

# PowerLines



## Polk-Burnett joins co-op partnership to develop utility-scale solar in rural Wisconsin by General Manager Steve Strohane

Nine Wisconsin electric cooperatives are working together to get the best volume pricing on solar energy for their members. They have formed a partnership with OneEnergy Renewables of Madison to develop 12 utility scale solar arrays across Wisconsin. Over the next two years, the partnership will add 22 megawatts of new solar generation. The arrays will generate enough electricity to power 4,000 homes for rural co-op members.

We are coordinating the timing of our local solar project with other cooperatives to get a better price and return on our investment for our members. The array on Polk-Burnett's system will be 2 MW; the total for all nine co-ops combined will be 22 MW.

Construction is set to begin in each co-op community in 2023 through 2024. The 12 solar arrays will be owned and operated by OneEnergy Renewables, and the co-ops will purchase the solar energy output at a fixed rate.

Cooperation among cooperatives is our guiding principle for this project. Wisconsin electric cooperatives are known for our work together to benefit members; for example, you often see co-ops assisting each other with storm recovery. This solar partnership will benefit our local membership by providing clean power at a long-term, stable cost.

### Restoring native prairie

Co-op solar arrays are dual-purpose spaces that provide renewable energy for members, as well as acres of important ecosystems. The ground under all 12 arrays will be restored with native prairie grasses and wildflowers, providing habitat for pollinators and healthy root systems to prevent soil erosion from wind and rain.

### OneEnergy Renewables brings experience and expertise

OneEnergy Renewables is a leading solar energy company in Wisconsin that offers expertise in site development, engineering, equipment purchasing, construction and operations. The Madison-based team has developed 15 projects across Wisconsin, and another 11 in adjacent states.

OneEnergy Project Manager Eric Udelhofen said, "We are excited to partner with electric cooperatives to help bring affordable, clean energy to rural Wisconsin. We look forward to delivering cost-effective and innovative solutions for your local communities."



### Wisconsin co-ops in the OneEnergy Renewable partnership are:

- Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative  
Cornell, 1.5 MW
- Clark Electric Cooperative  
Greenwood, 2 MW
- Dunn Energy Cooperative  
Menomonie, 3 MW
- Oakdale Electric Cooperative  
Tomah, 4.5 MW
- Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services  
Ellsworth, 2 MW
- Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative  
Centuria, 2 MW
- Price Electric Cooperative  
Phillips, 1.5 MW
- St. Croix Electric Cooperative  
Hammond, 4 MW
- Vernon Electric Cooperative  
Westby, 1.5 MW



### GEORGETOWN SOLAR 2023

Georgetown Solar will become the second utility scale solar project in Polk-Burnett's service area. The array will be constructed in Georgetown Township, about 10 miles east of our Centuria office. The 15-acre site will have 5,148 panels that operate on a tracking system to follow the path of the sun for maximum power generation. The 2 MW solar array will generate about 4,500,000 kWh of electricity annually, enough to power 375 homes.

Georgetown Solar not only adds more clean energy to the grid, but it will also relieve overloading at substations and help offset power market costs.

*Polk-Burnett supports a balanced transition to a lower carbon future. We're gradually investing in local solar to become less reliant on volatile energy markets and strengthen grid reliability.*

Polk-Burnett's first solar array, SunTuria Solar, was dedicated in 2017 behind the co-op office in Centuria. The 1.25 MW array generates power for about 200 homes. It is owned and operated by ENGIE North American, and the co-op purchases the solar energy output. *We invite school and community groups to join us for a tour!*

Watch for more about our local Georgetown Solar development this summer. We plan to break ground soon!



**Did you know that you can buy renewable energy from the co-op?**  
**100 kWh blocks are just 50¢ per block per month**  
Added to your monthly electric bill  
**Visit our website to buy one block or enough to power your whole house!**

**Good news! Members will see a PCA credit on electric bills this month**

Your **credit** is based on the energy you use and reflects our **lower** cost to purchase power on your behalf. A PCA is a Power Cost Adjustment on your electric bill. It can be a charge or a credit, depending on the power market. In late 2022, natural gas prices spiked and coal supply was limited, resulting in a higher cost of power. The good news this spring: The price of natural gas has fallen and instead of PCA charges, Polk-Burnett will receive a PCA **credit** from Dairyland Power Co-op, our wholesale power supplier. *We pass the PCA credit through to you.*  
*As a not-for-profit cooperative, our rates are based on actual costs; they are not set to generate profit.*

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Brought to you by your local co-op lineworkers.

*Celebrating  
Lineworker  
Appreciation Day*

*April 10, 2023*

#ThankALineworker



## 2023 co-op board election

Polk-Burnett will hold its 2023 board election in co-op districts 1, 2 and 3 this spring. All members in these districts have an opportunity to vote by mail or online for local board directors. If you are a member in district 1, 2 or 3, watch for your ballot in the mail April 28 and please vote. **Local board governance is one of the greatest advantages of your co-op membership.**



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## REBATES FOR CO-OP MEMBERS ON ENERGY EFFICIENT HEAT PUMPS

In the market for a new A/C unit? Looking to replace your old furnace? Take a look at heat pumps.

Today's electric heat pumps—air source and geothermal—provide high efficiency heating and cooling in an all-in-one system that can help lower your energy bills and improve comfort in your home.



EnergySense rebates can help co-op members make the switch to energy efficient heat pumps. Tax credits may also be available. Give us a call to compare heating and cooling options.

800-421-0283, x595 | polkburnett.com



## A clear right-of-way means safe, reliable power

"Polk-Burnett maintains the right-of-way under power lines to keep power flowing safely to your home. Right-of-way maintenance is intended to keep tree branches and brush away from high-voltage power lines. This ensures fewer blinks and outages, improved access for faster restoration times, and less risk of fire and life-threatening electrocution. Thank you for your cooperation." ~ Rick Kosloski, rights-of-way manager



## Annual herbicide notice for members

Polk-Burnett's mission is to provide members with safe, reliable power as efficiently as possible.

An important part of this mission is our right-of-way program, which includes herbicide application to control growth of woody stemmed vegetation under power lines.

In 2023, Polk-Burnett will continue its herbicide program to control vegetation in the electric right-of-way. Trained, licensed contractors will walk the rights-of-way with a backpack container and use a hand wand to apply a low-volume herbicide; only the leaves of woody stemmed vegetation are targeted. The application is scheduled to begin in June and will conclude in October.

If you choose to decline the use of herbicide, please complete and return form below by May 19 to:

Polk-Burnett, Rights-of-Way Department, 1001 State Road 35, Centuria, WI 54824.

If form is not received by May 19, 2023, herbicide application may occur on properties not currently in our database.

**IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THIS FORM OR CONTACT US IF:**

- 1) You are served by underground power lines. Polk-Burnett does not apply herbicide to underground lines.
- 2) You have already sent this form or contacted Polk-Burnett in the past to decline the use of herbicide.

Visit [polkburnett.com/herbicide-faqs](http://polkburnett.com/herbicide-faqs) to see if your property is already on the No Herbicide list.

Please do not apply herbicide on my property(s). I understand that if I have multiple properties where I do not want herbicide application, I must notify Polk-Burnett of all locations, so they can be properly identified. I understand that I must place signs (provided by Polk-Burnett on request) beneath the power lines to identify my property boundaries and that future right-of-way maintenance will be performed by mowing.

Save paper and postage: Properties can be added to the No Herbicide list on [polkburnett.com/herbicide-faqs](http://polkburnett.com/herbicide-faqs)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location Number or Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel ID Number from County Tax Record: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not know how the right-of-way on your property is maintained or if you have questions about herbicide application, call us at 800-421-0283, ext. 329. We're happy to help. To learn more about herbicide application, and view product labels and material safety data sheets, visit [polkburnett.com/right-way](http://polkburnett.com/right-way).

**IF YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL SURVEY, WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK TO HELP US IMPROVE.**

All members who submit a survey will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 bill credit.

Polk-Burnett is your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative. Reliable power with efficiency and extraordinary service.

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