



October is National Co-op Month **Powerlines**

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative

October 2018



Cooperatives see the future by General Manager Steve Stroshane

Changes are transforming the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is increasing and consumers want greater control over their energy use, payment methods and generation resources.

The prevalence of smart phone apps and smart technology in our homes is also growing, and many are showing a greater interest in e-vehicles. We know that electric utilities must adapt to the future. I'm confident that Polk-Burnett is positioned to be your trusted source for energy and information because we are a local co-op, and this gives us a unique advantage!

Co-ops belong to local members and are guided by local directors

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways co-ops are unique. Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative belongs to the local people we serve; we are operated by local employees and governed by local directors who understand and look out for the needs of our neighbors. Our local communities and members are the focus of everything we do.

Co-ops are a catalyst for good

The co-op's business model is mission-based and puts people first. Polk-Burnett was established 80 years ago to provide reliable electricity to families, farms and businesses in rural areas that were not served by investor-owned utilities. Today, the co-op spirit continues, and we've added efficiency and extraordinary service to our mission.

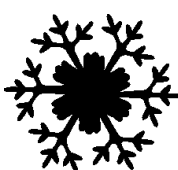
Beyond reliable power, we provide members with new payment and communications technologies, like SmartHub, outage texting and Facebook. We offer EnergySense rebates to boost energy efficiency in your homes, and in 2017, we opened SunTuria Solar to expand renewable power for our membership.

Moving into the future, you'll hear more from us about e-vehicles, beneficial electrification and economic development. Cooperatives see the future and it is bright. Join us as we celebrate National Co-op Month this October.



Receive a **FREE MASON JAR MUG** for our 80th Anniversary and Co-op Month!

Get your mug in our Centuria or Siren office, business hours in October, while supply lasts.



Lower winter rates begin October 1

- ▶ The winter rate is 10.1¢ per kWh; winter billing dates are October through May. Rates are lower in the winter because demand and wholesale power costs are lower.
- ▶ The summer rate is 11.6¢ per kWh; summer billing dates are June to September. Rates are higher in summer because demand and wholesale power costs are higher.

As a co-op, Polk-Burnett charges what it costs and passes the winter savings on to you.



LOWER YOUR ELECTRIC BILL FOR WINTER, BOOST ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND COMFORT IN YOUR HOME! GET CO-OP REBATES FOR APPLIANCES, LIGHTING, HVAC, RENEWABLE SYSTEMS & E-CAR CHARGERS.



Easy bill pay options by phone and online

We know you're busy, and recent surveys tell us that convenient payment options are important to you. We offer many ways to pay your electric bill. Choose what's best for you:

PHONE: Pay electric bills by phone, with no fees! Pay by debit card, credit card or check.

☎ 715-646-2191, Option 2 (24/7)

☎ 800-421-0283, Option 2 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

SMART HUB: Enroll in SmartHub on polkburnett.com to make electric payments and track electricity use from your PC, tablet or smart phone.

PAY NOW ONLINE: Try our Pay Now option on polkburnett.com for fast, one-time electric bill payment with no registration or login.



SunTuria Solar opened at Polk-Burnett in Centuria in 2017 Group tours available: See 4,000 panels on 10 acres!

As an early adapter of solar energy in our area, we'd like to share solar information with you.

If your school, community or youth group would like a tour, please let us know!

Our project engineer will share a lesson about solar energy and the development of the 1.25-MW SunTuria Solar array. 800-421-0283, ext. 333



Get a \$250 co-op rebate on an e-vehicle charger

Plus, qualify for off-peak electric rate on Level II, hard-wired 240-volt charger

Are you buying an e-vehicle? Contact the co-op for EnergySense rebates on chargers, plus other energy efficiency upgrades in your home.

We can help you conserve energy and save money, while helping our environment.

Notice: Wisconsin Energy Assistance

Your household may be eligible for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, based on household income and size. For information, contact your county energy assistance office:

☎ Barron 715-537-5691

☎ Burnett 715-349-7600

☎ Dunn 715-232-1116

☎ Polk 715-485-8480

☎ St. Croix 800-606-9227

☎ Washburn 715-468-4747



Class of 2019: Win a \$1,250 Co-op Scholarship

Polk-Burnett will award 45 scholarships to high school seniors who make a difference.

- 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.

Find applications at local schools, co-op offices and pollkburnett.com.

Stove heat alert: Stoves that burn wood, gas, corn, pellets and other fuels are used by some co-op members for primary and back-up heat. **REMEMBER, MOST STOVES DEPEND ON ELECTRICITY TO OPERATE AND DISTRIBUTE HEAT.** It's important to know:



1. Will a power outage affect your stove?
2. Will your stove overheat during an outage?
3. Will your stove restart when power is restored?

If you use a stove for heat, have a plan for power outages.

OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH. KEEP YOUR HOME & FAMILY SAFE. INSTALL SMOKE DETECTORS.

October is Cybersecurity Month Watch out for phone scams



ENERGY CONSUMERS:

Never give out personal information to a caller demanding immediate payment.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE



COMMUNITY
BORN

COMMUNITY
LED

FOCUSED ON
YOU

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

IF YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL SURVEY, WE APPRECIATE YOUR PARTICIPATION 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.

Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter.

800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Not for Profit



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative