

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC CO-OP Powerlines

Your Source for Reliable Power & Extraordinary Service

July 2018



At 80 years, the state of the co-op is strong

by General Manager Steve Stroshane and Board President Ed Gullickson

On June 8, Polk-Burnett hosted its 80th annual meeting and member appreciation open house. Thank you to the 525 members and guests who attended.

Polk-Burnett's mission to deliver reliable power to rural areas has remained unchanged since 1938. Our cooperative spirit of delivering friendly service and supporting our local community has been strong for eight decades. This year, we honor our legacy and the people who built the co-op, and we look to a bright future.

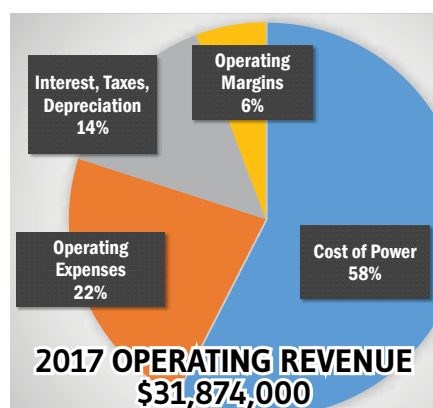
Cutting-Edge Technology: We're always looking for ways to work smarter and provide the best value for your dollar. Today, the co-op offers a **SmartHub app** where you can track your electricity use, pay your bill, and view and report power outages from your phone, tablet or computer. We also provide **outage texting** and **Beat the Peak alerts** to help you make informed decisions. Last November, we opened **SunTuria Solar**, the first utility-scale array in our territory. Technology also allows us to schedule line maintenance and construction more efficiently, and build redundancies into our system to restore power quickly if the lights go out in one area.

Smart Money Management: In 2017, we invested **\$3.5 million** to upgrade and maintain a reliable electric system for you. Beyond operating expenses, **58¢ of every dollar** we collect goes to Dairyland Power Cooperative to purchase electricity for you. We're watching expenses closely and are happy to report that **rates will not go up in 2018**, even though **electricity sales are down** over the past 10 years. We have the capacity to pay our debt, expand technology and member services, invest in a reliable grid and return Capital Credits to you.

Giving Money Back: We returned **\$2+ million in Capital Credits** to members last year. That's a direct benefit of your co-op membership! In 2017, members received **\$151,348 in EnergySense rebates** and **saved 2.4 million kWh of electricity** as a result of EnergySense. If you want to upgrade your home for comfort and energy efficiency, we can help!

Community Focused: Do you know your co-op delivers more than reliable power? Community service is one of our core values and we're proud to demonstrate the cooperative difference with **\$56,250 in scholarships** to the Class of 2018 and **\$61,150 in Operation Round Up grants** to 87 local nonprofits. Beyond financial support, co-op employees performed more than 600 hours of community service last year.

These are just a few highlights from our annual meeting. We invite you to read Powerlines, like us on Facebook and Twitter, and visit our website to stay in touch. [Thank you for your membership!](#)



Miller, Brookshaw, Swenson re-elected to co-op board

Three incumbent directors ran unopposed for the co-op board in districts 7, 8 and 9.

Voter participation in the election was 15.8%, with 1,004 ballots received. Members voted by mail and online. Election results were announced at the 80th annual meeting June 8.

Re-elected to serve three-year terms are L-R:



District 7

Maury Miller, Danbury (left)

District 8

Chuck Brookshaw, Webster (center)

District 9

Tom Swenson, Webster (right)

Reduce electricity when grid demand & price peak this summer

You'll cut costs and carbon!

DO THE SUMMER SHIFT:

Reduce electricity weekdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

BEAT THE PEAK: Enroll to receive peak alerts by phone, email or text asking you to conserve. *About 9 summer peaks.*

Do The

SUMMER SHIFT

polkburnett.com
800-421-0283



BEAT THE PEAK ALERT



IN 2017, CO-OP MEMBERS RECEIVED \$151,348 IN REBATES AND SAVED 2.4 MILLION KWHs OF ENERGY!

Co-op rebates can help you save on residential solar and wind energy systems

Solar energy is becoming more cost-effective for homeowners who would like to choose renewable energy to power their homes. Solar and wind energy systems are expensive to purchase up front, but can save money over time. **To help co-op members save energy, money and the environment, Polk-Burnett offers a \$250/kW rebate on solar and wind energy systems, up to \$750 for qualifying installations.**

Learn more about rebates and if solar is right for your home:

FREE SOLAR ENERGY SEMINAR

Thursday, August 9, 5:30 p.m., Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, Centuria
Register by Aug. 2, 800-421-0283, ext. 595

All who attend will be in a drawing for a \$50 electric bill credit.

Propane prebuy contracts in the mail and online late July



- ✓ Prebuy contracts lock in a price on a fixed number of gallons.
- ✓ Minimum prebuy purchase is 300 gallons with payment due August 24.
- ✓ If contracting isn't an option, sign up for our budget plan by August 24.

800-421-0283, ext. 378 or 411
polkburnett.com.

It's dangerous to landscape and build near utilities

Warning! Gardens, landscaping, decks, fences and buildings near underground transformer boxes, power poles and other utility equipment are a safety hazard.



- ✓ Life-threatening contact with high-voltage equipment can occur when landscaping and structures are too close to electrical equipment.
- ✓ Obstructions limit access for linemen working to keep the power on at your home or business. Co-op crews need access to utility equipment to perform routine maintenance and emergency repairs.
- ✓ Decks, fences, dog kennels, structures and landscaping built too close to utility equipment could be damaged when crews and trucks need access to work on electrical equipment.

All structures and landscaping are required to be a safe distance from utilities. Any damage to structures or landscaping built too close to electric utilities is the responsibility of the property owner. For your safety, keep away from electrical equipment, and please prevent children from playing near utilities. We appreciate your cooperation.



Energy efficiency tip of the month

Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Source: energy.gov

Be prepared for summer storms and power outages

Polk-Burnett works year round to strengthen its system and prevent power outages, but summer storms are always a threat. Lightning and strong winds can damage power lines and cause power outages.

If your lights go out this summer:

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. Crews first respond to hazards, substations and major distribution lines, followed by smaller tap lines and individual service lines.

Enroll to receive outage texts on polkburnett.com:

You'll know:

1. When the power goes out at your location.
2. Estimated time of restoration, whenever possible.
3. When the power is restored.
4. The cause of the outage, whenever possible.

OUTAGE MAP
KEEPS YOU INFORMED WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT

- ✓ See outage location.
- ✓ If help has been dispatched.
- ✓ How many affected.
- ✓ Estimated restoration time.

VIEW OUTAGE MAP ON:
polkburnett.com | SmartHub
Facebook.com/polkburnett

OUTAGE NOTIFICATION
Enroll to get a text when power goes out and is restored at your location.

polkburnett.com

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 monthly 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

