



POWERLINES

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | June 2019



When you choose to go electric, you are making a smart choice

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

Electricity is efficient, clean and smart. About 20% of the electricity distributed to co-op members comes from renewable sources, and that number is growing. A greener grid, paired with energy efficiency makes electricity a smart choice.

We rely on electricity. It powers our day right from the start: You wake up to an alarm. Your phone charges overnight. Your morning coffee brews in an electric coffee maker, and your breakfast eggs and milk stay cold in the refrigerator. Electricity makes our lives comfortable and productive.

Electricity is becoming the fuel of choice for many appliances and equipment that historically were powered by fossil fuels. For example, **electric water heaters** warm water overnight (during off-peak times when demand and costs are low) and store hot water for times when you need it. *To help you go electric, we sell Marathon water heaters well below the regular price of \$1,500. The co-op member price is just \$250 for installation in new homes or gas replacements, or \$750 for electric upgrades.*

Your garage is full of opportunities to go electric. **Electric lawn and power tools**, such as drills and saws, weed trimmers and lawn mowers, come with a power cord or rechargeable battery. Electric tools are lighter than gasoline models and don't require much maintenance, plus they are quieter and have no fumes! Gas models may be more powerful, but many of us are willing to sacrifice a little power for these benefits.

It's no surprise that interest in **electric vehicles** (EVs) is growing. EVs enable you to drive emission-free anytime the battery is in use, and owners save money on maintenance and fuel costs. Based on the U.S. average of 12.5¢ per kWh (the co-op rate is even lower, see back), electricity for charging EVs is equal to gasoline priced at \$1 per gallon. *Co-op members: Get a \$350 rebate and lower off-peak rates on an EV charger for your garage.*

Geothermal and air source heat pumps are two of the most energy efficient ways to heat and cool your home, and both rely on electricity to operate. *We offer rebates to help you make this investment in your home. Tax credits are also available.*

In all of these cases, members benefit from improved energy efficiency, reduced emissions and quiet operation. *Let us know if we can help you go electric!*

"A greener grid, paired with energy efficiency makes electricity a smart choice."



Cut cost and carbon

Did you know that **58¢ of every dollar** we collect goes to purchase power generated from Dairyland Power Cooperative? Polk-Burnett does not own power plants; we buy electricity and distribute it to you – our 20,000+ co-op members. We're working to keep the cost of power from rising, and you can help:

Do the Summer Shift: Shift your electricity use away from the hours when demand and cost are highest. *Reduce electricity 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays this summer.*

Enroll in Beat the Peak: We'll send you a peak alert by text, email or phone asking you to reduce electricity when demand and cost are high. Participants will receive about nine *summer* peak alerts and three *winter* peak alerts. *Enroll on polkburnett.com or 800-421-0283.*

Together We Save! When you reduce electricity during peak times:

- ✓ You reduce the wholesale cost of electricity, which helps hold rates steady.
- ✓ You reduce the need for power generation, which cuts carbon and is good for the environment.



June summer fill special

For those of you who choose propane, **Polk-Burnett Propane** purchased a limited quantity of propane at a reduced price, and we're passing the savings on to you.

Call in June to take advantage of savings if your tank is at 30% or less. Sorry, no partial deliveries. Offer expires when supply is gone!

Watch for pre-buy contracts and budget plans in your mail the end of July. Deadline for pre-buy and budget plan is August 23. Thank you.

A/C notice for members in load management

Power to air conditioners controlled by the co-op's load management program will be cycled every 15 minutes during peak demand hours, from 2 to 6 p.m. or 6 to 10:30 p.m. This reduces the co-op's cost for peak-demand power, which benefits all members. Historically, control periods are on the hottest days of the summer; however, they are based on electricity demand throughout the entire Midwest region and may occur when local weather conditions are not extreme.



Did you know that you can buy renewable energy from the co-op?

100 kWh blocks are just \$1 per block per month

Added to your monthly electric bill

Visit our website to buy one block or enough to power your whole house!



Operation Round Up supports summer reading for kids

\$21,500 donated to 25 programs!

Operation Round Up awarded \$21,500 to 25 nonprofit organizations that improve our local quality of life, including \$500 to the St. Croix Falls Public Library for its summer reading program for youth.

See all spring grant recipients and learn how your nonprofit organization can apply on polkburnett.com.

Grant recipients are selected quarterly by a committee of co-op members. The next grant deadline is September 1.

**THANK YOU, CO-OP MEMBERS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.
YOUR SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!**

High school seniors awarded co-op scholarships

\$57,500 donated to 46 students!

We're proud to announce the winners of Polk-Burnett's 2019 Community Service Scholarship program. Forty-six students will each receive \$1,250 to continue their education after high school, for a total of \$57,500 awarded to the sons and daughters of co-op members. Scholarship and Youth Tour recipients demonstrate community service and their parents are members of the co-op. Congratulations to:

Co-op District 1

Ariel Moris, Osceola
Katelyn Haase, Osceola
Chelsey Henry, Blaine, MN
Logan Clark, Osceola
Ashton Anderson, Osceola
William Scheder, Somerset
Gus Peterson, Osceola

Co-op District 2

Christina Nygren, Osceola
Chase Kern, Unity
Jacob McKinven, St. Croix Falls
Journie Rosenow, Osceola
Collin Anderson, St. Croix Falls

Co-op District 3

Evan Rogers, Clear Lake
Rachel Ganje, Amery
Mason Goulet, Amery
Joseph Espeseth, Clear Lake
Grace Long, Amery

Co-op District 4

Jacob Eichelt, Unity
Emma Novak, Amery
Jazmine Christiansen, Clear Lake
Logan Dunsmoor, Unity

Co-op District 5

Andrew Baumgartner, Northfield, MN
Vincent Cloutier, Unity
Nicholas Hopkins, St. Croix Prep, MN
Emily Fjestad, Stillwater, MN
Teagan Benson, Cumberland

Co-op District 6

Brittney Beecroft, Home School
Jade Horstman, Siren
Sophia Fredericks, Frederic
Alecia Knoop, Shell Lake
Isabelle Ulrich, Osceola

Co-op District 7

Anna Muntiferung, Cretin Derham Hall, MN
Carter Doriott, Webster
Joshua Carroll, Home School
Autumn Gray, River Falls
Taylor Meyer, Colfax

Co-op District 8

Trevor Gustafson, Webster
Cameron Volker, Dyer County, TN
Sydney Hassing, Simley, MN
Charles Whisler, East Ridge, MN
Anna Brechon, John F. Kennedy, MN

Co-op District 9

Shannan Erickson, Frederic
Wyatt Swanson, Grantsburg
Grace Gerber, Grantsburg
Kerik Stubbe, Webster
Julia Cederberg, Siren

Scholarship winners are named with their school.

Scholarships and Youth Tour DO NOT affect electric rates. They are funded with unclaimed capital credits that would be forfeited to the state.

Read more about co-op scholarships and Youth Tour on polkburnett.com.

Delegates for Co-op Youth Tour Washington, D.C. June 2019



Julianna Thompson Luck



Cameron Volker
Dyer County, Tennessee

Julianna and Cameron will join more than 1,000 students from co-ops across the country for the NRECA Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. They will meet congressional leaders; tour Capitol Hill, national monuments and museums; and learn about cooperatives, the rural electric program, U.S. history and government.



WE INVITE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO TOUR SUNTURIA SOLAR!
FIRST UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR IN COUNTY, WITH 4,840 PANELS ON 10 ACRES.

Summer rate in effect June to September

Your summer rate is 11.6¢ per kWh, for invoice dates June to September.

Your winter rate is 10.1¢ per kWh, for invoice dates October to May.

Rates reflect costs: Polk-Burnett pays a higher summer rate for wholesale power because members use more electricity systemwide during the hot days of summer, making demand and costs rise.

For help lowering your energy costs, visit polkburnett.com or call member services, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Want to light up your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try outdoor solar lights! They're easy to install and virtually maintenance free. Remember, solar lights work best when the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight.

Source: energy.gov



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



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

