuum Cleaners (FREE)
Clocks (FREE)	Laptops (FREE)	Video Game Consoles (FREE)
Coffee Makers (FREE)	Land line Phones (FREE)	
Desktop Computer Towers (FREE)	MP3 & iPod Players (FREE)	
Docking Stations (FREE)	Projectors (FREE)	
DVD/VHS/Blu-Ray Players (FREE)	Radios (FREE)	
DVD Disks & VHS Tapes (FREE)	Satellite Dishes & Receivers (FREE)	
External Drives (All types) (FREE)	Scanners (FREE)	

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Bulbs
Capacitors
Gas Cylinders
Liquids
Medical Waste
Ballasts
Radioactive Waste
Smoke Detectors
Vape Pens
Treadmills
Ink & Toner Cartridges
Batteries & Battery-Containing Devices
(remove batteries from electronics if possible)

ACCEPTED ITEMS - FOR A FEE

Refrigerators (limit 2 per member)	* FREE (non-member pays \$15)
Freezers (limit 2 per member)	* FREE (non-member pays \$15)
Air Conditioners (limit 2 per member)	* FREE (non member pays \$15)
TV's- All Types (limit 3 per member)	\$20
Monitors	\$2
Microwaves	\$2
Humidifiers	\$2
Printers & Copiers	\$5
Washers	\$5
Dryers	\$5
Dishwashers	\$5
Stoves	\$5
Furnaces	\$5
Water Heaters	\$5
Dehumidifiers	\$15

* Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners are only free to Riverland Energy members. All others will pay \$15. Bring a copy of your electric bill to qualify. Your bill is only needed for refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.

Recycling by:

Dynamic Lifecycle
Innovations Onalaska, WI
877-781-4030
www.thinkdynamic.com

YOUTH TOUR JPM POWER STATION

The youth ambassadors toured the John P. Madgett Station (JPM) power plant last month, getting a glimpse of how electricity is produced. The tour gives the students an opportunity to understand the process of transforming coal to energy.



CONGRATS TO OUR PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

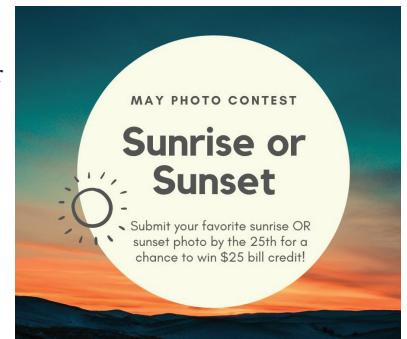
**MARCH Photo Contest
MOST VOTES**



Congratulations to Gwen S. for getting the most votes for our March photo contest.

Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving most votes will win a \$25 electric bill credit and will be printed in our magazine, along with a few other favorites. By entering, you will also be entered into a drawing for a \$250 electric bill credit.

The May theme is **Sunrise or Sunset**. Photos can be submitted through May 25. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit and vote.




Jerry Sorenson, General Manager

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • 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.

Officers of the Board of Directors:

David Paudler, Onalaska, President
Dan Filla, Arcadia, Vice-President
Dennis Frame, Osseo,
Secretary/Treasurer