

POWERLINES

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | August 2019



Back to school: We're always learning something new to improve our service to you

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

It's a new school year and kids of all ages, including my son and daughter, are getting ready for a fresh year of learning. From kindergarten to college, students attend school to gain knowledge and learn new skills that will prepare them for the future. In a similar fashion, co-op employees and directors are always learning in order to improve our service, safety and reliability. It's important that we keep up with innovations in technology and member expectations to earn your satisfaction and trust.

Smart technology for service that's convenient, fast and less expensive

One technology innovation that improves reliability in your home is **advanced metering infrastructure (AMI)**. This enables two-way communication between our office and your meter. In the event of an outage, AMI meters can pinpoint an outage location, so crews can restore power more quickly. Efficient power restoration helps the co-op save money, and we pass those savings on to you through Capital Credits each year. Holding down expenses helps us hold your rates steady; I'm happy to say we haven't had a rate increase in 10 years! We've successfully used advanced metering (AMI) for 10+ years, and we're currently exploring new options that will improve our ability to serve you.

We've also learned that many of you are looking for ways to manage your energy use with smart technologies. You can see your own meter data, access your electric account and track your electricity use on **SmartHub** (see back). With this information, members can make smart choices to manage energy use and your electric bill.

Smart energy for a clean future

Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high. The 10-acre **SunTuria Solar** array at Polk-Burnett not only increases renewable energy for our entire co-op membership, but it also allows us to share solar experience with schools and community. As an early solar adopter, we're learning how to make the most of solar energy. Give us a call to schedule a tour or visit polkburnett.com to see solar energy output.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are also becoming more popular. They may not be right for everyone, but they can save members money through reduced fuel and maintenance costs. We offer rebates on EV chargers and a low off-peak rate. Visit polkburnett.com or give us a call to find answers to some of the most common EV questions.

Our school year is never over. We will continue to study the issues and learn about rapidly changing technologies, green energy options and your priorities, so that we can better serve you now and in the future. *We hope to be your trusted energy resource.*



DO THE SUMMER SHIFT when demand & price are high
WEEKDAYS 11AM - 7PM
and you'll reduce the need for power generation,
lowering cost and carbon!



Enroll to receive

BEAT THE PEAK ALERT

August brings hot weather, peak energy demand and cost

We're asking co-op members to help reduce energy cost and carbon by shifting energy use away from peak times when demand and cost are highest: weekdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

1. Be a laundry super hero! Wash clothes before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Only run full loads. Use cold water. Go solar with Mother Nature; hang clothes outside to air dry.
2. Turn off the light when you leave the room and use natural daylight.
3. Unplug electronics so they don't draw power when not in use.
4. Set your thermostat at 78 degrees. Using a fan will help you feel 4 degrees cooler!
5. Run the dishwasher before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Only run full loads. Use the air dry cycle.



Learn more about Summer Shift to reduce energy costs and carbon, and sign up to receive peak alerts on polkburnett.com or give us a call at 800-421-0283. Thank you for your help!

Go Electric! Learn if an e-vehicle is right for you.

FREE EV SEMINAR

with Jeff Springer, EV expert
Dairyland Power Cooperative

Tues., Sept 10, 5:30 p.m.
Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative
Centuria | Register, 800-421-0283



**CO-OP MEMBERS:
GET A \$350 REBATE
ON AN
E-VEHICLE
CHARGER
PLUS LOW OFF-PEAK RATE**

We're changing the way
America fuels
transportation!





Controlling humidity: Finding your comfort zone

Humidity is the amount of moisture in the air. It's measured as a percentage. Most people are sensitive to the amount of humidity in the air since it affects their ability to cool down when the temperature rises.

During the summer, humidity levels often exceed 60 percent. This not only makes you less comfortable, it can damage the inside of your home, causing musty odors, mold growth, condensation on windows and more.

Take control of humidity: Your air conditioning system helps control humidity levels in your home by removing moisture from the air. However, some areas of your home, such as the basement, may need a little extra help in keeping humidity at a comfortable level.

That's where portable dehumidifiers come in. Dehumidifiers work to reduce excess humidity in an area or room by pulling moisture directly out of the air. The water is stored in the unit, typically in a bucket, where it must be poured down a drain. Many models provide an option to drain directly, saving you the hassle of periodically emptying the bucket.

When purchasing a dehumidifier, be sure to choose the right size for your needs. An oversized dehumidifier will waste energy, while an undersized dehumidifier will not operate efficiently. Also, purchase an ENERGY STAR® certified unit. ENERGY STAR rated dehumidifiers use 10 to 20 percent less energy than standard models.

Dry up your act: Things you do daily, such as cooking, showering and drying your clothes, can increase moisture levels in your home as well. These simple tips will help keep things dry:

1. Open a window or turn on the exhaust fan while showering. Make sure the exhaust fan vents outside.
2. Cover pots and pans and use the exhaust fan over your stove while cooking.
3. Before you run your clothes dryer, make sure that it vents properly outside.
4. Keep moisture from coming into your home by keeping roof gutters clean to direct water away from your home; repairing cracks in your home's foundation and waterproofing basement walls.

Follow these tips and you'll stay cool and dry all summer.

~from our friends at Questline

Be prepared for summer storms and power outages.
ENROLL TO RECEIVE OUTAGE TEXT ALERTS
 If the power goes out at your location. polkburnett.com



What's the best deal for keeping warm this winter?



Are you looking to conserve energy and lower electric costs while keeping cozy and warm this winter? **Now is the time to upgrade your heating system to an Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heater from Polk-Burnett.** The benefits of ETS heat:

- ✓ Safe and clean.
- ✓ Easy to operate and maintenance free.
- ✓ 100% efficient.
- ✓ No carbon monoxide. No exhaust. No fuel tanks.

When you install a high efficiency ETS heater from Polk-Burnett, you qualify for off-peak rates, which deliver even more savings! **Call today for more information about warm and efficient off-peak electric heaters from Polk-Burnett, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.**

Stay in vehicle if power lines are down

Following an accident or storm that drops power lines around your car:

- ✓ **Stay inside car until power is shut off; the ground outside may be energized.**
- ✓ Do not drive over wires; they may be live with high-voltage electricity.
- ✓ Call 911 and keep others away until help arrives.
- ✓ If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear so no part of your body touches the car when you land.
- ✓ Keep both feet together and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away. Keeping feet together and on the ground minimizes the chance for shock.



Get a \$5 electric bill credit when you sign up for SmartHub and switch to paperless billing

Take control of the electricity you use and the money you spend on your electric bill with SmartHub:

1. Access your account from computer or mobile device
2. Track your electricity use
3. View and pay your electric bill
4. View and report power outages



Free download from your app store or polkburnett.com.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace or clean your air conditioner filter.

Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your AC's energy use by 5 to 15%!

IF YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL SURVEY, WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK TO HELP US IMPROVE.

All members who submit a survey will be entered into 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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800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused



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