



2015 Richland Electric Cooperative

From the Manager... Transition Energy Update

In our last newsletter we introduced Transition Energy, a program designed to assist members that have an interest in locally generated solar energy. Following that introduction we went right to work researching how other 'community solar' projects- some as close as Vernon County to some in northern Wisconsin- had been developed and designed.



Nicholas Martin, a student at the University of Wisconsin- Platteville who is studying business emphasizing sustainable and alternative energy joined us as a summer intern to perform much of the research. He found that each project he studied had unique attributes related to the design and the way cooperative members got involved. One thing that became clear as a result of his research was the difficulty each had in designing the financing to take advantage of the current investment tax credit. In some cases, the complexity of the financing arrangement necessary to use the investment tax credits outweighed the value of those credits. This was particularly true for smaller cooperatives building smaller projects.

Financing wasn't the only challenge for the smaller projects. The cost of materials including panels, inverters, metering and mounting systems were in some cases twice as expensive for projects that were 100 kilowatts versus those that were one megawatt or larger. A megawatt is ten times larger than a kilowatt.

Our Transition Energy project is expected to be between a 50 and 100 kilowatt system making it a small project and subject to these higher costs unless we develop a better model. Fortunately, we may have found an opportunity to take advantage of large scale pricing for a small scale project. Dairyland Power Cooperative announced their interest in developing up to 25 megawatts of solar energy over the next year and is seeking proposals from developers across the nation. A group of distribution cooperatives, including Richland are actively

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CALENDAR of events

August

14 Walk With Grace

September

7 Labor Day-REC & Genuine
Telecom offices closed

9-13 Richland County Fair

October

2-4 Wheels of Time

2-3 October Fest

10 Richland Electric
Cooperative Member
Appreciation Picnic

10 Redneck Rally

November

21 "Believe in the Magic
Holiday Fair" Richland
Community Center/
Woodman Senior Center

25 through December 31st
Rotary lights in the Park
Richland Center

26 Thanksgiving Day-REC &
Genuine Telecom offices
closed



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PICNIC TIME

Member Appreciation Picnic



Saturday, October 10th, 2015

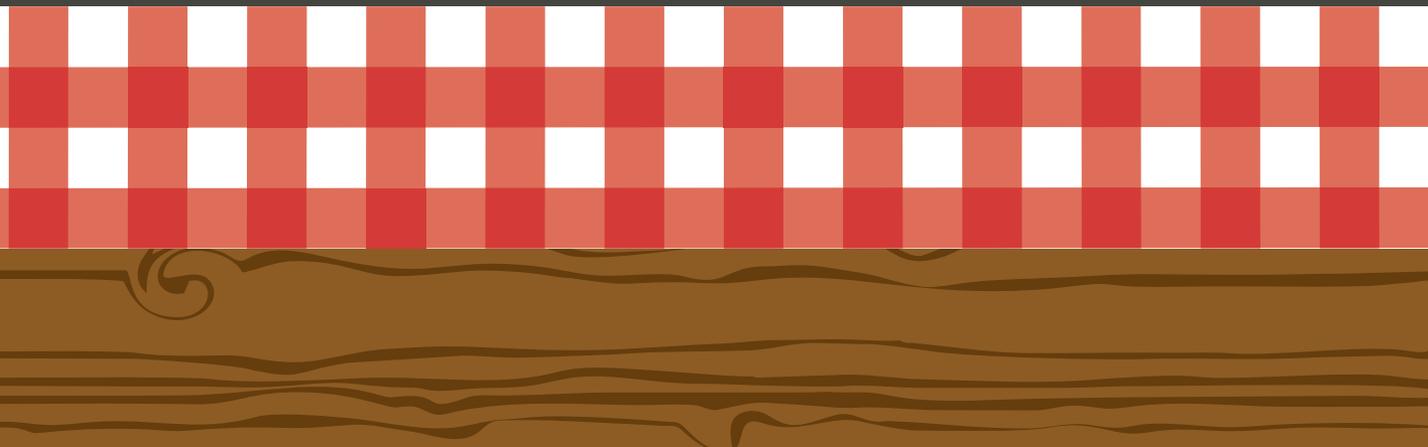
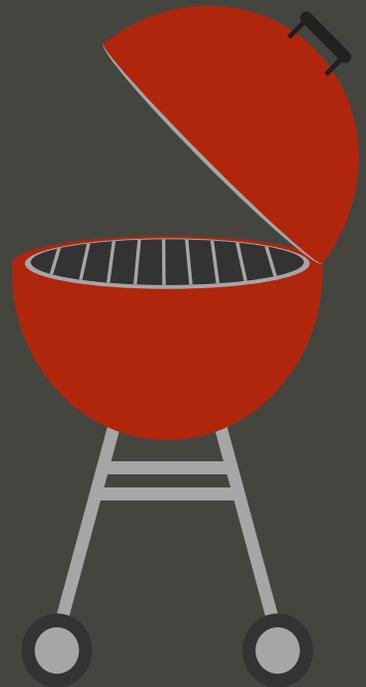
Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 10th to join us for our REC Annual Member Appreciation picnic. It will be held at the Richland Electric Cooperative warehouse at 30 E. Robb Road in Richland Center. The picnic gives us a chance to meet and visit with our members and is held in October to commemorate Cooperative Month.

Our menu includes grilled chicken breast sandwiches, pork, hotdogs, brats, potato salad, beans, cheese curds, apples and beverages. The food is prepared and served by REC directors and employees with picnic beginning at 11:00 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m.

Please reserve October 10th for the picnic and bring your family to join us for good food and friendship and allow us to say "thank you" for being a member of Richland Electric Cooperative! To help show the cooperative spirit, we are asking everyone attending the picnic to bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation for the Richland County Food Pantry.

Richland Electric Cooperative Warehouse

30 E Robb Rd, Richland Center
11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



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From the Manager...

Transition Energy Update

working together to find a way for Dairyland and its member cooperatives to take advantage of what would commonly be known as a bulk purchase. If successful this could mean substantial cost savings for all involved.

To date we have had moderate

interest in Transition Energy from members. If we were to build a 50 kilowatt system and all members that have expressed an interest participated we would be about 50% sold out. By driving the cost down, even if that means the project won't be in service until

June of 2016, we would expect to be able to build a larger project and we would also expect more member interest due to lower up-front cost.

If you have an interest in participating in our Transition Energy project, and haven't already done so, I encourage you to call our office at 608-647-3173 and ask to be put on our mailing list or simply send an email to transition@rec.coop with your name and address and we'll keep you up to date on the details. Also watch our website at www.rec.coop for further information.

First Call Telephone

Are you worried about your aging parents living alone? Richland Electric Cooperative (R.E.C.) offers the affordable First Call personal emergency response telephone system so your parents, grandparents or other loved ones can get help at home quickly and easily during an emergency. For people with health or mobility problems, or for anyone who lives alone, the First Call system provides reassurance that in the event of an emergency, help is just moments away.



By simply pushing the pendant button worn on the wrist or as a necklace, the First Call system automatically calls the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) in an emergency.

A professionally trained CRC service representative will be able to talk and listen through the high quality speakerphone that's built into the special MainStreet Messenger telephone. The CRC representative will be able to summon appropriate help, no matter what your need may be.

The First Call system from REC is currently installed in the homes and apartments of hundreds of area residents including Richland County and portions of Grant, Crawford and Vernon counties. Financial assistance for the First Call systems may be available through your local county Health & Human Services Dept. for qualified applicants. Contact them for complete qualification details.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



This service is for locating REC owned underground wires. There is no charge for this service. Use it before you do any digging. The number is:

1-800-242-8511 or 811

Even though the new 811 number has gone into effect, the old number is still in use for people in rural areas that may not be able to access 811.

Richland Electric Cooperative
2015

1027 N. Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 439; Richland Center, WI 53581

www.rec.coop

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Outages

Call (608) 647-3173; 24 Hours

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First Call Representatives

Doug Hill
Marilyn Hill



**Richland Electric
Cooperative**

Richland County Fair 2015

September 9th-15th

Mr. Ed's Magical Midway

Wrist Bands – \$18

Thursday 5pm – 9pm

Friday 1pm – 5pm and 6pm – 10pm

Saturday 12pm – 4pm

Sunday 1pm – 5pm

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