

July 2022 Powerlines



Above: With attention-getting sparks, flames and bangs, linemen from Polk Burnett Electric Cooperative shared important lessons about power line safety with fourth graders at St. Croix Falls Elementary School in April. Be safe: stay away from power lines, green transformer boxes and all utility equipment!



Introducing Georgetown Solar

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

I'm excited to announce Georgetown Solar, a second utility-scale solar project for our service area.

The co-op is partnering with Seattle-based OneEnergy Renewables to develop a 15-acre solar site in Georgetown, about 10 miles east of our Centuria office.

Power Output and Ownership

The 2 MW solar array will generate about 4,500,000 kWh of electricity annually, enough to power 375 homes.

Georgetown Solar will be built, owned and operated by OneEnergy Renewables.

Polk-Burnett will purchase solar energy output from the array at a fixed rate for 25 years.

Solar energy will feed into our electric distribution system to benefit all co-op members.

The project provides both operational and financial benefits by generating some of our own power locally.

Location

Georgetown Solar is located next to the Bunyan Substation, at the intersection of Cty Rd I and H in the Town of Georgetown, Polk County. This site was selected to help alleviate summer overload at the Bunyan Substation.

The array has 5,148 panels that operate on a tracking system to follow the path of the sun for maximum power generation.

The ground under the panels will be restored as prairie for pollinator habitat, with about 30 plant species suited to the soil and geography.

Timing

We are coordinating the timing of this project with other Wisconsin co-ops to get a volume discount.

This co-op partnership will deliver clean, renewable energy at a fixed rate, not only reducing electricity from fossil fuels, but also providing long-term, stable energy prices for co-op members across Wisconsin.

We are in the planning stages and hope to break ground in early 2023. Once construction begins, we expect the site will be operational within six months, hopefully by late fall 2023.

We'll share more details as we progress.

SunTuria Solar

Our first utility-scale solar was dedicated in 2017. It sits on 10 acres behind our co-op office in Centuria. Like our new Georgetown project, SunTuria is owned and operated by a solar developer, and the co-op purchases solar energy output.

We invite you to see energy output and learn about tours for school and community groups on our website, polkburnett.com.



Both of our solar projects are part of a balanced strategy to diversify energy generation for a lower-carbon future. We support sustainable growth of alternative energy when it aligns with our mission for safe, reliable electricity at a competitive cost.

20 22 MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

FRI., AUG. 12, NOON - 3PM

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC CO-OP, CENTURIA

Pork Sliders, Cheese Curds, Root Beer Floats
Kettle Corn, Mini Donuts - FREE!



Drawing for
Electric
Battery-Powered
Yard Equipment

Giveaways
for
Members

Drawing for \$50
Electric Bill Credit
(10 winners)

\$5 DQ Card
for First 150 Kids
Co-op Coloring
Books

Kids Bucket Rides
with Linemen!

Try on Safety Gear

Osceola grads Burrows and Kremer are 2022 Youth Tour delegates



Hannah Burrows, *top*, and Lauren Kremer, *middle*, were chosen as Polk-Burnett delegates for the 2022 electric co-op Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. Both are 2022 graduates of Osceola High School, where they demonstrated a cooperative spirit in their school and community.

Burrows and Kremer were joined by Polk-Burnett's 2021 Youth Tour delegate, Nick Hahn of Amery, *bottom*, whose trip was deferred due to the pandemic.



More than 1,500 students from co-ops across the country attended the Youth Tour from June 17-22 to learn about cooperatives, the rural electric program, U.S. history, government and democracy. They met congressional leaders and toured Capitol Hill, national monuments, Arlington National Cemetery and Smithsonian Museums. The tour is hosted each summer by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA), with local sponsorship by Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative.



"Polk-Burnett is pleased to support youth leadership opportunities for the children of our members," said General Manager Steve Strohane. "These students represented our co-op and community well."

Polk-Burnett's Youth Tour program does not affect electric rates; it is funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that if not used for education, would be forfeited to the state. Members may donate future Capital Credits to Polk-Burnett's scholarship and Youth Tour fund. Visit polkburnett.com or call 800-421-0283, ext. 335.

We're ready for summer storm season. Are you?
Enroll to receive power outage text alerts on polkburnett.com. See Outage Center.
Report outages on SmartHub or 800-421-0283. We're ready to respond 24/7.



Propane prebuy contracts available late July

- ✓ Prebuy contracts lock in a price on a fixed number of gallons.
- ✓ Minimum prebuy purchase is 300 gallons with payment due August 19.
- ✓ If contracting isn't an option, sign up for our budget plan by August 19.

800-421-0283, ext. 378 or 411

Online accounts are available! View past deliveries, account balance and make payments. Sign up on myfuelaccount.com/polkburnett.

Power cost adjustment on July electric bills

Members of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will see a power cost adjustment (PCA) on July bills.

In April through December 2021, we passed through a PCA credit, when the power supply market was favorable.

This year, in April and now again in July, we are passing through a PCA charge to cover the higher cost of wholesale power. The PCA is based on your energy use.

We are seeing higher power costs this year because natural gas and coal prices are higher. (Natural gas and coal are used to generate electricity.) Transmission lines to move renewable energy where it is needed are also congested.

We are working with Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, to minimize increases, however, future PCAs may be necessary.

To learn more, see PCA on polkburnett.com.

You can help cut energy costs and carbon

BEAT THE PEAK ALERT

Do The **SUMMER SHIFT**

REDUCE ELECTRICITY WHEN DEMAND & COSTS ARE HIGH
 WEEKDAYS, 11 AM TO 7 PM

ENROLL TO RECEIVE BEAT THE PEAK ALERTS
 BY PHONE, EMAIL OR TEXT ASKING YOU TO CONSERVE.

SWITCH TO COLD WATER.
IN YOUR WASHING MACHINE

90% OF THE ENERGY USED GOES TOWARD HEATING WATER.

STAY BACK. STAY SAFE.

Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.

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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800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



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