



Do The
**SUMMER
SHIFT**

Make today's new habit part of tomorrow's lifestyle

Are there products you purchase or tasks you perform on certain days of the week because that was part of the routine when you were growing up? When was the last time you thought about how your habits today can affect the next generation?

This summer, consider a new habit—one for all ages; one that can be started without spending a dime, yet can help your local electric cooperative keep your electricity rates stable and affordable. It's called the Summer Shift.

The Summer Shift is not a new dance move. It means shifting flexible electricity use to the hours before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., during the months of June, July, and August. This helps Richland Electric Cooperative keep rates affordable by purchasing less power when electricity is in high demand and most expensive, thus “shifting” the demand for electricity to times of the day when electricity costs less to purchase. One of the best parts of the Summer Shift is that everyone can participate. How?

1. Set the thermostat to 78 degrees during the summer and raise it a few degrees when no one is home. Utilizing a programmable thermostat means one less thing to remember!
2. By starting a load of laundry after 7 p.m. (use cold water, if possible), a member could get a load (or two) of clothes washed and hung up to dry overnight before going to bed. Or, wash clothes first thing in the morning and use solar energy to dry your clothes outside on a clothes line during the day.



3. Start the dishwasher after 7 p.m., then open the door when the “dry” cycle begins to let dishes air dry overnight.
4. Shut off lights. Longer days have arrived, so utilize the extra daylight to delay turning on lights around the house.
5. Balance closing curtains to keep the home cool with using LED lights in lamps. Be sure to turn off lights when exiting a room.
6. Enjoy a picnic lunch and/or dinner at least once a week with sandwiches and other foods that do not require a microwave or stove to prepare.
7. Get out of the house! Check local community schedules to see if there are softball/baseball games, or concerts in the park. Is there a local library that offers fun summer activities during the week? Most of these events will be free and are great ways to connect with local community members.

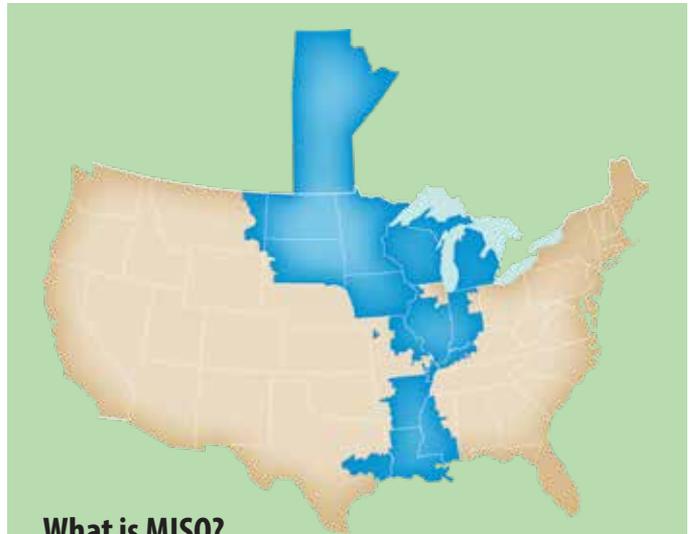
Enroll in a load management program

In addition to the tips above, residential members can participate in Richland Electric Cooperative’s load management program, which is a strategy utilized by our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, to automatically shift electricity use and reduce demand.

As part of the program, a load management receiver is installed on eligible electric appliances, such as water heaters, air conditioners, or (in the winter) electric heat units. During times of high electricity demand or when the price to purchase electricity is high, Dairyland will initiate a load control event,

and the receiver will automatically respond by curtailing electricity to the connected appliance for a period of time. In exchange for load control participation, members may be eligible for a reduced, off-peak electricity rate or bill credit.

Load control events are designed to achieve the benefits of demand reduction and energy shifting, while balancing the impact to household comfort and convenience. Event duration and frequency vary according to the capabilities of each enrolled appliance. Many households do not notice when a load control event is taking place, especially those members who are already taking a conservation-minded approach to energy use. More information is available by contacting your trusted energy advisors at Richland Electric Cooperative.



What is MISO?

Richland Electric is a distribution cooperative that receives power from Dairyland Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in La Crosse. REC is a member-owner of Dairyland, just like REC members are member-owners of their local electric cooperative. As a G&T cooperative, Dairyland is part of the MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.), which is one of seven regional transmission organizations (RTOs) in the United States. MISO was created in 1998 to provide safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power across all or parts of 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. Through MISO, Dairyland sells the power it generates and purchases power it needs for its members, including REC.

Employees in Dairyland’s System Operations Center balance members’ electricity needs against MISO’s pricing for electricity. If members can do the Summer Shift and move unnecessary electricity use to the hours before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., electricity demand during times of peak pricing within the MISO system can be reduced, thus keeping overall electricity rates stable and affordable.

More information on MISO can be found online at www.miso.org.



PEAK Alert Participation Options for C&I Members

Commercial, industrial, or agricultural members can also contribute to demand reduction, along with their residential counterparts, through the PEAK Alert load management program. PEAK Alert events are issued during the winter and summer seasons during critical time periods where the demand for electricity is expected to be at its peak for the season.

A limited number of times throughout summer (June through August) and winter (December through February), Dairyland Power Cooperative, Richland Electric Cooperative’s wholesale power provider, will call for a full load control—or PEAK Alert—event.

During a PEAK Alert, participating commercial and industrial members will either shut down or switch their electricity needs to a generator. Agricultural members can participate further through curtailment of irrigation pumps or grain-drying systems during this time.

Participation can be manual or automated. Contact Richland Electric Cooperative to learn more about available programs.

Together, local electric cooperative members can take control to help ensure their electricity remains safe, reliable, and affordable. 





Congratulations to the following students, who each earned a college scholarship from Richland Electric Cooperative:

Alicia Brisbois – Ithaca High School
Sterling Kleist – Richland Center High School
Scott Turgasen – Kickapoo High School
Courtney Schweiger – Kickapoo High School
Aaron Hatfield – Kickapoo High School
Danielle Felton – Kickapoo High School

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

There’s still time to sign up for Youth Leadership Congress

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. If you’re a high school student who would like to participate in this year’s event July 25–27 at UW-River Falls, please fill out the form below and return it Richland Electric Cooperative. For more information, contact REC at 608-647-3173 or www.rec.coop.

**Youth Leadership Congress
Participant Application Form**

UW–River Falls • July 25–27, 2018

Name _____

Sponsoring cooperative _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Gender _____ Grade entering in fall 2018 _____

Age at the time of camp _____

Parent email _____
(used to send links to online health forms)

Please return to Richland Electric Cooperative, 1027 North Jefferson St., Richland Center



SPRING THOUGHTS

As I walk toward a small field where I have planted oats, rye, and an assortment of other crops for the wildlife, I startle a wild turkey hen that sees me about the same time I see her. She is scratching in the newly planted oat field. Impatient. Not willing to wait for the oats to grow and ripen. She gallops off, like a long-legged racehorse, and then, not satisfied with the distance she is creating by running, flaps her enormous wings and lifts over the black locust patch to the west and disappears. Like a 747 airliner of the bird world, the giant turkey disappears over the treetops, her wings flapping effortlessly.

I stand on a hill above the pond and watch the wind play with the surface of the water, creating swirls and circles, sending little waves rolling up on the shore, washing the rocks before receding. I think about the wind and its art that we seldom stop to observe in our hurry to do what seems so important at the time, and usually isn't.

On an early May morning, as the sun begins to lift over the pines to the east, I listen to the birdsong. Robins and Orioles. Grosbeaks and song sparrows. Migrants who have returned and are talking it up. They celebrate spring with song and flashes of color. Building nests. Laying eggs. In a hurry after their winter rest in a warmer place.

After the sun has slipped away and the last robin has sung its evening song, I listen for the spring peepers, those tiny little frogs no longer than an inch or so, who sing in unison. To the unknowing, they sound like birds chirping. They sing from the shrubs and trees overhanging the water. They sing with such enthusiasm that their sound drowns out all early evening sound. They sing of spring, confirming its arrival.

On a day when I wanted to work outside and had bought garden seeds and made plans, I woke up to rain—

slow, steady, drippy, soaking rain. It's hard not being disappointed. But it's nature's way of reminding me who is in charge; who makes the big decisions. The rain puts me in my place.

Oh, how I enjoy a rainy spring night, when thunder rumbles in the distance and raindrops splatter against the bedroom window, making sleep come easy. I recall my father's words, "Rain in May is a barn full of hay," as raindrops drum against the kitchen window and the next day's outdoor plans are revised. The grass seems to leap out of the ground, with the moisture that has been slow in coming. And the hayfields, too, are greening up and growing, providing some promise for a good haying season.

On a warm day in May, I gaze at a long, tree-covered hillside to the west of the cabin. Birch, aspen, maple, and several varieties of oak grow on the slope. I am in awe of the display of greens from light to dark, from quiet to bold. The hill is a diversity of green, a palate of subtle shades. Nature is celebrating spring in the woods, before the dark and uniform greens of summer take over.



Go to www.jerryapps.com for more information about Jerry's writing and television work. Contact Jerry at jerryappsauthor@gmail.com with questions or comments.

Shannon Clark, Manager/CEO

1027 N. Jefferson St., P.O. Box 439, Richland Center, WI 53581
608-647-3173
www.rec.coop

Find us on Facebook 



**Richland Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors

Calvin Sebranek, President • Gerald Wendorf, Vice President • Judy Murphy, Secretary • Daniel Hillberry, Treasurer
Don Huffman, Jim Goplin, Tim Tiller, Steven Fuller, Jeff Monson