



# The Outlet

April 2022

**Our offices will be closed on April 15, 2022 for Good Friday.**

**Our annual recycle drive dates are scheduled for:**

Tuesday, May 24- Arcadia  
Wednesday, May 25- Alma  
Thursday, May 26- Holmen

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

The list of accepted items and prices can be found on our website and in the *WEC News* magazine.

**Electrical safety demos to resume**

Riverland Energy will be offering electrical safety demonstrations to elementary students again this year. The demos are designed to teach students how our system works and educate them on the safety aspect of it.

If you're interested in having a presentation done at your school or youth group, you can request one by filling out the form on our website or give us a call at 800-411-9115.

**View our outage map online for live outages**

You can access our outage map to view current outages we are working to restore. You can view this by clicking on "Outage Map" at the top of our home page at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com).

## Solar installation companies claiming to work for local co-op

Riverland Energy Cooperative has had multiple reports of a solar vendor visiting members in its service territory to talk about solar installation. According to members who have reached out to Riverland Energy, they have claimed to be working in partnership with the co-op to install solar on individual homes. Riverland members have also said they were given a short time to make a decision, high pressure sales. Contractors typically do not require fast decisions to purchase. As a practice, we do not endorse or partner with any specific solar vendor on residential installations as we work with many different vendors based on the member's choice of vendor. It is best to get multiple bids for your potential solar installation.

Riverland Energy urges its members to not sign any contracts with a vendor until you have talked with Riverland Energy first. If you have questions about installing solar at your home or business, please reach out to the co-op by calling 800-411-9115.



## Lineman Appreciation Day is April 11

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association recognizes Monday, April 11, as National Lineman Appreciation Day this year.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, linemen are at the heart of our cooperative.

There would be no electric cooperatives without them. A big "THANK YOU" to our Riverland Energy linemen!

## Community Cares Grants Awarded

Organizations received grants through the Riverland Energy Community Cares Foundation last month. Each organization was awarded \$475 and include: Holmen Food Pantry, Disability Action Network, Scenic Valley Swimming Pool, and Hope4U.

Community Cares is funded by participating REC members who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month. The program provides charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations that offer programs and support projects to enhance the quality of life for those within the communities served by the cooperative. Grants will be awarded again in October.

# General Manager's Message

## No rate increase



At the end of December 2021, your Board of Directors approved the 2022 budget. The cooperative's budget provides the necessary investments for the coming year and forecasts the cost of power we purchase on your behalf. I am happy to report the 2022 budget contains no rate increase.

Over the course of 2021, Riverland has focused its efforts to reduce spending where possible and control cooperative costs. We have also continued to monitor the pandemic's economic impact on the communities it serves and the members on its lines. While there has been a slow transition to normal functions, the result of the cooperative's cost control measures has enabled it to once again avoid a rate increase, providing a little additional relief for members who continue to feel the pandemic's affects.

Continued growth has also played a significant role in the cooperative's ability to maintain its current rate structure.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, all investments are made with the understanding that they can have impacts to our members' monthly bills. We understand you are managing your own budgets, either personal or business, and electric rates can have an impact on your budgets. We seek to make wise investments over time that deliver the quality and service you deserve, while maintaining the affordability you expect.

Best regards,

*Jerry Sorenson*  
Jerry Sorenson

## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
Accounting  
Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2022	2021	2022
KWHS PURCHASED	27,166,197	26,376,018	54,731,125	57,251,074
KWHS SOLD	26,149,930	25,592,588	52,655,459	55,279,986
REVENUE	3,424,699	3,424,130	6,949,612	7,145,113
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	2,056,591	3,342,130	4,228,205	4,513,982
OTHER EXPENSES	1,094,829	1,149,979	2,195,046	2,393,911
OPERATING MARGINS	273,279	(68,126)	526,361	237,220
NON-OPERATING MARGINS		6,258	7,024	15,777
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	79,384	79,407	163,209	159,484
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>358,921</b>	<b>18,305</b>	<b>734,990</b>	<b>412,481</b>

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** "People ask, 'What's the best role you've ever played? The next one" - Kevin Kline

## Support renewable energy through Evergreen

For as little as \$1.00 per month you can support renewable energy without owning your own equipment through our Evergreen program. There's no limit on the number of blocks that can be purchased. You pay \$1.00 for each block of 100 kilowatt-hours monthly.

The payments are used to cover the additional costs required to provide energy from renewable energy sources above and beyond the state requirements.

Fill out the form online at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com), or stop in to one of our offices to sign up.



## Maintenance projects begin

Riverland Energy must do routine maintenance and inspection of our poles, lines, and other equipment. Riverland contracted with Karcz Utility Services, LLC, to inspect our underground system as well as conduct our pole inspections and treatments in 2022. Karcz will be inspecting all transformers and boxes, including painting as necessary, on six substations. The substations scheduled are Buffalo City, Elk Creek, Gilmanton, Nelson, Osseo, Strum and Mondovi. Karcz will be inspecting approximately 4,000 poles on the Cream and Lookout substations.

While doing this inspection, they may have to dig around some poles to check for rot and decay below the ground. Their trucks are marked, and we will notify you by automated phone call when Karcz is working in your area. If you have any questions, please contact our office and ask to speak to someone in Operations.

### We Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.



**If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:**

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

**Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.**



## 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.

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Need help with heating costs?  
Contact your local agency:

**Trempealeau County:**  
**Trempealeau Co. Social Services:**  
715-538-2311  
**Western Wisconsin E.O.C.:**  
715-985-2391

**Buffalo County:**  
**Buffalo County Human Services:**  
608-685-4412

**La Crosse County:**  
**La Crosse Co. Human Services:**  
608-784-4357  
**Salvation Army:** 608-782-6126  
**CouleeCap:** 608-782-4877

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

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Enter our photo contest for a chance to win a \$25 electric bill credit



Submit a photo of **“Best of Spring”** for this month's photo contest before April 25. The photo that has the most votes will win a \$25 electric bill credit! Each member who submits a photo will be put into a drawing at the end of the contest for a chance to win a \$250 electric bill credit. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit a photo and vote.



**RIVERLAND**  
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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**Outages & Emergencies**  
Call 800-927-6206,  
24 hours a day

[www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)