



ASK WILLIE

By Tim Holtan, CEO

It is great that Dairyland is working to move toward renewable energy sources. Can you address the

negatives to these sources & their negative impact on the environment? Battery production, wind, solar panels, etc. all have negative impacts on the environment. Do the benefits outweigh the negatives?

- All generation resources have “pros and cons” – which is why diversification is important for sustainability and reliability. An all-of-the-above approach lets our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, maximize the pros and minimize the cons for each to best serve Riverland and all Dairyland’s members.
- Solar and wind are intermittent – their output depends upon the forces of nature, at any given moment. While “on demand power” is clearly a con for wind and solar, a big pro is that their fuel is free. As fuel costs are often variable and can be one of the biggest expenses any utility faces, free fuel provides a major benefit to the system.
- The dependability of wind and solar is lower than fossil-fueled and nuclear energy plants, but their ability to displace higher cost energy generation is valuable. Not only does this reduce costs to consumers, it also reduces fossil fuel price volatility risks to Dairyland.
- A diverse resource portfolio benefits system reliability, affordability and the environment. Dairyland will continue its work on maintaining a well-balanced, cost-competitive resource portfolio, while exploring new technologies such as energy storage and advanced nuclear.

What happens when the grants are revoked by D.O.G.E? Will this affect consumers and how? What about the new power lines and the amount of stray voltage affecting life and decreased property value and livestock? And the natural beauty of America?

- The Trump Administration has affirmed Dairyland’s \$595 million New Empowering Rural America (New ERA) grant award, first announced in September 2024. Please visit our website to view the April 17 news release, which details how this transformative award will benefit Dairyland’s cooperative members and rural communities.
- For over 80 years Dairyland, as a non-partisan and not-for-profit cooperative, has successfully worked with Administrations from both parties to deliver on its mission of providing safe, reliable, cost-competitive power to Riverland and all its members. It is common practice for an incoming administration to evaluate current federal programs.
- In addition, Dairyland’s commitment to preserving natural resources represents a deeply held view that good environmental practices reflect sound operations and

benefit the communities we serve and live in. Ensuring grid reliability, meeting increased energy needs and protecting the environment are integral to Dairyland’s sustainable planning strategy.

Why won’t Riverland join Focus on Energy like other Cooperatives? They offer some better rebates than Riverland.

Riverland has elected to spend energy efficiency money locally through rebate programs administered by Riverland for Riverland members. When a utility contributes to Focus on Energy, their funds are spread throughout the entire state. Please let us know if there are incentives that Focus on Energy offers that we should consider.

For those who installed solar to produce their own electricity, you credit them \$0.03 per kW for the extra. How do you justify charging them \$1.00 per kW under the new “Demand Charge”? Charging someone 3 times more than you paid for it is quite a profit which begs the question, are you now a for-profit company?

The excess solar energy you generate and return to the grid is compensated at the monthly average peak price for power based on the MISO market. Instead of Riverland paying Dairyland Power Cooperative (our generation and transmission supplier) at the MISO market rate, Riverland is paying the solar member the same price per kWh. In addition to the average MISO peak price, Riverland adds 1.3 cents to every kWh that’s paid back to solar member for capacity charge savings. The \$1.00 kW demand charge is applied to all residential rates and is independent of the MISO rate. The demand charge is the capacity contribution each member has to the overall distribution grid. The more stress a member puts on the distribution system, the more they will pay in the kW charge.

What is the current state of radioactive waste from the retired Genoa nuclear power?

- The La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR), was a 50 MW nuclear power plant owned and operated by Dairyland in Genoa, Wis. LACBWR was permanently shut down in 1987 and it has been fully decommissioned.
- LACBWR’s used nuclear fuel is securely stored on-site in dry cask storage. This method involves placing used fuel in robust, sealed containers. The fuel is monitored around the clock at the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation site (ISFSI), in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations.
- Currently, the United States does not have a permanent repository for used nuclear fuel. Until a solution is established, the used fuel will continue to be safely stored in dry cask storage at the Genoa site.

Congratulations!

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Alma
Addison Johnson



Alma
Madalyn Wick



Arcadia
Kaitlyn Bremer



Arcadia
Jordan Walters



Blair-Taylor
Madalynn Frederixon



Blair-Taylor
Logan Kokke



C-FC
Ana Knecht



C-FC
Eliana Krause



Durand
Landen Lindstrom



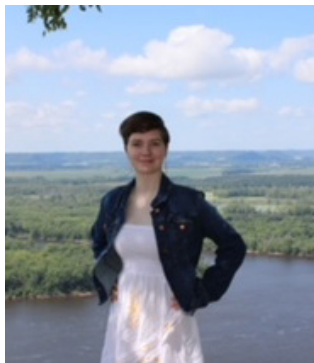
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Kinley Anderson



G-E-T
Grant Ruitter



G-E-T
Porter Rand



Gilmanton
Gabriella Kent



Holmen
Addison Bailey



Holmen
Shania Gates



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Jonah Lessard



Holmen
Alexis Maier



Independence
Andrew Bragger



Independence
Whitney Brenny



Independence
Kassidi Dejno



Mondovi
Denton Loesel



Mondovi
Alexis Rustad



Onalaska
Jackson Tillman



Onalaska
Daniel Waldstein



Osseo-Fairchild
Adelyn Helland



Osseo-Fairchild
Bryssa Johnson



Whitehall
Eden Matejka



Whitehall
Aydan Semb



At Large - Winona Sr. High
John Eichman



At Large - West Salem
Faith Minard



At Large - Aquinas
Sophia Paulson

DO YOU HAVE CAPITAL CREDITS TO CLAIM?

Listed below are the names of members who are entitled to capital credit refunds. Riverland Energy would like to return capital credits to those who earned them; otherwise, the unclaimed capital credits will be forfeited and assigned to the Federated Youth Foundation. These funds are then used in the cooperative's scholarship and education programs. Claims may be sent to the cooperative by email to thilmanowski@riverlandenergy.com, by mail, or by calling 800-411-9115. Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 185.03 (10), you are hereby notified that Riverland Energy Cooperative of Arcadia, Wisconsin, has in its possession unclaimed funds belonging to you. You may claim these funds on or before September 25, 2025. You are further notified that unless you do claim such funds and provide satisfactory evidence of your right to receive the same, these funds will be forfeited to the cooperative.

3 RIVERS OFF ROAD LLC	ALTOMARI ROBERT	ARCADIA SAND	BACON BRETT	BANIA FRANK	BAXTER WILLIAM	BERG FAUSTA	BLOCK ELMER	BRAINARD TRICIA
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List to be continued next month


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

Office Hours

Arcadia: Monday–Thursday: 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Friday: 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Holmen: Monday–Thursday: 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Friday: 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

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