

# POWERLINES

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative

March 2021



Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm, S.D.

## Choose electric to save money and protect the environment by General Manager Steve Strohane

If you're like me, you're interested in saving money on energy costs *and* doing your part to help the environment. With a new concept called *beneficial electrification*, we can do both!

Beneficial electrification means using electricity instead of fossil fuels (such as natural gas or gasoline) to power our homes, tools and transportation. As electricity from Polk-Burnett and our wholesale power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, becomes cleaner and more renewable, anything that uses electricity has a diminishing impact on the environment. Over time, your electric appliances, water heater, clothes dryer, and even electric lawn and power tools have the potential to become greener!

The only way you can benefit from this trend is with electric appliances. A new electric oven, water heater or car you buy today has the potential to be powered with more and more renewable sources in the future. This will not be the case with gas appliances, equipment and cars, where you will be locked into gas technology and carbon emissions for the life of the product.

### Electric water heaters act as thermal battery

Choosing electric appliances, tools and even vehicles over those powered by fossil fuels is getting easier, with better options available every day. Our Marathon water heater is a great example: You hear a lot of talk today about battery storage of renewable electricity, so that energy generated by solar during the day can be stored in a battery and used at night. Do you know an electric water heater can act in the same way, as thermal battery storage? There is an excess of wind energy during nighttime hours, when normal electric consumption is low. An electric water heater can use that excess energy to heat water over night. Like a battery, electric water heaters are charged with renewable energy at night and hot water is stored for when you need it! If you're in the market for a water heater, we've got a great price for co-op members who choose electric, just \$750 or \$250 for new construction and when replacing a gas water heater! (See below.)

### Here's how we're doing our part

Polk-Burnett is always working to keep pace with changes in the energy industry and member expectations. One example is partnering with our power supplier to increase renewable generation in a responsible way. Presently, about 20% of your electricity comes from renewable sources. I can also report that the SunTuria Solar array in our Centuria backyard powers about 200 homes a year. (See how Dairyland is transitioning to a clean energy future with the addition of Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm, below.)

With our SmartHub app, we offer members the convenience and ability to manage and monitor your energy use. We also offer rebates on renewable energy systems, geothermal systems, energy efficiency upgrades for your home and even e-vehicle chargers!

I hope you'll reach out to us as your go-to source for reliable information if you're considering renewable energy options, a new water heater, an electric car and other ways to reduce your energy use. When you participate in our energy efficiency programs and incentives, we're all doing our part to save money and protect our environment. Together, we can make a difference and help ensure a bright future!

## Dairyland expands wind energy

Our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, has a new power purchase agreement with Tatanka Ridge Wind, LLC, for 51.6 MW of renewable energy, enough to power about 16,000 homes.

Tatanka Ridge was commissioned January 5, 2021, and encompasses 56 turbines across 18,000 acres of corn and soybean farms, and cattle ranches northeast of Brookings, South Dakota.

"Dairyland is pleased to work with Avangrid Renewables and WEC Energy Group on an efficient and sustainable facility that supports our transition to a low-carbon future," said Brent Ridge, Dairyland President and CEO. "Diversification of resources is a key element of our sustainable generation plan, making Tatanka Ridge a valuable addition to our cooperative's renewable energy portfolio."



## SPECIAL CO-OP MEMBER PRICE: MARATHON WATER HEATER 100-GALLON ON LOAD CONTROL PROGRAM

CO-OP MEMBER PRICE: **\$750**, plus tax (retail price: \$1,500!)

CO-OP MEMBER PRICE FOR NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION  
OR GAS REPLACEMENT: **\$250**, plus tax

A 100-gallon Marathon® water heater is an investment that pays for itself in energy savings, and when you install it on the off-peak rate, it's one of the most cost-effective ways to heat water for your home.

\* Costs no more to operate than standard 50-gallon tank \* Durable and built to last with corrosion-free tank

800-421-0283, x595 | polkburnett.com





## Making a difference in our community

Polk-Burnett's Operation Round Up awarded \$28,605 to 28 nonprofits serving our community, including \$6,000 to four programs that provide food for local families and schoolchildren. Fall and winter grants were awarded January 6 by the Operation Round Up board.

Funding for Operation Round Up is donated by members of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative who round their monthly electric bill up to the next even dollar amount. Grant recipients are selected quarterly by a committee of co-op members, with donations awarded to nonprofit organizations that improve our local quality of life.

See complete list of grant winners and learn how your nonprofit can apply on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com).



## Don't miss a thing!

We invite you to follow us on Facebook, [facebook.com/PolkBurnett](https://facebook.com/PolkBurnett).

It's a quick and easy way to get co-op news and information, including outage alerts, energy savers, safety tips and peak energy alerts.

Sign up for your co-op e-newsletter, [polkburnett.com/newsletter](http://polkburnett.com/newsletter).

Keep up with the latest news and events, rebates and co-op announcements.



## It's dangerous to build or landscape near utilities

Do you have building plans this spring? **Warning:** Gardens, landscaping, decks, fences and buildings are a safety hazard if built too close to underground transformer boxes, power poles and other utility equipment:

\* 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. 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. Thank you!



## \$2,000 scholarship to study co-op law

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative is passing forward this opportunity from our friends at the Federated Youth Foundation, which is the organization that manages funds for the Polk-Burnett scholarship program:

The Federated Youth Foundation is pleased to announce that it will award the fourth Charles Van Sickle Scholarship. The \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded during the spring 2021 semester to a pre-law or law student who lives in Wisconsin and has an interest in cooperative law. Preference will be given to students whose parents or grandparents are members of cooperatives, credit unions or mutual insurance companies. The deadline is April 2 and candidates can find an application on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com).

## Be prepared for power outages

Polk-Burnett works year round to strengthen its system and prevent power outages, but storms are always a threat. Ice, snow and wind can damage power lines and cause power outages.

### If your lights go out:

- \* Check circuit breakers, fuses and the neighbors.
- \* Report outages on SmartHub or 800-421-0283. See Outage Map on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com). Follow Facebook/[polkburnett](https://facebook.com/polkburnett) for outage updates.
- \* Keep away from fallen power lines, and trees and branches near lines. Report these hazards.

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

*Our goal is to restore your power quickly and safely while keeping you informed.*

## OUTAGE TEXT ALERT

ENROLL ON [POLKBURNETT.COM](http://POLKBURNETT.COM)

WE'LL SEND YOU A TEXT:

- ✓ If the power goes out at your location.
- ✓ With estimated time of restoration, when possible.
- ✓ When the power is restored.
- ✓ The cause of the outage, when possible.

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.

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Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

