COMMUNITY CARES
GRANT APPLICATIONS
DUE MARCH 30

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 April. The application deadline is March 30 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 which have been granted 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.

Tampering with an electric meter is also a felony crime in Wisconsin.

Breaking a meter seal, opening a meter base, removing a meter, or altering an entrance cable in any manner is meter tampering. Too often, workers at Riverland Energy Cooperative deal with a problem caused by people who think they should not have to pay for electricity. Trying to shave a few dollars off their electric bills is too tempting for some people. But altering an electric meter or bypassing it to achieve “free” electricity is a bad idea. Not only is this practice extremely dangerous, it’s a serious crime that can result in hefty fines and jail time.

Fooling around with an electric meter is a recipe for disaster. Opening the meter can expose the thief—and his or her neighbors—to deadly current. One false move could lead to serious injuries or even death from electrocution. Our service personnel undergo extensive training to learn how to work around live current. A licensed electrical contractor is also authorized to pull a meter, but only with prior authorization from the co-op. Any other removal of the meter is a violation of the agreement you signed when you became a member of Riverland Energy.

Tampering with an electric meter is also a felony crime in Wisconsin. In addition, when the electricity theft is discovered, Riverland Energy will assess fees, plus bill the thieves for the estimated amount of stolen electricity. Our service and office personnel are trained to detect electricity theft by spotting suspicious anomalies on bills—or even just noticing that a light is on in a house where service has been disconnected.

The co-op also receives reports from members who realize that the theft of electricity comes out of their pockets. Because electric cooperatives are nonprofit, the thieves are not stealing from the company; they are stealing from its members. Riverland Energy must pay for all electricity generated and distributed on our lines. When someone doesn’t pay for that electricity, the cost is passed along to all members. Electricity freeloaders are stealing from members’ pockets in the long run.

If you know of or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact Riverland Energy immediately to report it.
As temperatures drop, consider using this time to increase energy efficiency and cost savings this winter. Whether your home is old or new, chances are you are spending more on energy costs than necessary. Armed with some basic knowledge and a little time, you can conduct a baseline energy audit of your home to identify where you are losing energy (and money).

Use a checklist and take notes on problems you find as you walk through your home. Remember, the audit itself won’t save you money unless you act on your findings. So, where to start? If your home has multiple levels, work from the top down. Begin in your attic or highest floor, and work your way down to the first floor or basement.

1. **Insulation and air leaks (drafts)** – According to the Department of Energy, improving your home’s insulation and sealing air leaks are the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste and make the most of your energy dollars. Check to see whether there is sufficient insulation in the attic. Are openings containing piping, ductwork and chimney sealed?

2. **Electronic devices** – Computers, printers, DVD players, phones and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users—they drain energy even when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off (or put on a timer).

3. **Lighting** – Note where you still have incandescent lights. Can you replace them with LED upgrades?

4. **Thermostat/indoor temperature** – Consider using a programmable thermostat to lower the temperature when no one is home and at night when people are sleeping. Consider lowering the temperature a few degrees.

5. **Appliances and cleaning** – Appliances are large energy users, and if yours are more than 10 years old, they are likely not as energy efficient as today’s options. Energy Star rated appliances can save you a considerable amount of money. Make sure your dryer vent isn’t blocked—this will not only save energy, it may also prevent a fire.

**Evaluation** Once you have completed the audit, take a look at the findings. Prioritize actions that you can take based on your time and budget, weighing where you can get the most impact for your investment. Make sure to check with the co-op to see what incentives are available.

**Taking savings to the next level** If you would like to take your audit and savings to the next level, consider having a home energy assessment done by a certified contractor. The energy assessment includes a visual inspection, diagnostic testing, and a customized, prioritized report with recommended energy improvements. We’ve partnered with a state-certified auditor to perform the assessments. The cost of the audit is approximately $350, and the incentive offered by Riverland Energy includes $150 of that cost. Call our office to set one up!
Riverland Energy Cooperative recently donated $2,000 to the Eleva-Strum School District Softball program towards the purchase of a new electric scoreboard.

“The current chalk scoreboard is outdated, unsafe and out of view of the players and spectators,” Amanda Pronschinske, Eleva Strum High School softball coach said. “We greatly appreciate the support. It’s businesses like this that make youth and high school sports possible,” she added.

“One of the cooperative principles is concern for the community. We stand by this principle and are committed to improving the quality of life in the rural area,” said Riverland Energy General Manager Jerry Sorenson.

Funds for the donation are derived from the Federation Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members.

Riverland Energy will award 15 $1,000 scholarships to high school seniors at our annual meeting on Saturday, April 21. One eligible graduating senior 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, one at-large scholarship will be awarded to an eligible senior who lives in our service territory, but doesn’t attend any of the schools listed above.

We will also be awarding one $1,000 Line Worker Scholarship to an individual pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical line worker program. The applicant must be a senior from a high school listed above.

Applicants must be a current high school senior and his/her parent or guardian must reside in Riverland Energy service territory. Scholarships may be used for college tuition, books, school fees, food, or lodging at any two-or four-year accredited college or university including vocational and technical school.

One recipient from each high school listed above will be chosen in a random drawing at the annual meeting. The applicant, or one of the applicant’s parents or legal guardian, MUST BE PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

The application must be returned to a Riverland Energy Cooperative office by 4:30 p.m. on April 13, 2018.

Applications are available from Riverland Energy online at www.riverlandenergy.com/scholarships and at local schools.
2018 REBATES

Riverland is pleased to continue to offer rebates to help you save energy and money in 2018. We encourage you to replace old appliances and equipment with energy-efficient models. Eligibility requirements and limits apply. Rebates are applied as a credit on your electric account.

Additional rebates include agricultural and commercial, heating storage units, and energy audit implementations. Programs are in place through December 31, 2018, or until funds, by incentive or in total, are depleted.

For qualifications, forms, and a complete list of our rebates please visit our website at www.riverlandenergy.com.

### Energy Star Appliances & Recycling Rebates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rebate</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clothes Washer</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clothes Dryer</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dishwasher</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dehumidifier</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heat pump clothes dryer</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room A/C Unit Recycling</td>
<td>$25</td>
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### Electric Water Heater Rebates

- 40–74 gallon .................................................................$50
- 75–99 gallon (energy factor greater than .90) ..................$250
- 75–99 gallon (energy factor less than .90) ........................$125
- Over 100 gallons (energy factor greater than .90) .............$325
- Over 100 gallons (energy factor less than .90) .................$150
- Heat pump water heater (integrated) ...............................$300
- Solar storage w/electric auxiliary tank .........................$300
- Contractor installation (retrofit only) .........................$75
- Self-installation .........................................................$30
- Contractor repair .......................................................$75
- Self-repair ...............................................................cost of parts only

### Lighting Rebates

- Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs.................................$1
- Occupancy Sensor ...................................................$5
- LED Exit Sign .........................................................$5
- LED Fixture .....................................................................$1 per 800 lumens
- T5 Fluorescent Fixture ..................................................$6 per bulb

### HVAC

- Air Source & MiniSplit ................................................$150/ton
- Geothermal ......................................................................$400/ton
- Commercial Air Source & PTHPs ..................................$150/ton
- New furnace w/efficient ECM Blower Motor .....................$35

### Flow Restrictors

- Flow restrictor – faucet (1.5 GPM or less) .....................$1
- Flow restrictor – shower (2.5 GPM or less) .....................$5

### Energy Audits

- Home energy audit .........................................................$150
- Implementation ......................................................... up to $500

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Jerry Sorenson, General Manager  
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Beth Alesch, Editor

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Outages & Emergencies  
Call 1-800-927-6206  
24 hours a day

Office Hours  
Arcadia: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Onalaska: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

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