

February 2023 PowerLines



Cost of wholesale power up 6.5%, members will see 5% increase on electric bills by General Manager Steve Stroshane

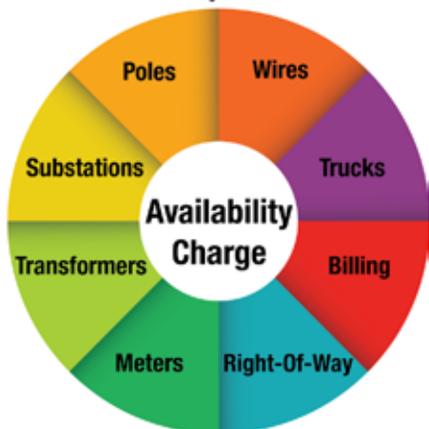
Electric rates will increase in March 2023 to cover the rising costs of building and maintaining our rural electric system, as well as purchasing electricity for our members. While rate increases are never welcome, we are working to reduce the impact on families by cutting expenses and controlling costs where we can without sacrificing reliability. The overall increase members will see on your bills will be approximately 5%, which is \$5 more per \$100.

Inflation drives up costs

The cost to deliver reliable power has been impacted by inflation, from wire and trucks to transformers and poles. Contractor services, such as right-of-way clearing, underground cable installation and underground utility locating for construction, have also increased drastically over the past 24 months. *These costs to deliver power are covered through your availability charge.*

For 2023, we will also see a 6.5% increase in our wholesale cost of power, as energy market prices rise to historical levels. This is mainly due to the high cost of natural gas, which is used to generate electricity. Coal prices and supply chain challenges are also factors. More than half of all revenue collected from members (58%) is used to purchase wholesale power. *This cost is covered through your kWh energy charge.*

The cost of making power available at your location.



Shared equally by all 21,000+ co-op members.

Your electric bill has two rate components

1. The **daily availability charge** covers your share of the cost to build and maintain power lines and the electric system that makes power available at your location. This charge is higher in rural areas because costs are shared by fewer members. Some call this the fixed charge.
2. The **kWh energy charge** covers the cost of electricity you use, including its generation and transmission from the power plant. Winter rates are lower October through May. Summer rates are higher June through September. Co-op members use less electricity during the coldest days of winter than they do on the hottest days of summer. As a result, power costs less during the winter than in the summer.

Years of improved reliability and service without a rate increase

For years, the co-op has invested millions of dollars into the electric system, improving reliability and member service without a rate increase. In 2016, the availability charge was raised, but the energy charge was lowered, resulting in less revenue for the co-op and savings for many members. In fact, Polk-Burnett has not needed to collect more revenue with a rate increase since 2010.

We will continue to deliver extraordinary service and value for your dollar

Current and new rates effective March 2023 are below. Your bill is impacted by rates, but also the weather and your energy use. Please call us at 800-421-0283, or visit our office or website if we can assist you with payment options, EnergySense rebates, SmartHub enrollment or other ways to manage your energy use and save money.

March 2023 Rate Increase	Current	New
Daily availability charge	\$1.18367	\$1.219
Winter kWh energy charge	10.1¢	10.71¢
Summer kWh energy charge	11.6¢	12.3¢
Off-peak rate		
Daily off-peak meter charge	16.433¢	16.433¢
Storage kWh energy rate	6.54¢	6.67¢
Dual fuel kWh energy rate	7.4¢	7.62¢
Interruptible kWh energy rate	9.21¢	9.49¢



Mark your calendar for 85th Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day
Friday, June 9 | Polk-Burnett, Centuria



American Customer Satisfaction Index™



Co-op receives high satisfaction score

Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op received an ACSI score of 85 out of 100 on our 2022 member survey. Members also shared more than 1,300 comments, 75% of them positive! The survey was emailed to 13,300 members in December. More than 3,000 surveys were returned for a 23% response rate. All who submitted a survey were entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit; 10 names were drawn and winners are posted on polkburnett.com.

Surveys give members a voice and help us learn what's working and what we can do better. Thank you, members! Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Members invited to run for co-op board

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative holds elections each spring for co-op board directors. This year, board positions in co-op districts 1, 2 and 3 will be on the ballot. Members residing in those districts have an opportunity to get involved in co-op decision making by running for a seat on the board. Applications for the 2023 board election are now being accepted from co-op members in districts 1, 2 and 3. The deadline to apply is March 3.

Co-op District 1 includes parts of Osceola, Alden and Garfield townships, and Farmington and Somerset townships. The incumbent director is Cindy Thorman of Osceola.

Co-op District 2 includes part of Osceola Township, and St. Croix Falls, Eureka, Sterling, Laketown and Milltown townships. The incumbent director is Mike Morris of Luck.

Co-op District 3 includes part of Garfield and Alden townships, and Lincoln, Blackbrook, Clear Lake, Vance Creek, Star Prairie, Forest and New Haven townships. The incumbent director is Ed Gullickson of Amery.

As a cooperative, Polk-Burnett is owned by its members and governed by a board of directors elected from its membership. Board directors serve a three-year term and attend monthly meetings to guide policy and budget decisions for Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative.

All co-op members in districts 1, 2 and 3 will have the opportunity to vote in the 2023 Polk-Burnett board election. Ballots will be mailed April 28 and members can vote by mail or online. Election results will be announced at the co-op's 85th annual meeting June 9.



Co-op members interested in running for a board position in districts 1, 2 and 3 may contact the general manager's office at Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, 800-421-0283, ext. 313, for an application packet. Learn more about Polk-Burnett's board of directors and see map of co-op districts on polkburnett.com.

Beat the peak relieves pressure on the grid and saves money

Our lives depend on electricity. If you look around your home, you likely have more devices that require electricity than ever before. As you would expect, demand for electricity changes throughout the day, with *winter peak times* in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes. What you may not know is that during these morning and evening *energy rush hours*, Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op pays more for electricity. In addition, demand for electricity is even greater when it's cold outside and heating systems run longer to warm our homes. During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage members to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning off non-essential lights and electronics, and waiting to use large appliances. When we all work together to reduce energy during peak hours, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way. *Visit our website or contact us to receive Peak Alerts by text, phone or email.*

ENROLL TO RECEIVE PEAK ALERTS

We'll send you a text, email and/or phone message asking you to **REDUCE ELECTRICITY** when demand and price are high.

Together We Save Money, Energy and our Environment.



Space heaters increase your electric bill and can be dangerous

It's cold outside! But remember, space heaters can be a fire hazard and can greatly increase your electric bill.

Space heaters are not meant to heat entire homes. Your best bet to improve warmth and comfort in your home is to add insulation, and seal doors and windows with caulk and weatherstripping.

Give us a call for assistance. We can help co-op members save energy and money with rebates on home performance tests and improvements, 800-421-0283, ext. 318.

If your home is already efficient and you want to add a little warmth to a room, a space heater may work for you. Only use space heaters for small spaces that you are occupying. Place heater on a level surface and keep away from children, pets and flammable materials.



A flexible payment option for co-op members.

Purchase electricity before you use it, the same way you buy groceries or gasoline. This gives you more flexibility and control over the use of electricity. It allows you to manage your budget and purchase electricity when it is convenient. You choose the payment method, how much and when to pay.

There are no additional costs. Same rates and monthly charges apply.

Considering solar for your home or business in 2023? Learn what you should know before you install

Shine On! SOLAR ENERGY SEMINAR

Thursday, March 16, 5:30 p.m.

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, 1001 State Road 35, Centuria

Guest Speaker: Kris Schmid, Legacy Solar

Home of SunTuria Solar. View energy tracker on polkburnett.com.

CO-OP MEMBERS: GET A REBATE ON SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS UP TO \$750 FOR QUALIFYING INSTALLATIONS

Contact us for details: 800-421-0283, x318 or polkburnett.com



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.

Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter.

800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

