

The Outlet

May 2021

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

Offices Closed for Memorial Day

Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 24 for Memorial Day. Outages can be reported 24/7 by calling 800-927-6206. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

Calling all third-graders

Riverland Energy Cooperative and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association are seeking entries for the 2021 electrical safety poster contest. All local children in third grade are invited to submit an original poster that supports electrical safety. All who enter will have a chance to win local and state-level prizes. See details inside this issue.

Annual Recycle Drive

Riverland Energy will be holding its Annual Appliance & Electronics Recycle Drive May 12, 13 and 14 at all three office locations. Members can drop materials off at the co-op's office locations on the respective recycling dates. Cash or check payment is due at the drop-off site. Members are asked to bring a copy of their electric bill as proof of co-op membership for refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners. Please note, the dates in the April WEC News magazine were incorrect. The correct dates are listed in this issue of *The Outlet*. We apologize for any inconvenience.

APPLIANCE & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DRIVE

Wednesday, May 12
Arcadia REC
N28988 State Rd 93
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 13
Alma REC
1225 S. Main St.
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday, May 14
Holmen REC
1800 Granary St.
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ACCEPTED ITEMS - FREE

Cable Boxes	External Drives	Radios
Cables & Cords	Fans	Satellite Dishes & Receivers
Cameras & Camcorders	Fax Machines	Scanners
Cassette Tapes	Hair Dryers	Servers
Cell Phones & Chargers	Holiday Lights	Stereos & Speakers
Clocks	Ink & Toner Cartridges	Toasters
Coffee Makers	Laptops	UPS & Jump Starters
Desktop Computer Towers	Land line Phones	Vacuum Cleaners
Docking Stations	Monitors	Video Game Consoles
DVD/VHS/Blu-Ray Players	MP3 & iPod Players	
DVD Disks & VHS Tapes	Projectors	

ACCEPTED ITEMS - FOR A FEE

Refrigerators (limit 2)	* FREE	Washers	\$5
Freezers (limit 2)	* FREE	Dryers	\$5
Air Conditioners (limit 2)	* FREE	Dishwashers	\$5
TV's- All Types (limit 3)	\$20	Stoves	\$5
Printers & Copiers	\$5	Furnaces	\$5
Microwaves	\$2	Water Heaters	\$5
Humidifiers	\$2	Dehumidifiers	\$15

* Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners are only free to Riverland Energy members. All others will pay \$15. Bring a copy of your electric bill to qualify.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Bulbs
Capacitors
Gas Cylinders
Liquids
Medical Waste
Ballasts
Radioactive Waste
Smoke Detectors
Vape Pens
Treadmills

Recycling by:

Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations
Onalaska, WI
877-781-4030
www.dynamicrecycling.com

Watch for workers in your area

Riverland employees and contractors work throughout our service territory, in the right-of-ways and easements, and across your private property and driveways. Our efforts to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors mean we must cross your property from time to time. You may see crews:

- Making routine repairs
- Replacing meters
- Trimming trees and brush
- Restoring power outages
- Locating buried utilities for construction and digging
- Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- Inspecting lines, power poles, transformer boxes and equipment

Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. If you have concerns about our work, contact us at 800-411-9115. We appreciate your cooperation.

May is Electrical Safety Month



We all want the best for the people in our lives. That includes you, our members. It's why we make safety a top priority at Riverland Energy and devote time and energy to making everyone aware of important safety tips and equipment. For instance, if you're working with tall ladders, cleaning gutters, trimming trees or undertaking other projects outside, we remind you to look up for and stay safely away from overhead power lines, especially those connected to your home.

If a project involves digging, be sure to call 811 a few working days in advance to get underground utilities marked. Help children understand the importance of staying away from electric utility equipment, to never climb trees near power lines, and to fly kites in wide open spaces safely away from power lines. Know how to prepare for and stay safe after storms and other natural disasters that could leave behind hidden electrical hazards, such as downed power lines and submerged electrical devices. These are just some of the safety measures that we want you and everyone to know.

We don't want anyone to take a chance that could end in tragedy, and to help, we're a partner in the Safe Electricity program. We encourage you to visit SafeElectricity.org, where you'll find life-saving information presented in videos, interactive games for children, online teacher resources and much more.

Have a great, safe day!

Best regards,

Jerry Sorenson

OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,
Accounting
Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	March 2020	March 2021	2020	2021
KWHS PURCHASED	23,006,571	22,628,105	75,141,507	77,359,230
KWHS SOLD	22,353,970	21,835,250	71,870,757	74,490,709
REVENUE	3,159,803	3,104,918	9,686,005	10,054,530
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,889,880	1,797,344	6,172,767	6,025,549
OTHER EXPENSES	1,328,499	1,307,473	3,862,461	3,502,519
OPERATING MARGINS	(58,576)	101	(349,223)	526,462
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	8,193	32,266	24,205	77,686
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	82,204	69,341	214,545	232,550
TOTAL MARGINS	31,821	101,708	(110,473)	836,698

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires." ~Nelson Mandela

Have a Successful Planting Season Know How to Stay Safe Around Electricity on the Farm

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Riverland Energy Cooperative and Safe Electricity urge farm workers to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines.

- Always be aware of the location of power lines, and designate pre-planned routes that avoid hazard areas.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators or raising truck beds near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole, or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.
- When guy wires (a grounded wire used to stabilize utility poles) are broken, these normally neutral wires can be anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself.
- If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives.
- If leaving the cab is necessary, as in the case of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment before the power has been shut off.

BE PREPARED FOR SUMMER STORMS AND POWER OUTAGES

Summer storms are
always a threat.

If your lights go out this summer:

1. Check circuit breakers, fuses and the neighbors.
2. Report outages at 800-927-6206.
3. Keep away from fallen power lines, and trees and branches near lines.
4. Crews respond to hazards, substations and major distribution lines first, followed by smaller tap lines and individual service lines.

KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER POLE

STAY PUT

If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside.

DO NOT EXIT.
Call 911.

JUMP CLEAR

If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 50 feet away.

STAY AWAY

When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov



CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS!

You're invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **May 17, 2021**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

- 1st place – Chromebook**
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

WECA Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association

Posters should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches. Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of the poster. Go to riverlandenergy.com or weca.coop for registration forms.

What is the monthly base service electric charge?



The base electric charge of \$1.18 per day covers each member's share of the cost for construction and maintenance of poles, wires, transformers, meters, right-of-way clearing and other fixed expenses that enable you to access electric service at your location.

Cost regardless of usage: It costs the same to build and maintain the system, regardless of how much energy you use. Fixed costs are spread among all members equally, meaning the basic charge is—and should be—the same for all members, regardless of energy use.

Fewer members in rural areas to share costs:

Fixed costs to build and maintain the system are shared equally among all co-op members. REC has just five members per mile of line to share fixed costs, while urban utilities spread costs among 20 or more consumers per mile. The basic charge is higher in rural areas because costs are shared by fewer members.



RIVERLAND
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Headquarters:
N28988 State Rd 93
P.O. Box 277
Arcadia, WI 54612

Branch Office:
1800 Granary St.
Holmen, WI 54636

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Phone:
800-411-9115
608-323-3381

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

www.riverlandenergy.com