

The Outlet

SEPTEMBER 2022

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

Office Hours Change

Our office hours are 7:30-3:30, effective September 1.

Vegetation Management Notifications

As a part of a regularly scheduled maintenance program, Riverland Energy Cooperative clears vegetation from its right-of-ways.

We apply herbicides to control the root systems of woody-stemmed vegetation and to reduce the cost of future maintenance. Our contractors use herbicides that are registered by the EPA and are consistent with Wisconsin state licensing guidelines. Herbicides are applied by the licensed contractor, 4 Control, Inc. (Menomonie), following mechanical cutting or mowing.

Members in the areas where herbicides may be applied are notified by our automated phone system prior to spraying.

If you have any questions about the herbicide applications, please contact 4 Control at 888-454-1121.

Photo Contest Winner

July was the last month of the photo contest. We had a total of 475 entries throughout the year. The winner in the random drawing for the \$250 electric bill credit goes to Pamela Romundstad of Onalaska. Thank you to all who participated!

You're Invited

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Omni Center

255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska, WI

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

ENTERTAINMENT:
JOSIE
Josie Legler, Singer And Guitarist



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Jumbo Legos
- ✓ Giant Inflatables
- ✓ Games and Prizes
- ✓ Door Prizes
- ✓ Milkshakes
- ✓ Balloon Art by Balloons by Kevin
- ✓ Face Painting

FREE PICNIC MEAL

Brats or Hotdogs
Potato Salad
Potato Chips
Baked Beans
Veggie Tray
Beverages

Door prize drawings of \$25 electric bill credits and ONE grand prize drawing of \$250 electric bill credit

FARM SAFETY

FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Take these steps to help keep you and everyone on your farm safe during a busy harvest.

Meet Daily

Have morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day ahead and to discuss potential electrical hazards. Review power line locations, clearance requirements and the proper positioning of extensions for transporting.

Train Others

Train anyone working on your farm, including seasonal workers and family members, on potential electrical hazards.

Use a Spotter

Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines or poles. Always keep equipment and extensions at least 10 feet from power lines.

If your equipment makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, **stay in the cab, call 9-1-1 and warn others to stay away.**



Safe
Electricity.org®



General Manager's Message by Jerry Sorenson

Managing electricity costs in a volatile environment

The electric grid is an extensive network of power plants, power lines, substations and technologies owned and operated by different utilities, all striving to achieve the same goal: deliver service reliably and keep the lights on with affordable electricity to power daily lives.

A combination of energy prices and supply chain issues are contributing factors when considering electricity costs. As a member-owned cooperative, we are focusing on the impacts rising energy costs can have on member bills and keeping member rates stable.

Over 60% of our total expenses comes from our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative. The wholesale power comes from The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), operating a power grid serving 15 central U.S. states and Manitoba, Canada. Today, all generation production is sold into the MISO market and cooperatives buy back what they need to serve members.

The price of electricity in the MISO energy market has increased dramatically over the past several months due to many factors, but primarily natural gas price increases. Although we have been able to offset much of those rising costs, at some point, Riverland Energy may need to pass those costs on to our members.

Supply chain challenges are being felt also. Supply delays mean longer wait times for materials, and costs are higher for essential supplies needed to operate our system. This could linger to 2023 or beyond and affects new construction, service installations, as well as infrastructure planning into the future.

We are currently in a volatile and dynamic economic environment, which impacts the energy sector. As a non-profit, member-owned utility, we'll continue to work hard to manage the impact this volatility has on your electric bill, while continuing to provide the service you expect.

OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,
Manager of Finance

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	July 2021	July 2022	2021	2022
KWHS PURCHASED	29,500,254	29,545,236	176,939,665	181,114,265
KWHS SOLD	28,273,136	28,518,460	170,551,070	174,371,213
REVENUE	3,849,650	3,928,882	23,418,840	23,847,562
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	2,425,360	2,367,552	14,077,312	14,617,346
OTHER EXPENSES	1,203,719	1,442,162	8,733,397	9,285,881
OPERATING MARGINS	220,571	119,168	608,131	(55,665)
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	4,810	5,799	94,756	343,056
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	196,682	81,726	703,676	508,571
TOTAL MARGINS	422,063	206,693	1,406,562	795,962

DID YOU KNOW? A new Brookings study found the average cost for raising a child born in 2015 to be \$310.6k, up 9% from 2020 estimates.

Do you need help paying your bill?

If you need financial assistance, we suggest you contact one of the following agencies:

Buffalo County:

Buffalo County Human Services
(608) 685-4412

La Crosse County:

La Crosse County Human Services
(608) 785-5582

Trempealeau County:

Social Services: (715) 538-2311
Western Dairyland E.O.C.:
(715) 985-2391

Energy Services, Inc.:

(800) 506-5596 or
energyandhousing.wi.gov

WI Help for Homeowners:

(855) 246-6394 or
homeownerhelp.wi.gov

Salvation Army (608) 782-6126

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.



RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE
Co-op Youth Ambassador Program

The youth ambassador program is designed to help students learn about cooperatives, energy issues, renewable energy, and gain leadership skills. You'll also make lifelong friends

- ✔ Scholarship Opportunities
- ✔ Leadership Opportunities
- ✔ Co-op Volunteer Opportunities
- ✔ Per Diem & Lunches Provided
- ✔ Earn a trip to Washington D.C.
- ✔ Co-op Volunteer Opportunities
- ✔ Learn About Cooperatives & Careers

Deadline to apply
 October 1, 2022

Qualifications
 Must be a junior in high school

SCAN ME!

Commitments

5 meetings are held from October - May at 12 :00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lunch is provided at each meeting.

10 EASY WAYS TO \$AVE

Here are 10 habits you can tweak to save energy:

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
8. Reduce the setting on your hot water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider ENERGY STAR versions.



Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills.

To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified

Source: Dept. of Energy



September is National Preparedness Month Be prepared for storms and power outages

Riverland Energy works year-round to strengthen the electric grid and prevent power outages, but Mother Nature is a tough opponent and it's important to plan ahead for storms and power outages.

If your lights go out this fall:

1. Check circuit breakers, fuses and the neighbors.
2. Report outages on SmartHub or 800-927-6206.
3. Keep away from fallen power lines, and trees and branches near lines. Report these hazards.
4. Co-op dispatchers and crews are here for you 24/7.

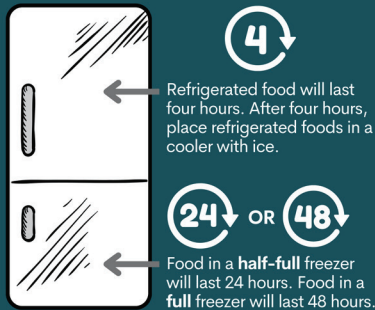
Crews respond to hazards first, then substations and major distribution lines, followed by smaller tap lines and individual service lines.

Keeping you informed

Visit riverlandenergy.com for a live outage map and follow our Facebook page for outage updates.

Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!



RIVERLAND
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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608-323-3381

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

www.riverlandenergy.com