


Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

April 2025



**Richland Electric  
Cooperative**

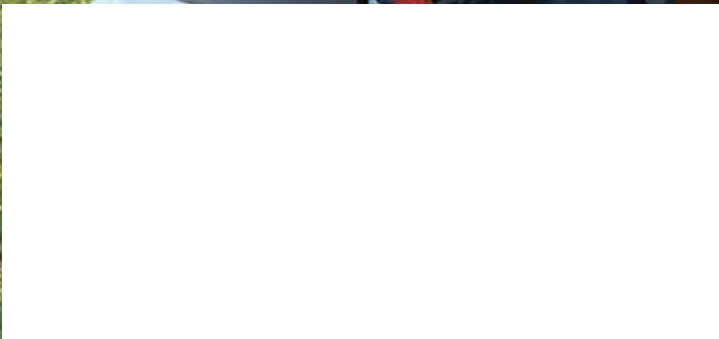
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## CELEBRATING LINEWORKERS

**COOPERATIVES BUILD A BETTER WORLD**

**PREP NOW FOR SUMMER SAVINGS**

**BANANA RECIPES**







# LINEWORKERS ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves, and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems, or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Richland Electric Cooperative's crews travel across our service territory, building, maintaining, and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Our lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the

local communities they serve.

At Richland Electric Cooperative, we are thankful for the hardworking crew that serves our members. The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



# Electric Cooperatives Bring Unique Value to Their



**E**lectric cooperatives stand out from other types of businesses because we are built and led by the communities we serve. As independent, not-for-profit electric utilities, we are owned and governed by our local members—not by outside shareholders or investors. That is a powerful differentiator.

Here are a few ways electric co-ops, like Richland Electric Cooperative, bring unique value to the local communities they serve:

- *We put people before profits. Co-ops are not-for-profit and provide at-cost electric service. Any excess revenue is returned to our consumer-members in the form of capital credits, typically as a bill credit or check.*

- *Community comes first. We live and work here too, and we care deeply about our local communities. That's why we engage in development and revitalization projects, sponsor local students for scholarships and youth programs, work with our local schools, and give back to local organizations to help our neighbors in need.*



- *Affordable, reliable power is our priority. REC purchases electricity from Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale energy partner. Dairyland is a generation and transmission cooperative formed by a group of electric co-ops in our state/region. This cooperative business structure allows us to pool local resources and provide electricity at a lower cost than if we purchased it from outside sources.*

As a new year begins, we're focused on our members' energy needs—not only for today but for the long haul. We're advocating for smarter energy policies that prioritize reliability and affordability for all. We recognize we must be inclusive of all energy sources, which is why we work closely with Dairyland to ensure the use of a diverse mix of sources to generate the electricity we provide to our members.

REC is working to power a brighter future through innovation that meets tomorrow's energy needs. Reliable, affordable electricity is more important than ever before, and our focus will continue to be in the best interest of the local communities we serve. To learn more about REC, visit [rec.coop](http://rec.coop).



# Are YOU Ready for Storm Season?

Spring is here, and like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms. I would encourage you to practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.

- *Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).*
- *Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.*
- *Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.*
- *Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.*
- *Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.*

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or an NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check our Facebook page for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at (608) 647-3173—this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At REC, we recommend that you make a plan today—because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

**CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG**

Safe Electricity.org

**Safety Tip**

Do not trim trees/branches within 10 feet of a power line or pole. Only certified line clearance tree trimmers are authorized to trim near power lines.

Safe Electricity.org





# CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

You're invited to participate in the  
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **April 30, 2025**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

- 1st place – Chromebook**
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**



Wisconsin  
Electric  
Cooperative  
Association

Posters should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches.


Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of the poster.

Contact your local electric cooperative or go to [www.weca.coop](http://www.weca.coop) for registration forms.



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[www.rec.coop](http://www.rec.coop) • Find us on Facebook 

**Trina Duffy-Brauer, Editor**



**Richland Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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