

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

June 2026



Richland Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SAVOR

JUNE'S DAIRY DAYS

SHINE ON

LOW- TO NO-COST WAYS
TO SAVE ENERGY

KIDS AND CRITTERS





BALANCING THE BURDEN OF PEAK POWER PRICING



Richland Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Amy, General Manager & CEO

Electricity powers everything we do. From the moment we wake up to the moment we go to bed, we rely on electricity to power our homes, power our appliances, charge devices, and fuel our businesses. Yet, the electric grid that delivers this essential resource faces increasing strain due to our growing dependence on electricity, aging infrastructure, and extreme weather events.

When these factors are combined with the rising demand—typically in the morning and evening—the grid is pushed to its limits. If the electricity demand surpasses the grid’s capacity to deliver, a significant risk of widespread power outages is imminent. Addressing the underlying challenges facing the electric grid, such as investing in infrastructure upgrades and promoting energy conservation measures, is crucial to mitigating the risk of blackouts and ensuring a reliable and resilient power grid.

Since 2020, an additional line item expressed as “Demand Charge” was added to the bill statements. Beginning on the July 1, 2026 bill, you will see a demand charge for June demand. It will correspond to the highest usage during a 15-minute period within that month at the amount of \$0.50

kW. The average household’s monthly demand is roughly 10 kW, which equates to approximately \$5.00 per month.

For example, the graphic compares two homes’ energy demand:

BEGINNING ON THE JULY 1, 2026 BILL, YOU WILL SEE A DEMAND CHARGE FOR JUNE DEMAND. IT WILL CORRESPOND TO THE HIGHEST USAGE DURING A 15-MINUTE PERIOD WITHIN THAT MONTH AT THE AMOUNT OF \$0.50 KW.

Home A had its highest demand for the month at 12 kW. Therefore, 12 kW multiplied by the demand charge of \$0.50, Home A would be billed \$6.00.

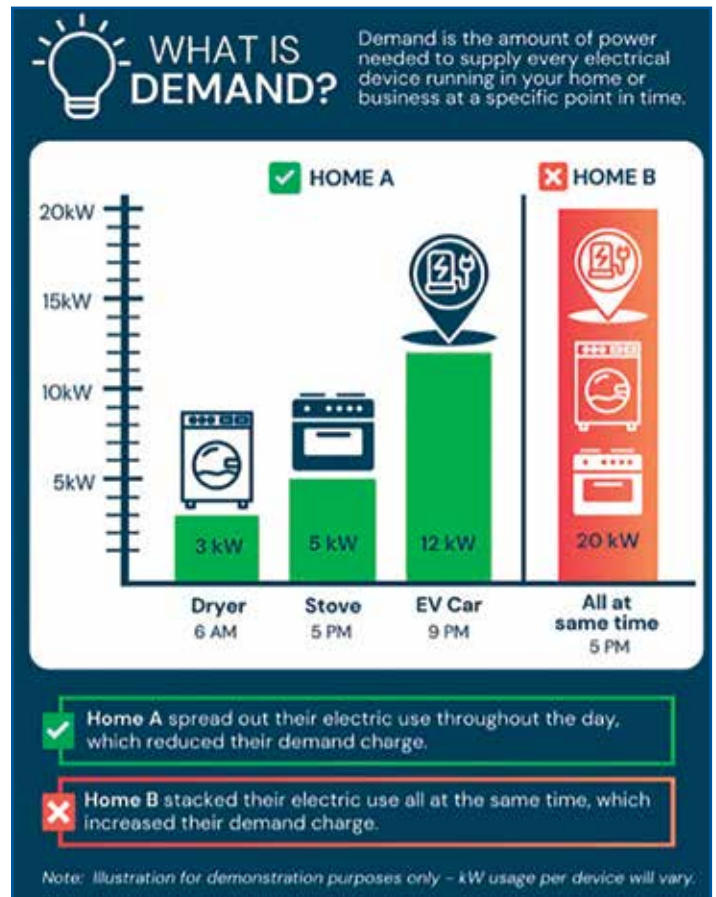
Home B had its highest demand for the month at 20 kW. Their charge would be 20 kW multiplied by the demand charge of \$0.50, Home B would be billed \$10.00.

This charge resets monthly and is designed to fairly allocate costs among those who use more power and put more strain on the grid. Additionally, this change aligns

with how we are billed by our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, ensuring accurate cost distribution among our members.

One of the ways you can help is by staggering the use of high-energy appliances throughout the day. For instance, like home A, rather than charging your electric vehicle, cooking, and doing laundry at the same time, spread these tasks out at different times. By spreading out your energy consumption, you can help ease the grid pressure and minimize demand charges on your bill.

As our reliance on electricity continues to grow, it’s crucial for us to actively participate in sustaining the grid that powers our daily lives. By being mindful of when and how we use electricity, we can help alleviate stress on the system and ensure a reliable supply for everyone.



REC 2026 Scholarship Recipients



Keegan
Ithaca High School



Allison
Ithaca High School



Abigail
Ithaca High School



Morgan
Kickapoo High School



Landon
Kickapoo High School



Mackenzie
Kickapoo High School



Gretjen
Riverdale High School



Valerie
Weston High School



Christian
Homeschool



Lainey
Riverdale High School



Macy
Riverdale High School



Madalynn
Richland Center
High School



Brady
Richland Center High School



Grace
Homeschool



Natalie
Richland Center High School



2026 CHARLES VAN SICKLE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The Federated Youth Foundation announced their recipients of the 2026 Charles Van Sickle Scholarship, awarding Christian W. with a \$5000 scholarship to support his pursuit of a legal career with a focus on cooperative law.

This prestigious scholarship honors the legacy of the late Charles Van Sickle, a renowned Wisconsin electric cooperative attorney and lobbyist. The scholarship is made possible through an endowment established in 2013 to support the next generation of legal leaders dedicated to the cooperative business model.



WECA President and CEO, Rob Richard, presents the Charles Van Sickle Scholarship to Christian.

ABOUT THE CHARLES VAN SICKLE SCHOLARSHIP

Established to honor a titan of the Wisconsin utility industry, the Charles Van Sickle Scholarship is awarded to students who show great promise in the legal field. The scholarship prioritizes applicants whose families have strong roots in cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance companies, fostering a connection to the cooperative community.

Candidates are judged on a strict set of criteria, including a minimum cumulative GPA, academic achievement, leadership, extracurricular activities, and personal/life goals.

Richland Electric Cooperative congratulates Christian and looks forward to his contributions to the cooperative movement.

2026 COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Richland Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Dairyland Power Cooperative, are proud to support the next generation of energy professionals through its specialized scholarship program. Designed for graduating high school seniors who demonstrate a strong commitment to their education and their local community while preparing for careers in the energy industry or Electrical Power Distribution. This award highlights the cooperative's commitment to fostering technical skills and community growth.

Richland Electric Cooperative is proud to announce Landon L. as the recipient of this year's cooperative scholarship. Landon stood out during the selection process, which evaluates candidates based on their academic achievement and community involvement. As a student seeking a career specifically related to the energy industry or Electrical Power Distribution, Landon embodies the cooperative's mission to support the next generation of utility professionals. Congratulations to Landon on this well-deserved achievement!



Two REC Linemen Reach Journeyman Status

The demanding world of electrical linework has two new certified experts. After four years of rigorous on-the-job training, classroom studies, and thousands of hours battling the elements, Nate and Mason have officially completed their apprenticeship program and earned the prestigious title of Journeyman Lineman.

The path from apprentice to journeyman is rarely easy, typically requiring 7,000 to 8,000 hours of training and schooling to master the skills needed to build, repair, and maintain the critical infrastructure that keeps the lights on.

For these two linemen, the accomplishment marks the culmination of an intense, years-long journey. Throughout their apprenticeship, they were tasked with learning everything from basic electrical theory to complex high-voltage live-line work.

Like any aspiring lineworker, Nate and Mason gained essential experience by working for Richland Electric Cooperative during their schooling, allowing them to apply classroom skills



Nate - Journeyman Lineman



Mason - Journeyman Lineman

to real-world scenarios. This proactive training is crucial, as the profession carries significant risks such as working beside high-speed traffic, navigating potential falls from poles, and handling energized lines during severe storms, making thorough, ongoing training essential to ensure they return home safely every night.

A BRIGHT FUTURE


Becoming a journeyman lineman is a major career milestone for these two. The newly certified journeymen are now equipped to work independently or lead crews, troubleshooting system problems and responding to emergency situations, to restore power safely and efficiently. They are now recognized as experts, ready to train the next generation of apprentices.

We want to congratulate Nate and Mason on their hard-earned success, and thank you for your commitment to keeping our community powered.



Amy Martin, Manager/CEO


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Trina Duffy-Brauer, Editor



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