



2016 Richland Electric Cooperative

From the Manager... A Lot Of Moving Parts

As a kid I remember a life on the farm when my Dad would get me out of bed early in the morning to work on a project that until that morning I had no idea we were doing. Truth be told, he often didn't know until that morning either. There were always things to be done, some could be done on rainy days while others needed dry weather or some other variable had to fall into place. Things were simpler then, if you needed to do something you started by doing it.

Our efforts to build a solar generation project have proven there's a lot more to it than simply ordering some material and starting to build. Over the past year we've been learning by doing, about the various steps that all must fall into place before a single kilowatt hour of energy is produced. In an effort to gain economy of scale to keep the per unit price as low as possible we probably created more work, but it was beneficial. To get this project off the ground we have worked our way through land acquisition, permitting, financing, developer agreements, engineering, purchased power agreements, interconnection agreements, leases and last but not least construction planning and scheduling. When we announced the project in April of 2015 we knew there would be a learning curve and this project didn't disappoint.

Transition Energy has been a project we've undertaken without increasing any staffing or using any consultants—it has been done in-house with existing resources. It's on top of the usual work required to operate the electric cooperative business. A lot of people are surprised to hear we are total staff of 15 employees, more than half of which are in the field every day building power lines, maintaining electrical equipment and keeping the power flowing. Six people take care of the administration which includes



Transition Energy

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CALENDAR of events

May

30 Memorial Day

June

4 Ocoochapalooza

10-12 Wisconsin State High School Rodeo Finals

12 Richland County Dairy Breakfast

12 June Dairy Days / High School Rodeo Parade

24-25 GRABAAWR (Bicycle Tour of SW Wisconsin)

July

2 Thunderfest

4 Independence Day

21-24 Churning Dirt



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Youth Leadership Congress

UW–River Falls | July 13–15, 2016



The annual **WECA Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**.

Take the opportunity to...

- See **what makes the cooperative business model different and successful**, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with industry professionals.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.

This is a **by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference** that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Who should apply?

- High school students with family members who belong to a Wisconsin electric cooperative.
- Students active in their school and community.

What does it cost?

- \$265/student + \$170/cooperative
- All registration costs are covered by the generous support of electric cooperatives and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.
- Students should contact their electric co-op to apply for a full sponsorship.





Youth Leadership Congress

UW–River Falls | July 13–15, 2016

Sign up today!

Deadline is June 15, 2016. No refunds after July 1.

Students

- Contact your local electric co-op to request sponsorship and registration forms to attend the WECA Youth Leadership Congress.
- Complete the forms and return them to your sponsoring co-op. Check with your sponsor for deadline information.

For more information contact:

Trevor B. Clark
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Phone: (608) 647-3173



Questions?

Registration

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Program

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Cooperative Network
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The Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) has served as the statewide trade association for Wisconsin's rural electric cooperatives since 1936. It is a division of Cooperative Network, which represents the interests of cooperative businesses in Minnesota and Wisconsin. For more information about WECA, visit www.weca.coop. Learn about Cooperative Network at www.cooperativenetwork.coop.

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everything from keeping up on regulations, selecting and ordering material, communicating with members, billing, paying bills, payroll and employee benefits, government reporting and compliance, and much more.

We've got a great group of people working on your behalf on a variety of things each and every day. But beyond what happens inside the borders of your cooperative are a myriad of challenges. There are decisions made that we can't control but yet we must cope with the consequences. Over the past several years we've seen legislative and regulatory changes, including significant changes implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency, which have not only increased workload but also increased the expenses we incur. Even laws that people wouldn't have thought would make much of a difference for electric cooperatives- for example Dodd-Frank- are having an impact.

Despite the best efforts of everyone with hands-on operation of Richland Electric Cooperative, there are pieces and parts that create cost-pressures beyond what we can mitigate. It's not unlike many of the things our members experience every day; the cost is ultimately borne by the consumer. We recognize that fact. In your June invoice you will see that rates are 3.75% higher. None of this increase is the result of local operations, in fact because of local operations it's not 4.1%.

It's easy to look back to a simpler time and wish those days weren't over, but the reality is we have to make the best of the complexity that has been thrust upon us. Unlike those days of my childhood when we had that 'project' to get done—the kind of project where you were dog tired at the end of day- we now feel tired from the challenges of simply getting to the work at hand. It's just a lot more moving parts.

Electric Grills

Make your next barbeque grill purchase an electric grill. Electric grills are safe, efficient and easy to operate, just turn on the thermostat and grill away! Plus, food tastes great, whether it's your favorite meat, vegetable or fruit. Electric grills can often be used where gas and charcoal grills are not allowed, such as apartment buildings.

The models we carry include a deluxe cart, a table top that is excellent for campers and motor homes or a portable lock & go grill that can be converted to use charcoal.



2016 Richland Electric Cooperative

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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