



MAINTENANCE MATTERS: RIVERLAND ENERGY'S APPROACH TO PREVENTING OUTAGES

By Tim Holtan, CEO



**Riverland Energy
Cooperative**
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Electricity, once considered a luxury, has now become an indispensable part of our daily lives. Despite our increasing reliance on it, many people may not realize the extensive efforts required to ensure that power is available whenever needed.

Expanding, maintaining, and enhancing the electric infrastructure are crucial for sustaining essential services and meeting the growing energy demands of our members. Riverland Energy has developed a comprehensive long-term plan to ensure the system operates continuously.

Balancing the need for safe and reliable power with the goal of keeping rates low is a top priority. We focus on optimizing operating procedures, streamlining processes, and efficiently utilizing resources to manage costs. Throughout the year, we inspect poles, power lines, and other system infrastructure. Riverland Energy employs various technologies to analyze data and monitor the system, helping to track typical replacement and repair cycles and identify areas needing attention.

In addition to performance-based maintenance, Riverland Energy conducts preventive maintenance at regular intervals to address issues before they affect reliability. In 2025, Riverland expects to spend \$1,290,000 on right-of-way clearing, \$155,000 on pole testing, and \$92,000 on underground and cabinet inspections. This proactive approach helps delay the need for costly unexpected repairs or replacements and allows us to plan for expenditures related to the normal depreciation of system facilities.

Right-of-Way Maintenance

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is essential for ensuring safe and reliable power for our members. By maintaining clear rights-of-way, we prevent tree limbs from causing outages, enhance visibility for line crews to quickly address issues, reduce unexpected repair costs, and improve overall service reliability. We have contracted Zielie's Tree Services to perform our right-of-way tree trimming. In 2025, they will include five substations:

Centerville, Krause, Sand Lake/Cedar Creek, Pleasantville, and Gilmanton.

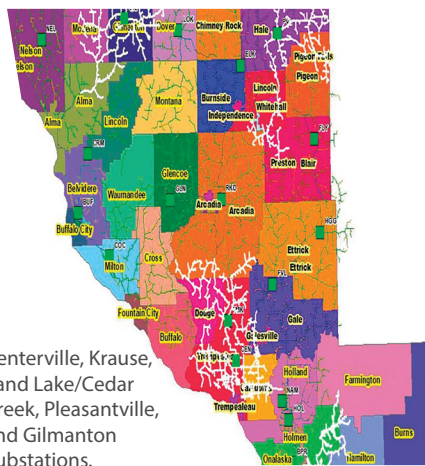
Underground and Cabinet Inspections

Riverland inspects a portion of its underground transformers and cabinets every year, following a 5-year rotation schedule. This year we have contracted with Karcz Utility Services to perform annual inspections. They will be inspecting all transformers and boxes, including painting as necessary, on four substations: Arcadia, Fly Creek, Krause, and Lookout. Weather permitting, inspections will begin in March and will continue throughout the spring and summer.

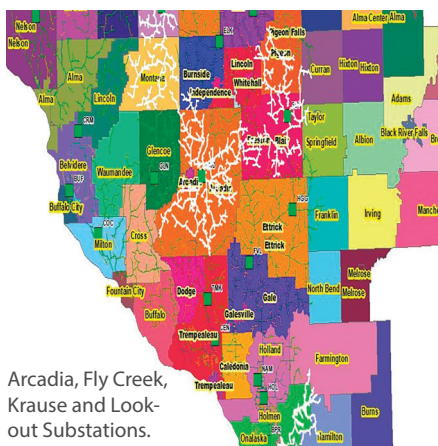
Line Inspection

Riverland Energy crews will perform line inspections following tree-trimming from the previous year. In 2025, the plan is to inspect Arcadia, Glencoe, and Fly Creek substations.

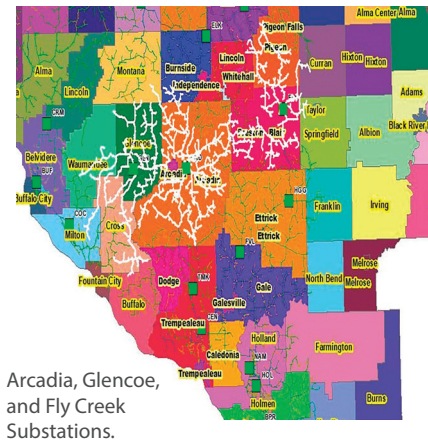
Right-of-Way Maintenance



Underground and Cabinet Inspections



Line Inspection





LINEWORKERS ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

Before dawn, while many of us are still asleep, lineworkers are already gearing up in their flame-resistant clothing, safety glasses, rubber gloves, and heavy boots. These dedicated individuals are the backbone of our power system. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, let's take a moment to appreciate their vital role in our lives.

Lineworkers face towering utility poles and power lines with a strength that goes beyond the physical. They brave harsh weather, troubleshoot technical issues, and navigate dizzying heights to keep our lights on and our communities connected. Riverland Energy Cooperative crews travel across our five-county service area, building, maintaining, and repairing our local system. Their exceptional skills ensure our homes stay powered, businesses remain operational, and emergency services are always accessible—a lifeline that binds us all together.

In times of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers are our heroes. Their swift response brings back normalcy, offering comfort and reassurance during uncertain times. Whether they're repairing storm-damaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment lights up our lives when we need it most. (8G21A0033)

Riverland Energy Cooperative lineworkers also extend their help beyond our community. They travel to assist fellow co-ops, near and far, during widespread outages, embodying the spirit of cooperation. This principle of working together is one of our core values, and no one exemplifies it

better than our lineworkers.

This month, as we honor the incredible men and women who ensure our power is reliable, let's recognize their dedication to the communities they serve. The next time you flip a switch, take a moment to think of the lineworkers who make it possible. Their hard work and dedication ensure we can enjoy the comforts and conveniences of modern life every day.



Royce Kosik (left) and Brian Glass (right) assisted Aiken Electric Cooperative in Aiken, South Carolina following Hurricane Helene in October.



JOIN THE GREEN MOVEMENT: CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2025 WITH RIVERLAND ENERGY'S EVERGREEN PROGRAM

Riverland Energy Cooperative, along with Dairyland Power Cooperative, is committed to providing reliable power while also protecting the environment. Dairyland's Evergreen renewable energy program allows co-op members like you to support green energy with a minimal increase in your monthly bill. (3G03A0003)

Launched in 1998, the Evergreen program started with a small wind farm share and has since expanded to include landfill gas, animal waste-to-energy, and hydroelectric power. This program offers an easy way for members to contribute to renewable energy without the need for private ownership, which can be costly and impractical for some.

In 2018, Dairyland introduced more flexible options to fit different lifestyles and budgets.

- **Evergreen Everyone:** Support renewable energy in 100 kWh blocks for just 65 cents per block per month.



- **Evergreen Everyday:** Enroll in a storage strategy for your electric water heater and receive up to four Evergreen blocks.
- **Evergreen Everywhere:** Charge your electric vehicle during off-peak hours and receive up to four Evergreen blocks.
- **Evergreen Everything:** Power your home 100% with renewable energy for 65 cents per 100 kWh block, averaging \$6.50 per month for a typical home.

This Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, 2025, the theme is "Our Power, Our Planet." Earth Day 2025 encourages everyone to take action—educate, advocate, and mobilize. Join millions worldwide in Earth Day 2025 activities and make a positive impact on our planet. Consider joining the Evergreen program to help increase the use of renewable energy. Visit www.riverlandenergy.com/evergreen to sign up and contribute to a greener future.

CELEBRATING OUR ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS

Administrative professionals are the backbone of every organization, ensuring everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. At Riverland Energy Cooperative, we recognize the invaluable contributions of these dedicated



Arcadia office left to right, back row: Scott Hayes, Zachary Pax, Barb Mathson, Emily Dregney. Front row: Jim Huffman, Sue Christ, Tammy Hilmanowski, Sharon Sluga, Jordan Lien. Not pictured: Tammy Madden, Trey Johnson.

individuals. As Administrative Professionals Day approaches on April 23, we want to celebrate the hardworking team members who make a difference every day, supporting our mission to provide reliable electric service to our community.



Holmen office left to right: Carrie Goldbeck, Jenny Curran, Bob Ottaway, Sarah Ott.



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 **April 30, 2025**, 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 www.weca.coop for
details and an entry form.

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL RECYCLE DRIVE COMING IN JUNE



We will be holding our annual appliance and
electronics recycle drive in June this year at all three
of our locations.

- **June 10** —Arcadia—N28988 State Road 93
- **June 11** —Alma—1225 S. Main St.
- **June 12** —Holmen—1800 Granary St.

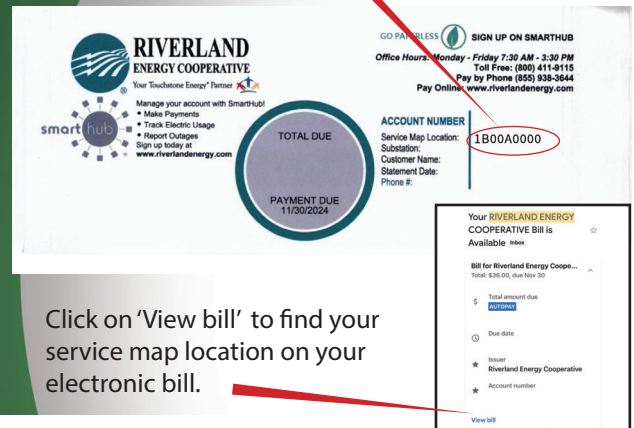
All events will be from 7:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

SPOT YOUR SERVICE LOCATION NUMBER WIN A \$25 BILL CREDIT!

To reward our *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* Magazine
readers, we are going to randomly select two service map
location numbers to be hidden within the newsletter. The
hidden service map location numbers are displayed in this
format (Ex. 1B00A0000).

If you spot your service map location number, contact the
cooperative by the 20th of the current month to claim your
\$25 bill credit.

Your service map location number can be
found here on your paper bill:



Tim Holtan, CEO

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • www.riverlandenergy.com

Jordan Lien, 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.–3:30 p.m.
Holmen: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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