




DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

By Jerry Sorenson, General Manager



Riverland Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

The District Committee of the Cooperative will meet this month to nominate candidates for the Riverland Energy Cooperative Board of Directors election at the Annual Meeting on March 26. One director will be elected from District 2, District 5, and District 9 for four-year terms.

District 2 represents Buffalo City; Towns of Alma, Belvidere, and Nelson; and a portion of the City of Alma. District 5 represents Towns of Arcadia, Preston, and Ettrick in Trempealeau County; and the Towns of Springfield, Franklin, and portions of Town of North Bend in Jackson County. District 9 represents the Onalaska area including portions Town of Holland, Hamilton, and Campbell.

Director qualifications and expectations outlined in the cooperative's policy are summarized here:

- Must be a bona-fide resident of the director district and eligible to vote at the membership meeting.
- Must be willing to abide by and uphold all Articles, Bylaws, and Policies of the cooperative to the best of your ability.
- Must be bondable.
- Must agree to disclose any potential conflicts of interest and abstain from voting on any issue, which may be construed as a conflict of interest.
- Cannot be employed or have financial interest in a competing enterprise.
- Cannot gain substantial revenue from the sale of goods or services to the cooperative.
- Must disclose if closely related to an employee of the cooperative.
- Must sign an application for serving on the board of directors.

In order to direct and discharge his/her performance of duties and obligations of the board of directors, candidates for the board of directors must understand and make every effort to comply with the following:

- Must agree to cooperate with other directors and support majority decisions.
- Must hold all information gained in the performance of duties in strict confidence.
- Must be willing to make a reasonable effort to attend director training and educational sessions.
- Must agree to prepare for, attend, and participate in regular and special board meetings.
- Must agree to be responsible for helping to set policy, but not be involved with day-to-day operations of the cooperative.
- Must be dedicated to the well-being of the cooperative, and the "Seven Cooperative Principles."
- Must have high moral standards and a clear concept of director's responsibilities and ethics.

Every member in District 2, 5, and 9 will receive a ballot at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting to elect a director in their district. Members can vote ahead online, or mail in their ballot. Voting instructions will be included with your ballot. Members can also vote in-person at the Annual Meeting.

I encourage everyone to take the time to review the candidate information in the annual report implemented in the March *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine. After that, please vote. In the 85-year history of this cooperative, it has never been easier to cast your vote and make your voice heard.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Riverland Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 26 at the Arcadia High School.

Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 a.m. • Business Meeting – 10:15 a.m.

There will be door prize drawings, director elections, scholarship drawings, and an attendance gift.

Food Drive: Please bring a nonperishable food item to donate to local food pantries.

* We will be streaming the meeting Live on YouTube.



* You must be present at the Annual Meeting to be eligible to win the door prizes and scholarships
 Please note that this meeting is subject to change due to the current health situation.

BLAIR-TAYLOR FFA GETS \$1,000 DONATION

Riverland Energy donated \$1,000 to Blair-Taylor FFA for improvements and updates to its greenhouse. These funds came from Riverland

Energy's Federated Youth Foundation of unclaimed capital credits. "The purpose of the Blair-Taylor Agriscience Greenhouse project is to bring a need for horticulture and plant science to students and the community," said Greta Monson, B-T FFA teacher.

The greenhouse has been unused for several years and is in need of repair. "The vent motors don't work, which is an essential part of maintaining the greenhouse. Without proper ventilation, plants can't be kept in an acceptable regulated temperature," said Monson.

The overall goal is to get students a place to receive hands-on learning in plant science, and for the community to receive the quality products produced from a productive greenhouse.

Monson estimates \$40,000 is needed for repairs. Monson's goal is to have plants grown and ready to sell by spring.



Community Cares Grant Applications Due Feb. 20

Riverland Community Cares is a grant program made possible by the members of Riverland Energy Cooperative. Participating members voluntarily contribute to Community Cares by allowing their monthly bills to be rounded up so that their change can help make an impact through the efforts of local groups and organizations, working to make our community a better place to live and work.

A Riverland Community Cares Board will review applications and distribute funds in March. The application deadline is February 20, 2022 and must be received by 4 p.m. on the due date.

Eligibility:

1. Non-profit groups and organizations that serve communities located within the Riverland Energy Cooperative service area.
2. Projects that fit into one or more of these categories: Community Service, Economic Development, and Education and Youth.

Restrictions:

1. Contributions will generally be made to only non-profit organizations with tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).
2. Contributions will generally not be made for lobbying, political, and religious organizations; veteran, fraternal and labor organizations; fundraising dinners and raffles.

Refer to the guidelines found on our website for more information on eligibility requirements. Grant applications can also be found on our website at riverlandenergy.com.

SAVE ON LIGHTING, SAVE ON ENERGY

One of the easiest ways to save money on your utility bill—and do your part for the environment at the same time—is to be smarter about the lighting in your house. Here are five ways to save energy with smarter lighting choices:

1. **Identify the rooms where your family spends the most time.** Replace the light fixtures—overhead, under-the counter, and tabletop—with LED fixtures. They can last up to 50 times longer than a lamp or overhead fixture that takes an old-fashioned incandescent light bulb. And you don't ever need to change the bulbs.
2. **Buy lighting products that carry a warranty of at least two years.** That goes for LED fixtures, ceiling fans with built-in lights, and other products. If you buy Energy Star lighting products, the warranty is required.
3. **Install ceiling fans.** Choose a combo unit that includes both a fan and a light; your electrician can install it in the spot that used to house just the overhead light. Ceiling fans move the air around and make a room feel cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
4. **Use your dimmers.** They're not just for mood lighting; they're for energy savings, too. Most dimmers conserve energy.
5. **Turn the lights off when you leave a room.** Train your family to do the same. Impossible? Install motion-sensing lights or add a timer to your lights so they turn off automatically when nobody's using the room.



2022 Scholarship Applications Available

Applications Due March 15

Traditional and At-Large Scholarships

Riverland Energy will award 30 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parent or guardian resides in Riverland Energy service territory. Two eligible graduating seniors from each of the following schools will be selected: Alma, C-FC, G-E-T, Independence, Osseo-Fairchild, Arcadia, Durand, Gilmanton, Mondovi, Whitehall, Blair-Taylor, Eleva-Strum, Holmen, and Onalaska. In addition, two at-large scholarships will be awarded to eligible seniors who live in our service territory, but don't attend any of the schools listed above.

Line Worker Scholarships

Two \$1,000 Line Worker Scholarships will be awarded to individuals pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical line worker program. The applicant must be a senior in high school. The recipient will be chosen in a random drawing at the cooperative's annual meeting in conjunction with the general scholarships. The applicant can apply for both the general scholarship and the line worker scholarship, but will only be eligible to receive one.

The recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 26, at the Arcadia High School. The applicant or the applicant's parent/guardian must be present to win.

Non-traditional Scholarships

Riverland Energy will award up to three \$750 scholarships to adult students who are either headed to college for the first time, returning to complete an interrupted education, or looking to return to college to improve their career opportunities. Recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at the Riverland Energy Board of Directors' meeting from all completed and verified applications.

Deadline for all scholarship applications in March 15, 2022. Applications can be found on our website at riverlandenergy.com or through your high school guidance counselor.



2022 EFFICIENCY REBATES

ENERGY STAR Appliances & Recycling Rebates

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| Clothes Washer (Must be ENERGY STAR) | \$25 |
| Clothes Dryer (Must be ENERGY STAR) | \$25 |
| Dishwasher (Must be ENERGY STAR) | \$25 |
| Dehumidifier (Must be ENERGY STAR) | \$25 |
| Refrigerator (Must be ENERGY STAR) | \$25 |
| Freezer (Must be ENERGY STAR) | \$25 |
| Inductive Range | \$25 |
| Heat Pump Clothes Dryer | \$50 |
| Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling | \$25 |
| Room A/C Unit Recycling | \$25 |

Electric Water Heater Rebates

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|---|-------|
| 75-99 gallons | \$150 |
| (Uniform Energy Factor .88 or greater) | |
| Over 100 gallons | \$300 |
| (Uniform Energy Factor .88 or greater) | |
| Heat Pump Water Heater (integrated) | \$300 |
| Solar Storage w/Electric Auxiliary Tank | \$150 |
| 75-99 gal. | |
| Solar Storage w/Electric Auxiliary Tank | \$300 |
| 100+ gal. | |
| Commercial Water Heater 75-99 gallons | \$150 |
| Commercial Water Heater 100+ gallons | \$300 |

Lighting Rebates

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamp | \$.50/lamp |
| (5 lamp min.) | |
| Occupancy Sensor | \$.5 each |
| LED Exit Sign | \$.5 |
| LED Fixture | \$.50 per 800 lumens |

HVAC

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| Heat Pump – Air Source & MiniSplit | \$300/ton |
| Heat Pump – Geothermal | \$500/ton |
| Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source | \$300/ton |
| & PTHPs | |
| New Furnace w/Efficient ECM | \$35/each |
| Blower Motor | |

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

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|---|-------|
| Electric Vehicle Charging Station | \$400 |
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For qualifications, forms, and a complete list of our rebates please visit our website at riverlandenergy.com.



PHOTO CONTEST

Congratulations to Dianna C. for getting the most votes for our December 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 February theme is **Best of Winter**. Photos can be submitted through February 25. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit and vote.

Some of our other favorite photos submitted for the December contest:



Top left: Reflections of Christmas – Debbie K.

Top right: 4,000 holiday lights of hope and joy – Kevin R.

Left: A walk in the park! – Sue P.




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