

June 2022 Powerlines

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This is why a clear right-of-way is important

by General Manager Steve Strohane

We all love trees for their beauty, shade and habitat, but this picture, *top right*, is a reminder that trees can cause outages and safety hazards when they're too close to power lines. This was taken during an ice storm last March, when a tree fell on the power line south of Trollhaugen. It caused an outage for 282 co-op members. Lineman couldn't access the area with a bucket truck, so they hiked in with a chainsaw to repair damage and restore power.

Our right-of-way clearing program is an investment that keeps trees away from power lines to help prevent forest fires and power outages, and keep everyone safe.

We thank our tree crew, and our members for your support!

It's good to see co-op workers on your property

In addition to right-of-way clearing, Polk-Burnett employees and contractors also work throughout our service territory inspecting equipment. *At bottom right*, inspectors are testing power poles for damage. Poles that are not up to standards are replaced to ensure reliable electricity for co-op members. *Polk-Burnett maintains 38,000 power poles across our system!*

It's good to see co-op workers in the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. Our efforts to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors mean we must cross your property from time to time. You may see us:

- ✓ Making routine repairs
- ✓ Replacing meters
- ✓ Trimming trees and brush
- ✓ Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- ✓ Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- ✓ Inspecting power poles, lines, transformer boxes and equipment

All field work, except emergency power restoration, is conducted during normal working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. If you have concerns about our work, contact us at 800-421-0283. We appreciate your cooperation.



Do the Summer Shift and Beat the Peak to cut cost and carbon



Do you know that Polk-Burnett does not own power plants? We buy electricity and distribute it to you, our 21,000+ co-op members. We're working to keep our wholesale cost of power from rising, and you can help:

Do the Summer Shift: Shift your electricity use away from the hours when regional grid demand and cost are highest. Reduce electricity 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays this summer.

Enroll in Beat the Peak: We'll send you a peak alert by text, email or phone asking you to reduce electricity when demand and cost are high. Participants receive about nine summer peak alerts and three winter peak alerts. Enroll on polkburnett.com or 800-421-0283.

Together we save: When you reduce electricity during peak times:

- ☀ You reduce the wholesale cost of electricity, which helps hold rates down.
- ☀ You reduce the need for power generation, which cuts carbon and is good for the environment.

Time for a tune up?

Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home cooling system.



A/C notice for members in load management

Power to air conditioners controlled by the co-op's load management program will be cycled every 15 minutes during peak demand hours, from 2 to 6 p.m. or 6 to 10:30 p.m.

This reduces the co-op's cost for peak-demand power, which benefits all members.

Historically, control periods are on the hottest days of the summer; however, they are based on electricity demand throughout the entire Midwest region and may occur when local weather conditions are not extreme.

Energy Saver: Regularly replacing your AC filter helps maintain the system and saves energy.



Summer rate in effect June to September

Your summer rate is 11.6¢ per kWh, for invoice dates June to September.

Your winter rate is 10.1¢ per kWh, for invoice dates October to May.

Rates reflect actual cost of power: Polk-Burnett pays a higher summer rate for wholesale power because members use more electricity during the hot days of summer, making demand and costs rise.

For help lowering your energy costs, visit polkburnett.com or call member services, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.

Operation Round Up helps teach kids about gardening



Polk-Burnett's Operation Round Up awarded \$14,950 to 16 nonprofits serving our community in April, including the Luck school garden, where students learn lessons about planting, watering and growing plants in the spring, and harvesting produce when they return to school in the fall. School garden produce is donated to the local food shelf and enjoyed in the school cafeteria for the summer meal program.

Spring grants: \$14,950 awarded to 16 worthy programs

1. Village of Siren Ballpark, \$1,000, beverage cooler for concession stand
2. Sterling, Eureka, Laketown Historical Society, \$1,000, new projector for Cushing Community Center
3. Amery Wrestling Club, \$500, tournaments, equipment, club expenses
4. Restorative Justice of NW Wisconsin, \$1,000, program support
5. Polk County Dept of Children and Families, \$1,000, gas cards for families
6. Quarter Moon Acres Equine Therapy Center, \$1,000, new saddles
7. Luck School Garden, \$1,000, composite boards for raised garden beds
8. Frederic Community Education, \$450, pickleball equipment
9. Gift of Warm Clothing, \$1,500, boots, coats, snow pants and winter clothes for local families
10. Amery Area Community Center, \$1,000, defibrillator
11. Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity, \$1,000, building supplies, tools and equipment
12. Siren Trap Team, \$500, team expenses, entry fees, shells
13. Siren School AODA Prevention, \$1,000, guest speaker on being kind, inclusive and confident
14. Home and Away Ministries, \$1,000, heating assistance for Ruby's Retreat Center in Luck
15. Farm, Feral & Stray, \$1,000, live traps for mobile spay/neuter clinics
16. Frederic Farmers Market, \$1,000, signage and expenses to promote market

Learn how your nonprofit can apply on polkburnett.com



THANK YOU FOR ROUNDING UP. YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



Summer fill special for propane customers

Polk-Burnett Propane offers a summer fill special for customers whose tanks are 30% or less full. Give us a call in June for special pricing and place your order, 800-421-0283, ext. 378 or 411.

Watch for pre-buy contracts and budget plans in your mail the end of July.

You may have unclaimed Capital Credits

Polk-Burnett is looking for members who have unclaimed Capital Credit checks issued in 2017 and 2018.

The checks were returned by the post office as undeliverable, were never cashed, or there was no valid address to send funds to. If these members are not located by July 8, 2022, the unclaimed funds will be forfeited to the Federated Youth Foundation and used by the cooperative for educational or charitable purposes as directed by our bylaws.

See list of unclaimed Capital Credits on polkburnett.com. To claim, contact the co-op, 800-421-0283, ext. 335.

Laundry Tip:

Wash full loads to conserve energy.



Do you know your washing machine uses about the same amount of energy no matter the size of the load? Fill it up to maximize efficiency!

We're ready for summer storm season, are you?

If your power goes out, remember to check our outage map and sign up for outage text alerts.

polkburnett.com/outage-center

CHECK THE OUTAGE MAP FOR UPDATES.

Summer storms can be unpredictable, but as a member of Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op, you can feel confident knowing that we're standing by, ready to restore your power as quickly and safely as possible, while keeping you informed. Report outages on SmartHub or 800-421-0283.

Co-op rebates on high efficiency 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.

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. We're happy to help you compare heating and cooling options.

800-421-0283, ext. 595 | polkburnett.com



Member Appreciation Day is Friday, August 12, Noon - 3 p.m.

Co-op members, join us at Polk-Burnett in Centuria for food trucks, music, giveaways and prize drawings! Kids, ride in a bucket truck with co-op linemen and try on safety gear. Meet Solar Sam. Free fun for all ages!

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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