

POWERLINES

March 2026



Our goal is to restore power
safely and quickly,
while keeping you informed.

Lineworkers brave bitter cold to restore power overnight

Celebrating quick response, safety, community support and resilience by General Manager Steve Stroshane

The power went out for about 200 co-op members northeast of Webster January 22. With windchills plummeting to -30 degrees, it was one of the coldest nights of the year. No one likes power outages, especially on a night like this! We know this was a hardship and safety concern for everyone.

Lineworkers responded immediately to the outage at 8:30 p.m. and found a broken power pole on County Road C near Ham Lake. Pictured above, the three-phase line, crossarms and pole had extensive damage that required complicated repairs. Our crew worked in teams through the night in dark, bitter cold conditions, taking turns between work in the bucket and warming up in their trucks. They safely restored power to most members by 11:30 p.m., with the final 49 members on Sweger Road back online by 8:30 a.m. the following morning.

I'd like to thank our crew for their safe and swift action, and all of YOU for your kind words on Facebook, by phone and email. Your support is always appreciated and inspires our work!

Stay informed: Outage text alerts ensure member safety during storms

To help ease member concerns during outages, we provide outage text alerts whenever the power goes out. **Members with a cell number on your account are automatically enrolled in outage texting.** You'll receive notifications when the power goes out and when it is restored, along with the information on the cause and estimated restoration time whenever possible.



Prepare for March storms and power outages

Co-op crews work to strengthen the grid and minimize power outages year-round, but extreme weather like wind, ice and lightning can damage power lines. If your lights go out:

- ⚡ Check circuit breakers and fuses, and look to see if your neighbors have power.
- ⚡ Report outages 24/7 on SmartHub or 800-421-0283.
- ⚡ View our live outage map on polkburnett.com and our Facebook page for updates about major outages.
- ⚡ Stay away from fallen power lines and trees on lines. Always assume lines are live and dangerous! Report these hazards.
- ⚡ Have a plan for extended outages.

Make sure your account information includes an up-to-date cell number to receive outage text alerts. You can update your account on SmartHub, polkburnett.com or give us a call, 800-421-0283, ext. 335. We're happy to help!

Dispose of your electronics safely and responsibly!

ELECTRONICS RECYCLE DAY FREE FOR CO-OP MEMBERS

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 10AM - 2PM
POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
1001 STATE RD 35, CENTURIA

All eligible items accepted free of charge and responsibly recycled by Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations.

Bring your electric bill as proof of membership, either paper bill or digital on SmartHub.

HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONICS

Box fans and air circulator fans
Calculators
Cameras
Cable/Satellite receivers
CD players and boom boxes
Cellphones
Christmas lights
Curling irons and flat irons
Desktop Computers
Electronic exercise equipment
Hair dryers
Humidifiers
Irons
Keyboards/Mice
Label makers
Laptops
Motion detectors
Paper shredder
Power cords
Printers, fax machines
Radios and clock/radio combos

OUTDOOR ELECTRONICS

Car batteries
Electric power tools
Electric weed trimmers
Electric lawn mowers
Leaf blowers
Electric tillers
Shop vacs and garage vacs

Record players
Sewing machines
Space heaters
Tablets and E-readers
TVs and monitors
Typewriters
Vacuum cleaners
VHS tapes, DVDs, cassette tapes
VCR-DVD-DVR players
Video game consoles

KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Air fryers and crock pots
Blenders and mixers
Electric can openers
Microwaves
Coffee makers and electric tea kettles
Electric grills and griddles
Food dehydrators and food processors
Pizza makers
Toasters and toaster ovens
Waffle makers

NOT ACCEPTED

Large appliances, loose batteries, lamps, bulbs, medical waste, hazardous waste, liquids, vape pens, smoke detectors, ballasts, electronics not on this list.

This event is hosted in partnership with Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations and Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative.





\$13,992 to 14 local nonprofits this winter, thanks to YOU

Thanks to your generosity, **Operation Round Up** donated \$13,992 to 14 local nonprofits in January, including \$1,500 to Yellow Lake Food Distribution in Webster and \$1,917 to Golden Age Manor in Amery.

Thank you! Funding for Operation Round Up is made possible by co-op members who round up their monthly electric bill.

See how nonprofits are using grant funds to improve our local quality of life and learn how your nonprofit can apply on polkburnett.com; scan QR code.

Installing new electric service this spring or summer?



If you are building this year and need electricity installed or upgraded, we encourage you and your electrician to work closely with us. **Members can find a new service checklist and required forms on polkburnett.com or 800-421-0283, ext. 389.** Once we have your paperwork, an engineering technician will review your project and contact you. We look forward to assisting you with new electric service for all the things that power your life.

It's dangerous to build or landscape near utility equipment

Are you planning spring projects? Warning: Gardens, landscaping, decks, fences and buildings are a safety hazard if built too close to underground transformer boxes, power poles and other utility equipment:

- ⚡ Life-threatening contact with high-voltage equipment can occur when you build too close to electrical equipment.
- ⚡ Obstructions limit access for workers who maintain and repair power lines.
- ⚡ Structures and landscaping close to utility equipment can be damaged when crews and trucks need access to work on equipment.

All structures and landscaping should be a safe distance from utilities to prevent damage. For your safety, keep away from electrical equipment. Thank you!



A clear right-of-way is a priority for safe, reliable power

Polk-Burnett is responsible for maintaining 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 reduces blinks and outages, improves access for quicker outage repairs, and reduces risk of fire and life-threatening electrocution. We notify members with a postcard or email prior to work on your property. Thank you for your cooperation



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 2026, 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 APRIL 30 to:

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

If form is not received by April 30, 2026, 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 areas with 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 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; scan QR code.



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. 389. 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.

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.

Follow us on Facebook. Sign up for our SmartHub app.

800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



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