



POWERLINES

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative Oct. 2021



Powering economic opportunity in our community

by General Manager Steve Strohane

Did you know that Polk-Burnett is active in local economic development organizations and partners on projects that benefit the communities we serve? We believe economic development leads to:

- ✓ Capital investment in our community.
- ✓ Workforce development, and creation and retention of good local jobs.
- ✓ An improved quality of life for all who live and work here.

Inviting people to live and work here

I'd like to introduce you to a new website launched by the Polk County Economic Development Corp. called ProsperInPolk.com. The site invites people to build a better life in Polk County, to live and work here, and enjoy the special lifestyle that we all love so much. I encourage you to share ProsperInPolk.com with friends and family, especially those who might like to move their family or business here from the Twin Cities. Retaining and attracting a skilled workforce, creating good paying jobs, and supporting housing and commercial development across Polk and Burnett counties strengthens our community and benefits all of us. An improved local economy is a rising tide that lifts all boats!

Supporting safety and local fire stations

Because we are a cooperative, Polk-Burnett is eligible for loan funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support rural economic development. USDA loans are awarded to the co-op and then passed through to community partners, where they are paid back in full and do not affect electricity rates for our members. Over the past decade, we have been approved for three USDA pass-through loans to help build new fire stations in three local communities. The loans are zero-percent interest and provide considerable cost savings for taxpayers over the life of the loan. We are proud to be a part of the following projects that improve safety and the quality of life for local residents:

- 2013: \$300,000, Grantsburg Fire Association, Grantsburg Fire Hall
- 2019: \$694,880, Allied Emergency Services, Alden Fire Hall
- 2021: \$180,000, Town of Lorain, Lorain Fire Hall



While the recent loans have been to local fire associations to support our rural communities, the loans are open to all businesses looking to expand or relocate in our service area. Give us a call or visit our website to learn more.

As we celebrate National Co-op Month, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you, as well as area businesses and community organizations. Co-ops exist to serve a local need. We're proud to power your life and economic development in our beautiful part of Wisconsin.



FREE SWAG! For members during Co-op Month in October
Plus, co-op coloring books for kids!

VISIT US IN CENTURIA OR SIREN DURING BUSINESS HOURS. One item per member. Giveaway subject to change.

Electric co-ops were local before it was cool

All co-ops exist to meet a community need. We're proud to be homegrown! Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative was established in 1938 by a group of neighbors who banded together so everyone who wanted electricity could get it. Before that, electricity wasn't available to families and farms outside of densely populated villages. These pioneers worked together for the benefit of the whole community. The newly established electric grid and cooperative helped power economic opportunity in our community. Today, the employees of Polk-Burnett continue to work to make our corner of the world a better place. We are still owned and governed by the local members we serve, and as a co-op, we continue to be motivated by service that benefits the community, rather than profits.



Happy Co-op Month!

- ✓ Proud to provide reliable electricity for all the things you love.
- ✓ Investing in a sustainable energy future for our community.
- ✓ Focused on members and what matters most to our community.

**During co-op month, we thank you, our members.
It is our pleasure to serve you.**



**Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.**

October is
National Co-op Month



Lower winter rates begin October 1

As a co-op, we charge the actual cost and pass the winter savings on to you.

- * The winter rate is 10.1¢ per kWh; winter billing dates are October through May. Winter rates are lower because demand and wholesale power costs are lower.
- * The summer rate is 11.6¢ per kWh; summer billing dates are June through September. Summer rates are higher because demand and wholesale power costs are higher.

THANK YOU to all who attended Member Appreciation Day August 13, and CONGRATULATIONS to the following members, whose names were randomly drawn for a \$50 electric bill credit:

Dawn Western, Osceola; Ronald & Sharon Pearson, Frederic; Corby Manes, Comstock; Joel Anderson, Amery
Denise Skjervén, Osceola; Linda Glenn, Luck; Jeff Moats, Frederic; Brenda Westling, Siren;
Marna Johnson, Webster; Cammie Verdeja, Somerset.

Special member price on Marathon® water heaters

When you participate in Polk-Burnett's load control program

Co-op member price: **\$750** plus tax

For new home construction or gas replacement, **\$250** plus tax

A 100-gallon Marathon® water heater is an investment that pays for itself in energy savings, and when you install it on the off-peak rate, it's one of the most cost-effective ways to heat water for your home:

- * Marathon® water heaters have long-lasting tanks that will not rust or corrode; they are guaranteed not to leak for as long as you own your home (residential use).
- * Marathon® 100-gallon water heaters are highly efficient and cost no more to operate than a standard 50-gallon tank.
- * 2.5 inches of polyurethane insulation reduces heat loss for greater energy efficiency. Heats water just 10 to 15 minutes per day and maintains temp when no hot water is being used.
- * The lower element is titanium for superior resistance to lime buildup.
- * The bowl-shaped tank drains completely, preserving the life of the elements.

Polk-Burnett's EnergySense program helps members make smart energy choices to save energy and money. *Contact us to learn about a Marathon® water heater for your home, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.*



ENERGY VAMPIRES



TOP OFFENDERS

1. TVs
2. Home computers
3. Video game consoles
4. Surround sound systems
5. Cell phone & tablet chargers

Safe Electricity.org

Don't overload your **extension cords** when decorating.



Safe Electricity.org


Second notice: Wisconsin Energy Assistance

Your household may be eligible for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, based on household income and size. Contact your county energy assistance office for help paying your electric bills:

☎ Barron 715-537-6340
☎ Polk 715-485-8480

☎ Burnett 715-265-4271
☎ St. Croix 715-265-4271

☎ Dunn 715-265-4271
☎ Washburn 715-468-4747



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Beware of email and phone scams

WATCH OUT for telephone and email SCAMS. Co-op members are reporting calls from fraudsters claiming to be their electric utility. Power is never disconnected by Polk-Burnett for nonpayment until multiple notices have been sent. If you receive a suspicious, unexpected, threatening call, text or email about your electric bill, follow these tips: **1) Take your time.** Scammers create a sense of urgency, so people will act fast and hand over personal information and money. **2) Be suspicious** of requests for money or information that seems out of the ordinary. **3) Confirm before you act.** Hang up and call us (or other service providers) directly to verify the request. Please be vigilant and share this warning with others. Together, let's prevent our friends and neighbors from getting caught in a scam. Thank you.



Class of 2022: Win a \$1,250 co-op scholarship

Polk-Burnett will award 54 scholarships (\$67,500!) to high school seniors

- Applicants must demonstrate community service.
- Parent/Guardian must be a member of Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op.
- Student must be going on to an accredited college, tech school or university.

APPLY ON POLKBURNETT.COM BY JANUARY 1, 2022.

Funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that if not used for education would be forfeited to the state. Members may also donate future Capital Credits to support co-op scholarships. Call us to learn how!

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

