




Riverland Energy  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## NO RATE CHANGES EXPECTED FOR 2021



Jerry Sorenson,  
General Manager

After an unprecedented year like 2020, we are excited to inform our membership that we do not anticipate any changes in your electric rates in 2021.

While your cooperative is able to maintain your rates right now, there is no guarantee rates will not have to be changed in the future. The energy markets are constantly fluctuating and changes in the weather, natural gas supplies, and government regulations could all result in rate changes down the road.

Your cooperative's board and employee team continue to work diligently to help hold the line on rate increases.



## 2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

For the second year in a row, the \$1,000 scholarship drawing took place virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The selection took place Friday, March 5 at 12 p.m. Members and applicants could watch the drawing on Facebook. Riverland Energy gives away over \$30,000 in scholarships each year. The scholarships are funded with unclaimed capital credit dollars. The 2021 scholarship recipients include:

### ALMA:

Lane Wieczorek  
Joshua Sobotta

### ARCADIA:

Chloe Halverson  
Amy Losinski

### BLAIR-TAYLOR:

Tyler Thompson  
Thea McAdams

### C-FC:

Dominic Pyka  
Erika Meyer

### DURAND:

McKenna Hurlburt  
Brody Carothers

### ELEVA-STRUM:

Nicholas Higley  
Mitchell Olson

### G-E-T:

Benjamin Hirschboeck  
Claire Corcoran

### GILMANTON:

Morgan Guenther  
Cali Flick

### HOLMEN:

Owen Reichert  
Nathan Nevala

### INDEPENDENCE:

Emma Pietrek  
Emerson Pronschinske

### MONDOVI:

John Schmidtknecht  
Jack Accola

### ONALASKA:

Claudia Delgado  
Amanda Reget

### OSSEO-FAIRCHILD:

Caden Carlson  
Alyssa Iverson

### WHITEHALL:

Aubrea Smieja  
Zach George

### AT-LARGE:

Isabella Vang, Logan  
High School  
Olivia Harron, Aquinas

### LINE WORKER:

Matt LaDuke, C-FC



*Spare change for community needs.*

## COMMUNITY CARES GRANT REPORT

More than \$1,500 in grants will fund non-profit and local organizations and projects in our service area that benefit the community. Each organization will receive a \$325 grant.

### Spring projects funded:

- **Community Parking Lot Food Pantry**
  - Based in Arcadia, funds would provide assistance in supplying food.
- **Hope4U Suicide Awareness**
  - Assisting in funding for educational programs, literature, and support for those affected by suicide.
- **Lyster Quilting Group – Lyster Lutheran Church**
  - Purchase material for making quilts for needy families, the homeless, and victims of fires, floods, etc.
- **Restorative Ink, Inc.**
  - Assist victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in tattoo removal that was forcibly placed.
- **St. Boniface Child Care**
  - Summer care program for school age students to provide supplies, staffing, and other expenses.

# LINEWORKERS BRING THE LIGHT.

## Lineworker Appreciation Day

On April 12, remember to  
#ThankALineworker.

## Thank a Lineworker on April 12

One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regard-

less of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions,

when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community are truly what sets lineworkers apart. That’s why electric cooperatives set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

Our dedicated lineworkers are proud to represent Riverland Energy Cooperative, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Noting 2020 statistics, we thank our crews for:

- Logging **391,278** miles in their trucks
- Responding to:
  - **23** vehicle vs. electrical equipment accidents;
  - **86** tree-related outages;
  - **134** animal related outages; and
  - **56** weather related outages.

Co-op crews are also called, at all hours of the day and night, to house fires and other incidents where electricity is concerned and are often the first on a scene.

Our lineworkers are fearless, committed, and critical to our success. We say **THANK YOU** to our line personnel on Lineworker Appreciation Day!



The line crew and other co-op employees volunteer their time to assist others in the community. Last month, the line crew put in poles for the Holmen High School soccer field. Pictured at left, l-r: Riverland Energy Manager of Member Services Aaron Torud, Holmen High School Activities Director Mark Englerth, Riverland Energy Assistant Line Superintendent Bill Mason, and Riverland Energy linemen, Willy Nicksic and Brett Palmer.



## 2021 Maintenance Plans

Although electricity was regarded as luxury many years ago, today it has become an essential part of everyday life. Despite the growing dependence on electricity, people may not think about everything that takes place behind the electrical outlet to ensure the power is there when it is needed.

Expanding, maintaining, and improving electric infrastructure are vital to sustaining essential services as well as meeting our members' growing energy needs. Riverland Energy has a long-term plan to ensure the system is able to operate around-the-clock.

It is a priority to balance the need for reliable power while working hard to keep rates low. At the same time, we focus on operating procedures, streamlining processes, and utilizing resources properly in order to reduce or maintain costs. Poles, power lines, and other system infrastructure are inspected throughout the year. Riverland Energy utilizes various technologies to analyze data and monitor the system. This helps track typical replacement and repair cycles and detect areas that need attention.

In addition to performance-based maintenance, Riverland Energy conducts preventive maintenance at regularly scheduled intervals in order to address issues before they impact reliability. This also helps to delay the need for costly unexpected replacement or repairs and allows Riverland Energy to plan ahead for expenditures related to normal depreciation of system facilities.

### Right-of-Way Maintenance

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our members. We clear rights-of-way in our service territory to keep power lines clear of tree limbs that cause outages, create greater visibility for line crews to see issues which enables them to restore power outages more quickly, reduce unexpected costs for repairs, and improves service reliability.

### Underground and Cabinet Inspections

Riverland Energy has underground transformers and cabinets inspected annually and has contracted with Karcz Utility Services to perform annual inspections this year. They will be inspecting all transformers and boxes, including painting as necessary, on six substations: Centerville, Cochrane, Cream, Glencoe, Hegg, and Pleasantville. Weather permitting, inspections will begin in March and will continue throughout the spring and summer.

### Line Inspection

Riverland Energy crews will perform line inspections following tree-trimming from the previous year. In 2021, the plan is to inspect Centerville, Arcadia, Pleasantville, and Gilmanton substations.





## \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY CO-OP LAW

The Federated Youth Foundation is pleased to once again offer the Charles Van Sickle Endowment Scholarship in 2021. This \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a pre-law or law student who has an interest in cooperative law. The scholarship is made possible by an endowment established in 2013 to honor Wisconsin's renowned electric cooperative lobbyist and attorney, the late Charles Van Sickle. The scholarship will be awarded during the Spring 2021 semester.

All applications are due at the Federated Youth Foundation office no later than **April 2, 2021**. **Applications received after April 2, 2021 will not be considered.** Send applications to: Federated Youth Foundation, PO Box 148, Baraboo, WI 53913-0148.

Candidates can find an application on [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com).

## Recycle Drive Coming in May!

We will be holding our annual appliance and electronics recycle drive in May this year at all three of our locations.

- May 12 – 1225 S. Main St., Alma
- May 13 – Arcadia – N28988 State Road 93
- May 14 – Holmen – 1800 Granary St.

All events will be from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.




## Climb out of your paper pile with SmartHub!

Are your bills a mess? It's time to clean them up by setting up recurring and stored electric bill payments through SmartHub.

While you're there, check out the other great benefits SmartHub has to offer:

- Pay your bill online
- Check your usage
- Manage your account
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Communicate directly with the co-op

Clean up your bills by signing up for SmartHub online. It's Riverland's FREE and mobile online payment system. Click on the signup link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password.

**Questions? Call, click or visit us at 800-411-9115 or [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com).**


### Jerry Sorenson, General Manager

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://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