

POWERLINES

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative

April 2021

Board election in districts 7, 8 and 9.
Ballots mail April 30.



Polk-Burnett joins CHARGE EV

Regional electric vehicle charging network will help alleviate range anxiety, encourage EV adoption in rural communities *by General Manager Steve Stroshane*

Polk-Burnett is one of 31 electric cooperatives that have come together to form a regional EV charging network across Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. CHARGE EV, LLC, was created to help co-op members with the adoption of electric vehicles in rural communities.

While we don't expect transportation to change overnight, we created the charging network to help prepare for future growth in EV use. We want to be a trusted resource for members considering an EV.

EVs have environmental advantages and can help members save money through reduced fuel and maintenance costs. Moving from gas to electricity reduces pollution, and the benefit improves as the electric grid gets greener. We support EV owners and look forward to working with members to charge your e-vehicles in the most cost-effective way. *Please call us before installing an EV charger at your home.*

Currently, we are aware of 36 EVs plugged into our system for residential charging, and our service territory has a handful of Level 2 public chargers, including one powered by Polk-Burnett at Marketplace on Hwy. 8 in St. Croix Falls. To find public chargers, see PlugShare map on polkburnett.com/e-vehicles.

We know that range anxiety is a concern that some of you may have about driving an EV. Our efforts with CHARGE EV will help alleviate that fear by investing in charging stations and helping our members with residential chargers. Presently, the CHARGE EV network includes more than 30 Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations, with more on the way.

Investing in the future with ZEF Energy

CHARGE EV cooperatives recently invested in ZEF Energy Inc., an Edina, Minnesota, company that manufactures EV chargers with ZEFNET software to manage energy supply.

ZEF Energy has successfully worked with electric cooperatives since 2014. The company is also working with the U.S. Department of Energy on the Michigan to Montana (M2M) project, which will install ZEF Energy chargers along the I-94 corridor.

"Cooperatives are forward thinking organizations and they recognize that EVs will play a big part of their future," said ZEF Energy CEO Matthew Blackler.

Our regional CHARGE EV network and investment in ZEF Energy are just the start. We hope this grows into a national co-op EV brand and charging network.

"Our goal is to provide EV owners with peace of mind when driving between Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, knowing that there are co-op powered chargers along your route. That will give people confidence to consider an EV and encourage growth of electric vehicles," said Jeff Springer, manager of innovation and efficient electrification at Dairyland Power Cooperative, our G&T power supplier.

Watch for updates about Polk-Burnett's participation in CHARGE EV, as well as rebates and incentives for residential charging, and new public charging stations across the region.

CHARGE
POWERED BY CO-OPS

Are you considering an EV for your next car purchase?

Join us for a free online seminar for co-op members

Electric Vehicle Myths & Facts

Thursday, May 6, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Online from your computer, tablet or smart phone, or call in on your phone.

Presented by Jeff Springer, Manager of Innovation and Efficient Electrification, Dairyland Power Cooperative

Register to receive meeting link: polkburnett.com/e-vehicles or 800-421-0283, x595.



**CO-OP MEMBERS: GET A REBATE ON
SOLAR & WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS
UP TO \$750 FOR QUALIFYING INSTALLATIONS**

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY APRIL 22 | MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY

BUY RENEWABLE ENERGY BLOCKS

Support renewable generation without installing
your own solar array or wind turbine.

100KWh blocks are \$1/mo., added to your electric bill.



Home of SunTuria Solar

LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY
APRIL 12
#ThankALineworker

*To our heroes
in hard hats,
thank you
for keeping
the lights on!*



Survey helps co-op plan future energy needs

Our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is conducting a mail survey in April. If you receive the survey, please complete it and return in the postage-paid envelope or use the online survey link. Your participation will help us plan for future energy needs. Thank you!



Help us protect the Karner blue butterfly

Polk-Burnett follows eco-friendly practices to help protect the Karner blue butterfly. We've marked habitat sites under power lines, and ask co-op members and employees to tread carefully in these areas this spring and summer. This will help the DNR preserve and study the endangered butterfly. The Karner blue butterfly is often found near purple lupine plants in sandy soil.

Building or landscaping this spring? Call before you dig



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

April is national Safe Digging Month. Before you build a deck, install a fence, plant a tree or dig into any home improvement project, have utility lines marked. One call helps protect you from injury and expense.

Call Diggers Hotline three working days before you dig to have buried utility lines located, 800-242-8511, 811 or diggershotline.com. It's free!

Please note: Diggers Hotline does NOT mark PRIVATE utility lines, but can help you find a locator who provides this service. See locator link at bottom of Diggers Hotline homepage.

A clear right-of-way means safe, reliable power

"Polk-Burnett maintains the right-of-way under power lines to keep power flowing safely to your home. Right-of-way maintenance is intended to keep tree branches and brush away from high-voltage power lines. This ensures fewer blinks and outages, improved access for faster restoration times, and less risk of fire and life-threatening electrocution. Thank you for your cooperation." ~ Rick Kosloski, rights-of-way manager



Annual herbicide notice for members

Polk-Burnett's mission is to provide members with safe, reliable power as efficiently as possible. An important part of this mission is our right-of-way program, which includes herbicide application to control growth of woody stemmed vegetation under power lines.

In 2021, Polk-Burnett will continue its herbicide program to control vegetation in the electric right-of-way. Trained, licensed contractors will walk the rights-of-way with a backpack container and use a hand wand to apply a low-volume herbicide; only the leaves of woody stemmed vegetation are targeted (see photo above). The application is scheduled to begin in June and will conclude in October.

If you choose to decline the use of herbicide, please complete and return form below by May 21 to:

Polk-Burnett, Rights-of-Way Department, 1001 State Road 35, Centuria, WI 54824.

If form is not received by May 21, 2021, herbicide application may occur on properties not currently in our database.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THIS FORM OR CONTACT US IF:

- 1) You are served by underground power lines. Polk-Burnett does not apply herbicide to underground lines.
- 2) You have already sent this form or contacted Polk-Burnett in the past to decline the use of herbicide.

Visit polkburnett.com/herbicide-faq to see if your property is already on the No Herbicide list.

Please do not apply herbicide on my property(s). I understand that if I have multiple properties where I do not want herbicide application, I must notify Polk-Burnett of all locations, so they can be properly identified. I understand that I must place signs (provided by Polk-Burnett upon request) beneath the power lines to identify my property boundaries and that future right-of-way maintenance will be performed by mowing.

Save paper and postage: Properties can be added to the No Herbicide list on polkburnett.com/herbicide-faq

Name: _____

Location Number or Account Number: _____

Parcel ID Number from County Tax Record: _____

Property Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address (Optional): _____

Signature: _____

If you do not know how the right-of-way on your property is maintained or if you have questions about herbicide application, call us at 800-421-0283, ext. 329. We're happy to help. To learn more about herbicide application, and view product labels and material safety data sheets, visit polkburnett.com/right-way.

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

