

POWERLINES

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, Sept. 2021



What happens at Dairyland affects us all

by General Manager Steve Strohshane & Board President Ed Gullickson

Do you know that we don't generate electricity, own or operate power plants? Polk-Burnett is an electric *distribution* cooperative. We purchase electricity from Dairyland Power Cooperative and deliver it to you, our 21,000+ members. 57¢ out of every dollar we collect from you goes to Dairyland to purchase power, so what happens at Dairyland affects us all.



About Dairyland Power Cooperative

Dairyland is based in La Crosse and provides wholesale power to nearly 600,000 consumers across Wisconsin and the region. Polk-Burnett is one of 24 member distribution co-ops that receives power from Dairyland. **Ed Gullickson of Amery** serves as board president for both Dairyland and Polk-Burnett electric cooperatives.

Dairyland leaders and its board of directors are working to create long-term value for co-op members, while addressing ongoing changes in the energy industry known as the four Ds: decarbonization, deregulation, digitalization and decentralization. Dairyland is planning for the future with a focus on **sustainability**.

Reliability and a lower carbon future

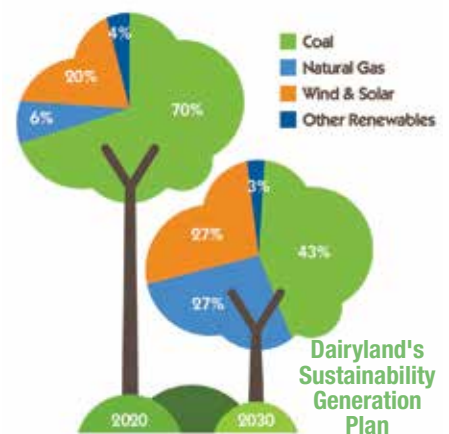
Reliability and diversification are priorities as Dairyland transitions to a lower carbon future. In 2020, Dairyland's board approved a goal of 50% reduction in the carbon dioxide intensity rate by 2030, *see chart*.

Dairyland's Sustainable Generation Plan provides a framework for energy diversification that considers the economic impact on members, technological feasibility, social implications and environmental responsibility.

In January 2021, the **Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm** began operation in Deuel County, S.D. Dairyland has a purchase power agreement (PPA) to receive renewable energy from a 52-MW portion of the wind farm. Dairyland also has a PPA for a future addition of 149 MW from the **Badger State Solar Facility**.

Dairyland will continue to add more renewables to its portfolio, while planning for **natural gas** to support the transition to a low-carbon future.

While renewable energy use is increasing, we will still depend on baseload generation to keep the power flowing to your homes, farms and businesses. Solar and wind are referred to as *intermittent* power, since the sun does not always shine and the wind does not always blow. A balanced mix of generation is the key to a safe, reliable and resilient power grid that meets the needs of our members 24/7/365.



Co-op returns \$1.5 million in Capital Credits

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will return \$1,523,500 in Capital Credits, including \$1,283,500 to co-op members who purchased electricity in 2000, 2001 and/or 2018, and \$240,000 from our power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, to members who purchased power in 1995 through 1997.

It pays to be a co-op member: If you were a member those years, you'll get money back!

As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-op, Polk-Burnett operates at cost. Any money left after expenses is returned to members, according to our co-op principles. Instead of returning money to distant shareholders, Polk-Burnett returns Capital Credits to the local people we serve. Capital Credits are distributed each year and are a direct benefit of co-op membership.

16,873 active members and 8,569 former members will receive Capital Credits in September. The amount of each distribution is based on how much electricity was purchased by the individual member during those years.

Active members will receive a credit on September electric bills. Former members will be mailed a check of \$10 or more; lesser amounts will be left to accrue for future payouts.



Co-op members also have an option to donate Capital Credits to the co-op scholarship fund; please contact our billing office to set up future distributions, 800-421-0283, ext. 335, or enroll on polkburnett.com.

80% of electric vehicle charging happens at home.
Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op can help you make your home EV ready.

Polk-Burnett supports EV owners and the growth of electric vehicles. We've partnered with the regional CHARGE™ network to lead the installation of more EV chargers in rural communities served by Dairyland cooperatives across Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. We look forward to helping you alleviate range anxiety and charge your EVs in the most cost-effective way.



CHARGE™
POWERED BY CO-OPS
www.CHARGE.coop

Co-op to award \$67,500 in scholarships to Class of 2022



APPLY ON
POLKBURNETT.COM

Class of 2022: Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative is accepting online applications for its Community Service Scholarship Program. We'll award 54 scholarships for \$1,250 to high school seniors whose parents are members of Polk-Burnett, for a total of \$67,500! Scholarship candidates are also invited to apply for a trip to Washington, D.C.

"This is our opportunity to recognize the sons and daughters of co-op members who make a difference in the lives of others," said Joan O'Fallon, Polk-Burnett communications director. "Since 1987, Polk-Burnett has awarded more than \$846,000 to co-op youth. You could be one of them!"

Giving back to the community and local youth is part of our mission as a cooperative.

Polk-Burnett's scholarship program does not affect electric rates; it is 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 to the scholarship fund. If you would like to donate your Capital Credits to the scholarship fund, please call or visit our website for an enrollment form.

Have a safe harvest: Keep equipment clear of power lines



- 1) Use a spotter when operating machinery near power lines.
- 2) Use care when raising augers and truck beds near power lines.
- 3) Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.
- 4) Inspect height of farm equipment and know clearance.
- 5) Always lower extensions when moving loads.
- 6) Never move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- 7) If a power line is sagging or low, call us at 800-421-0283.

If contact is made with a power line, stay inside the equipment. Warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not exit until the utility says it is safe. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. In this case, jump with feet together, then hop away. Do not touch ground and equipment at the same time.



Cut energy costs and improve comfort in your home



\$350 OFF performance test for your home, then up to \$1,000 REBATE on subsequent home energy upgrades

Have your home tested by a certified energy rater, using a blower door fan and infrared camera. The energy rater will identify heat loss, evaluate insulation and provide you with a report with the best ways to improve your home's energy performance. **800-421-0283, ext. 595 or polkburnett.com.**

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

September is National Preparedness Month

Be prepared for storms and power outages

Polk-Burnett works year-round to strengthen the electric grid and prevent power outages, but Mother Nature is a tough opponent and it's important to plan ahead for storms and power outages.

If your lights go out this fall

1. Check circuit breakers, fuses and the neighbors.
2. Report outages on SmartHub or 800-421-0283.
3. Keep away from fallen power lines, and trees and branches near lines. Report these hazards.
4. Co-op dispatchers and crews are here for you 24/7! Linemen respond to hazards first, then substations and major distribution lines, followed by smaller tap lines and individual service lines.

Keeping you informed

Visit our Outage Center on polkburnett.com for a live outage map, outage video and FAQs. Enroll to receive outage text alerts and follow our Facebook page for outage updates.



Thank you for rounding up, your small change makes a big difference

Polk-Burnett's **Operation Round Up** awarded \$18,495 to 16 nonprofits serving our community in July, including the Centuria Library for its summer reading program, along with other programs that support youth and families. Funding for Operation

Round Up is donated by members of Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op who round their monthly electric bill up to the next dollar amount. Visit polkburnett.com to see all summer grant winners and learn how your nonprofit can apply.

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

