

# POWERLINES

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | APRIL 2019



## Delivering more renewable energy options

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

We are proud to be aligned with our wholesale power provider – Dairyland Power Cooperative (La Crosse, Wis.) – in our goal to bring members more renewable energy options. Polk-Burnett is one of Dairyland's 24 member cooperatives. Similar to the way Polk-Burnett is owned by and accountable to our 22,000 members, Dairyland is owned and accountable to its 24 members in four states. Our Board President Ed Gullickson, Amery, serves on the Dairyland Power board of directors, representing the interests of Polk-Burnett and our members.

*Dairyland generates electricity using both traditional and renewable resources to provide an affordable and reliable supply of electricity to our members.*

*Polk-Burnett's SunTuria Solar array is part of Dairyland's growing renewable energy portfolio, which includes hydro (Flambeau Hydroelectric Station near Ladysmith above), wind, biomass and solar, totaling nearly 20 percent of the power we purchase and send to you – our members.*

In addition to solar, Dairyland has added 180 MW of wind energy in the past two years from the Barton Wind Farm in Kensett, Iowa, and Quilt Block Wind Farm in Darlington, Wis. Together, these two facilities can power approximately 45,000 homes.

We also offer a green-power program, called **Evergreen**. Members can voluntarily subscribe to renewable energy for \$1 per 100 kWh block, which Dairyland secures above and beyond any state mandates or other requirements. Evergreen is a way for our local members to support additional renewable resources. There are multiple Evergreen opportunities to fit a member's budget or green power goals – up to powering your entire monthly electricity use with renewable energy. Evergreen renewable energy blocks are added to your monthly electric bill.

Polk-Burnett and Dairyland are committed to operating as sustainable cooperatives, while diversifying the types of resources used to power our homes and businesses every day. Our commitment to renewable resources grows each year and we will continue to work together to keep the lights on.



## Celebrating Earth Day April 22 and Every Day!

### 2 easy DIY projects to save energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this! Here are two projects you can do now to start saving:

#### 1. Seal air leaks with caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk. Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

#### 2. Weather strip exterior doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance about the supplies you need. Make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general wear and tear of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying new weather stripping, clean moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces, so it compresses when the door is closed.

*By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing comfort in your home. Contact our member services team for more energy-saving tips and rebate information, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.*



**\$300 REBATE**  
on home  
performance test  
and up to  
**\$1,000 on home  
improvements**  
for co-op members!



**Find rebate information and how-to videos to start lowering energy costs in your home on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com).**



## 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.

Please note: Diggers Hotline does not mark private utility lines. Contact the co-op for a list of local electricians that provide this service.

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!

### Mark your calendars:

#### 2019 ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
1001 State Road 35, Centuria

- \* Bucket Truck Rides, Kids Electricity Station  
Face Painting, Solar Sam
- \* BBQ Pork Sliders, Cheese Curds, Kettle Corn,  
Mini Donuts, Root Beer Floats

Insulated Bags for Adults \* \$5 DQ Cards for Kids!

### Make your voice heard:

#### 2019 CO-OP BOARD ELECTION DISTRICTS 4, 5 AND 6

BALLOTS MAIL EARLY MAY

Results announced  
JUNE 7 ANNUAL MEETING  
POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

All members in Districts 4, 5 and 6 will receive a ballot in the mail. Cast your ballot by mail or online.

Find your co-op district on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)  
My Co-op > Board of Directors

## A clear right-of-way ensures 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 vegetation management program, which includes herbicide application to control the growth of woody stemmed vegetation under power lines.

In 2019, Polk-Burnett will continue with 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 24 to:**

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

*If form is not received by May 24, 2019, herbicide application may occur on properties not currently in our database.*

**NOTE, 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.

Please do not apply herbicide on my property(s). I understand that if I have multiple properties where I do not want herbicide application to occur I must notify Polk-Burnett of those locations as well, so they can be properly identified. I further 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 means of mowing.

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](http://polkburnett.com).

**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.

Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter.

800-421-0283 • [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative