

The Outlet

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative.

FEBRUARY

2020

Annual Meeting & Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Arcadia High School - 756 Raider Drive

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Registration and pancake breakfast

10:15 a.m.

Business meeting

- » \$1,000 scholarship drawings
- » Door prize drawings
- » Movies and activities for kids

Please bring a nonperishable food item or items to donate to local food pantries. (Optional)

Grant Applications Due Feb. 28

Riverland Energy provides financial support to community programs through our Community Cares program.

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

Examples would be food pantries, health services, medical services, etc. Community Cares funds may not be used for political purposes or to pay electric bills.

Grants are awarded by a board of directors. A list of qualifications and guidelines can be found at www.riverlandenergy.com or at one of our offices.

Applications for the Community Cares grant are due on Feb. 28, 2020.



\$1,000 Scholarships Available

If you're a senior in high school and you reside on Riverland Energy's lines, you may be eligible for our \$1,000 scholarship drawing.



Two individuals from each school in our service area will be selected in a random drawing at our annual meeting on Saturday, March 28. At-large and Line Worker scholarships are also available. The applicant or the applicant's parent or guardian must be present at the annual meeting to win.

For guidelines and applications, visit our website at riverlandenergy.com or contact your guidance counselor.

Deadline is March 20, 2020.



General Manager's Message

District Committee

By now those of you who voted for our District Committee Representatives have successfully selected candidates who will represent you at the District Committee

Conference taking place later this month. The committee will review the operations of the cooperative and express their thoughts and ideas regarding the future of our organization. The list of those attending can be found on our website. I would encourage you to take the time to express any thoughts or concerns that you may have regarding the electric cooperative to one of those persons so that they may bring them forward to the committee.

Strategic Planning

Every few years Riverland Energy Cooperative Board of Directors holds an extensive strategic planning session. The purpose of the session is to set the future long-range plans of the cooperative. The discussions usually include such topics as rates and planning to prevent rate shock, member programs, employee engagement, and the financial future of the cooperative. It is always a good day that helps provide me as the manager and our staff with definitive direction for the future.

2020 Work Plan

Our goals for 2020 are driven by your feedback on member surveys, the strategic plan, and focus on improving our value to you and our community. Our number one priority continues to be the delivery of reliable electricity.

In 2020, we will upgrade and maintain a reliable electric system for you. Our 2020 work plan includes:

- Clearing trees and brush from the right-of-way on Cream, Cochrane, Gilmanton and Pleasantville substations
- Line inspections on Brice Prairie, Arcadia, Centerville and Fly Creek substations
- Underground cabinet inspection of 1,700 cabinets
- Testing and treating 3,516 poles
- Testing 130 OCR's
- Continue upgrading our metering system (phased in over four years)

Best regards,

Jerry Sorenson
Jerry Sorenson

Winners of the \$25 drawing

Members who returned their ballots for the REC District Committee were entered into a drawing for a \$25 credit on their electric bill.

The winners include:

- Brian Tridle, Ettrick
- Amy Maxwell, Holmen
- Shirley Rieck, Nelson
- Sue Hovell, Galesville
- Patricia Kriesel, Trempealeau
- Brad Schmidtknecht, Mondovi
- Dale Komro, Holmen
- Donna Seltrecht, Mondovi
- Paul Roellich, Onalaska
- Debbie Murphy, Durand

Thanks to everyone who submitted their ballots!

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Space heaters can be a cost effective option when heating no more than one or two small areas.



- Review and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a hard, level floor surface.
- Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.
- Plug them in directly into outlets. Avoid using an extension cord.
- Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.

2020 Rebates

Riverland is pleased to continue to offer rebates to help you save energy and money in 2020. Eligibility requirements and limits apply. Rebates are applied as a credit on your electric account. Programs are in place through December 31, 2020 or until funds, by incentive or in total, are depleted.

ENERGY STAR Appliances & Recycling Rebates

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

75-99 gallons (Uniform Energy Factor .90 or greater)	\$125
Over 100 gallons (Uniform Energy Factor .85 or greater)	\$300
Heat pump water heater (integrated)	\$300
Solar storage w/electric auxiliary tank 75-99 gal.	\$125
Solar storage w/electric auxiliary tank 100+ gal.	\$300
Commercial Water Heater 75-99 gallons	\$125
Commercial Water Heater 100+ gallons	\$300

Miscellaneous

Flow restrictor – faucet (1.5 GPM or less)	\$	1
Flow restrictor – shower (2.5 GPM or less)	\$	5
Electric vehicle charging station	\$400/ea	
Smart Power Strip/Bar	\$	5

Energy Audits

Home energy audit	\$150
Implementation	up to \$500

HVAC

Heat Pump - Air Source & MiniSplit	\$250/ton
Heat Pump - Geothermal	\$500/ton
Heat Pump - Commercial Air Source & PTHPS	\$250/ton
New furnace w/efficient ECM Blower Motor	\$35/each

Lighting Rebates

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

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

Give your home an energy vacation

Going on vacation this winter? Even if you plan to be away for just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Follow these energy savers to give your utility bill a break while you take a vacation.

Water heater: Turn down the temperature on your water heater, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away. Or, talk to an energy expert about turning off the water heater.

Thermostat: During the winter, lower the temperature on your furnace.

Lights: Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

Electronics: Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave and digital clocks.



Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use

Be prepared for winter storms and outages

Riverland Energy line workers work hard to maintain the system and deliver reliable power, but some outages are out of our control, like those caused by storms, wildlife and transmission line failures.



If your lights go out this winter:

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

Our goal is to restore power safely and quickly, while keeping you informed.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Riverland Energy Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political belief, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

MEMBER CONNECTION

Energy Assistance

If you need financial assistance in paying your electric bill, we suggest you contact one of the following agencies:

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) 634-4575

Always Call Before you Dig

One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury or expense. Call Diggers Hotline at 800-242-8511 or call 811.

Office Hours

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

Headquarters:

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

Branch Office:

1800 Granary St., Holmen

Phone:

800-411-9115
608-323-3381

Outages & Emergencies

Call 800-927-6206,
24 hours a day

www.riverlandenergy.com



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