

November 2025

POWERLINES



Helping co-op youth make their mark

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

At Polk-Burnett, we're fortunate to work with students and support our next generation of leaders through our co-op scholarship and Youth Tour programs. I'm sure most of you are familiar with our scholarship program, but Youth Tour while just as impactful, is a bit of an unsung hero.

The Electric Co-op Youth Tour gives students an opportunity to shape the course of their life. Participants say the experience is life-changing, and they gain newfound confidence to make their mark on the world around them.

Each summer, Polk-Burnett sponsors high school seniors to represent our co-op and community at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. This once-in-a lifetime experience is more than sightseeing in our nation's Capital. It's about preparing co-op youth for the future, helping them grow as leaders, discovering the power of their voice and building connections that last far beyond the trip.

Our 2025 Wisconsin delegation, pictured above, included local students Lily Kasper and Christine Pickard. I invite you to read their story from the July 2025 Powerlines on polkburnett.com/youth-tour.

Our next Youth Tour takes place in June 2026, where two new Polk-Burnett delegates will join more than 1,800 students from across the country in Washington, D.C. During the trip, students will:

- ✓ Develop leadership skills and learn about rural electric cooperatives with hands-on experiences and workshops.
- ✓ Strengthen their resume with a nationally recognized program that stands out to colleges and employers.
- ✓ Connect with peers from Wisconsin and across the country, building friendships that last long after the trip.
- ✓ Meet with elected officials and learn how government impacts them and their local community.
- ✓ Experience history by visiting national monuments, Arlington National Cemetery and Smithsonian Museums.

Youth Tour is hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association. It was inspired by then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson when he addressed the 1957 NRECA Annual Meeting in Chicago as a way for rural youth to experience U.S. democracy in action.

It's with great pride that Polk-Burnett has sponsored more than 40 Youth Tour delegates over the past four decades, covering all expenses for local students, including flights, lodging and meals. Our co-op Youth Tour and scholarship programs are funded with unclaimed Capital Credit that would be forfeited to the state if not used for education, and by the generosity of members who donate their Capital Credits. Each year, thousands of dollars are awarded to children of co-op members.

*Do you know you can donate your future Capital Credits to the Youth Tour and scholarship fund?
It's an excellent opportunity to support education for students of co-op member families.*

Please contact us for assistance, 800-421-0283, ext. 335, or enroll on our website. ► Thank you!



Class of 2026: Apply for Youth Tour and a co-op scholarship up to \$1,500

We invite the sons and daughters of active co-op members in the Class of 2026 to apply for our scholarship and Youth Tour programs. When applying for a scholarship, students may also upload an optional Youth Tour essay for the chance to embark on a life-changing journey. The deadline to apply is January 1.

Please help us spread the word about this incredible opportunity. Encourage co-op students in the Class of 2026 to apply for Youth Tour and help them make their mark on our world!



\$1.85 million returned to co-op members, see your November bill for Capital Credits

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative returned \$1,856,567 to 17,917 active members and 5,677 former members in November 2025.

Instead of returning profits to distant stockholders, Polk-Burnett returns Capital Credits to the people we serve.

If you bought power from Polk-Burnett in 2002-2003 and/or 2022, you'll get money back! Your Capital Credits are based on electricity purchased those years.

As a co-op, Polk-Burnett operates at cost. Any revenue left after expenses is returned to members. Capital Credits are a direct benefit of your co-op membership!

Make sure you receive your Capital Credits Keep contact information up to date

You can make sure you receive your Capital Credits and the best service from Polk-Burnett by keeping your account information current, especially your phone number. In addition to returning Capital Credits, there may also be times when we need to contact you about a power outage at your location.

If we have your cell number, we will send you an outage text if your electricity goes out.

Update contact information on SmartHub, by phone, 800-421-0283, ext. 335, or on our website. ► Thank you!



How are we doing? We're conducting a member survey to ask for your feedback about our performance. If you are contacted via email in early December, please share your thoughts. All who participate will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit; 10 will be awarded. Thank you!



Unclaimed Capital Credits go to scholarships for co-op kids

Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op will award scholarships up to \$1,500 to high school seniors whose parents are active members of the electric co-op. These scholarships do not affect your electric rates; they are funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that otherwise would be forfeited to the state, and by the generosity of co-op members who donate Capital Credits.

Since 1987, Polk-Burnett has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships. Giving back to the community and youth is part of our mission as a cooperative. If you know co-op students graduating in the Class of 2026, please invite them to apply on polkburnett.com.

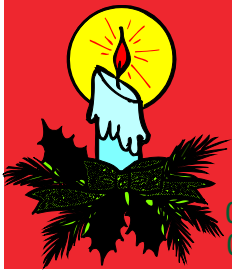
2025 Winter Load Management Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) is Wednesday, November 19.

Participating members should be familiar with control and ensure backup heat functions properly.

Questions? Contact member services, 800-421-0283, ext. 318. Thank you.

Spirit of giving continues, join us for our 18th Holiday Gift Drive

As the holiday season approaches, we're reminded that this is truly a season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another, which are cooperative principles that guide us all year long. We're not just here to keep the lights on, but to make life better for the communities we serve. Our gift drive makes the holiday bright for local kids. Please join us! ~ *General Manager Steve Stroshane*



Help make the season bright for local kids 18th Annual Polk-Burnett Holiday Gift Drive

Donate **NEW, UNWRAPPED** gifts

NOV. 24 - DEC. 8, 2025 | Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Gifts collected at our Centuria office are distributed by Operation Christmas in Polk County.
Gifts collected at our Siren office are distributed by Interfaith Caregivers in Burnett County.



Give the gift of power and light this holiday season

Gift certificates from Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op make great gifts for Christmas, birthdays and all special occasions. They can be purchased in any amount at co-op offices in Centuria and Siren.



100-gallon Marathon water heaters just \$950 on load control

When you install on our off-peak rate, it's one of the most cost-effective ways to heat water in your home!

Costs no more to operate than a 50-gallon tank.
Durable and built to last with corrosion-free tank.

Learn more on polkburnett.com or call us at 800-421-0283, ext. 318.



Save money with winter energy savers

Winter typically brings some of the highest energy bills of the year. Low-cost home upgrades, like weatherstripping around exterior doors and caulking around drafty windows can help.



If you're not sure where to start, contact us for information about a home performance test. We offer member rebates!

More ways to save this winter:

✓ Switch to LED holiday lights. They use less energy than incandescent lights, plus they are shatterproof and cool to the touch.

✓ Use small appliances for holiday cooking. Microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers use less energy than your stovetop or oven.

Clip and Save

Phone extension directory

Dial 800-421-0283, then enter extension number:

Billing, Electric Accounts, 335
Board of Directors, 313
Capital Credits, 335
EV Chargers, 595
Evergreen Renewable Blocks, 595
Heating & Cooling, 595
Load Management, Off-Peak, 595
Member Services, 595
New Service, Construction, 389
News Media, 333
Operations, 389
Operation Round Up, 333
Power Outage, 1
Propane, 378/411
Rebates, 318
Right-of-Way, 329
Scholarships & Youth Tour, 333
Security Lights, 389
SmartHub, 335
Solar Installation, 595
Water Heaters, 595



Hunters, be safe, stay away from utilities

Do not shoot at power lines or utility equipment.

Never place deer stands or decoys on utility poles or equipment.

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



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

