

# The Outlet

July 2021

*A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative*

## Member Appreciation Event coming in September

September 15, 2021 is the date set for our Member Appreciation Day event. It will be held at Danzinger's Vineyard in Alma from 4:00- 7:00 p.m. Details are in the works!

## Follow us on social media

Riverland Energy utilizes Facebook and Twitter to share information about topics such as electrical safety, energy efficiency, cooperative events, youth activities, peak alerts and more. We also provide members information when major outages occur. You can also find us on Instagram highlighting employees and events!

## Energy efficiency rebates

From appliances to heating and cooling to insulation and weatherization - small changes can mean big energy savings.

Riverland Energy Cooperative provides rebates to our residential and commercial members for the purchase of a variety of energy-efficient equipment and appliances.

Visit our website for more information and rebate forms.

## Call before you dig

Before you build a deck, install a fence, plant a tree or dig into any home improvement project, have utility lines marked. Call 811 three working days before you dig to have buried utility lines located. It's free.

## Meet the poster contest winners

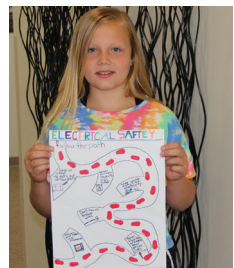
Trey Wellik and Lexus White place at state contest



Trey Wellik



Allyson Mercer



Lexus White

Third-grade students from across the Riverland Energy service territory submitted safety posters in May for National Electrical Safety Month. Trey Wellik of Onalaska was the first-place winner, Allyson Mercer of Mondovi was the second place winner, and Lexus White of Arcadia was the third-place winner.

The winners received a cash prize and their posters were sent to WECA for the state contest. Trey Wellik received first place at the state contest, winning a Chromebook, and Lexus White was the second place winner of a \$100 gift card. Congratulations!

Thank you to all who participated!

## Community Cares Grant applications due August 20



## Community Cares

*Spare change for community needs.*

Community Cares Funds are collected from members who voluntarily have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar. The funds are held separately from the Riverland Energy operating accounts and are administered through the Community Cares Foundation Board. Applications for funding are considered by the Community Cares Board twice a year.

Grants are awarded to local non-profits, schools, and community-based organizations for projects involving community service, economic development, education and youth, and disaster relief.

For more information and to apply, visit our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com). The deadline to apply is **August 20, 2021**.

## Member photo contest coming soon



Show us your best! Each month beginning in August, Co-op members are invited to share a photo based on that month's theme. The member whose photo has the most votes will be put into a drawing for a \$100 electric bill credit at the end of the year.

Each winning photo will be featured in the *Wisconsin Energy News*.

Details are in the works, but the contest will continue monthly through August 2022. Watch for more information on how to enter next month!

## Small change from you, big change for the community



Eight years ago Riverland Energy Cooperative developed a program called Community Cares. Every month, many of you have helped fund Community Cares just by letting us round your electric bill up to the nearest dollar amount. Even though your donation never amounted to more than 99 cents per month – it added up to make things happen in the community.

Beyond just the extra change though, you gave this program something equally valuable. You gave your trust. For eight years, you've trusted The Community Cares Foundation Board, which oversees the program, to make the right decisions about where and how to distribute your donations into the community.

The Foundation board sorts through numerous applications, determining how to make the dollars you've entrusted to them have the biggest impact. While it would be great to give to everyone, which isn't possible, we are happy to have this program in place and it's an even better thing that people like you support it.

If you are not part of the program, consider joining now. You can sign up through our website or through your account on SmartHub. You can also sign up at one of our offices or call us at 800-411-9115 and request a form.

Best regards,

Jerry Sorenson

## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
Accounting  
Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	May 2020	May 2021	2020	2021
KWHS PURCHASED	20,337,332	21,114,972	116,012,117	118,700,643
KWHS SOLD	19,498,494	20,297,510	111,068,896	114,255,051
REVENUE	2,955,656	2,925,029	15,473,615	15,764,950
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,527,559	1,725,738	9,404,944	9,302,856
OTHER EXPENSES	1,237,810	1,294,710	6,319,529	5,952,239
OPERATING MARGINS	190,287	(95,419)	(250,858)	509,855
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	7,601	24,517	43,941	80,877
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	47,202	66,614	314,419	385,120
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>245,089</b>	<b>(4,288)</b>	<b>107,502</b>	<b>975,852</b>

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." ~ Warren Buffett

## Help prevent electric shock drowning



A dip in the pool is a refreshing way to cool off on a hot summer day. However, a little-known electrical hazard can darken even the sunniest afternoon.

Electrical equipment in or near the pool should be checked to ensure electricity is not travelling outside of the intended circuit. If it is, it could leak into the water and create an electric shock drowning (ESD) hazard.

If you own a boat and/or dock make sure it has proper safety equipment and complies with applicable standards and codes. Have boat and dock electrical systems checked at least once a year. All electrical installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards.

Safe Electricity wants to help raise awareness of ESD and shares the warning signs and safety tips for those enjoying water recreation activities this summer.

**For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://SafeElectricity.org).**

## Community Connection Riverland Energy donates to local libraries



Mondovi Library l-r: Riverland Director Fran Fedie, Riverland General Manager Jerry Sorenson, Campaign Committee members Mike and Aleen Linse, and Library Director Katelyn Noack.



Whitehall Library l-r: Amanda Hegge, Whitehall Public Library Director and Jerry Sorenson.

Riverland Energy Cooperative made a \$10,000 gift to the Mondovi Public Library and the Whitehall Public Library for the construction of new libraries, giving each library \$5,000.

The Mondovi Public Library “Beyond Books” Capital Campaign Committee hopes to raise \$1.5 million. The Roots and Wings Campaign for a new Library in Whitehall hopes to raise \$3.2 million.

The funds for these donations are derived from Riverland Energy’s Federated Youth Foundation, with matching funds from CoBank’s Sharing Success Program.

## Summer Shift: Small Steps for Savings

When members save energy, they tend to save money. However, there is always something in our homes using electricity – whether to cool the home, turn on the lights or run appliances. While using electricity is inevitable, HOW members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, is not as expensive. So, how does Summer Shift work?

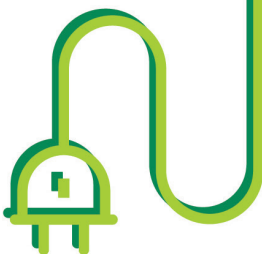


If a member shifts their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative’s wholesale power provider – Dairyland Power Cooperative – did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



## BILLING MADE EASY

Riverland Energy Cooperative understands how busy life can get. Whether working, getting kids to activities, spending time with family, or running errands, it can be easy to forget to make a payment. Luckily, Riverland Energy offers many ways to pay your bill, so you can use what is the most convenient and works the best for your lifestyle!



### BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS:

**Pay Online** - Log in to view your bill electronically through the SmartHub site or the mobile app. You may authorize payment from your checking account or Visa/Mastercard.

**Quick Pay - One-time-Payment** - Do you want to make a quick, one-time online payment without logging into your SmartHub account? All you need is the account number and the first five letters of the primary member's last name. If you choose to allow another person to make a payment on your account by this method, please be advised they will be able to see your current balance or past due balance, but no other account information.

**Auto Pay Program** - Sign up for recurring payments through SmartHub using your bank account or a Visa/Mastercard. Simply sign-in or register for SmartHub to get started. Once you sign in to SmartHub, choose Auto Pay Program under the Billing & Payments tab. After adding an account, the total bill amount will be withdrawn from your payment method on the 20th of each month. The program is ideal for travelers and snowbirds and assures your good credit rating with Riverland Energy.

**Pay by Phone** - Make payments by phone with your credit/debit card or checking account using our automated phone system. This service is available 24/7. Just call 888-220-8233 and follow the step-by-step instructions.

**Pay by Mail** - Please allow mail time for payment to be received before the due date. Please call the billing team if additional time is needed.

**Pay in Person** - Drop off your payment at one of our offices in Holmen or Arcadia. Use the drop box outside of each office for after hours to drop off your payment.



**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](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)