

# POWERLINES

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | MARCH 2019



## Considering solar? We're here to help

by General Manager Steve Strohane

Today's co-op members are looking for energy options. We know you want to power your homes with energy sources that are clean, efficient and cost-effective. I'm happy to report that electricity is becoming greener, and the cost for renewable energy is coming down. About 18% of the electricity we purchase for distribution to you is from renewable sources.

Beyond a greener grid, we also recognize that some of you are exploring residential solar as an alternative energy source. Interest in solar energy is fueled by decreasing costs for solar energy systems, the availability of tax incentives and rebates, and the growth of companies that offer solar panel installation. We were motivated by these same benefits when we developed SunTuria Solar in our back yard! (See solar energy output and learn more about the 10-acre SunTuria Solar array on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com).)

**We're here to help:** As attractive and popular as residential (rooftop) solar may appear, it is important to understand the true costs of installation and maintenance, as well as the true energy savings. To determine if residential solar is right for you, we encourage you to do your homework and ask yourself these questions:

☀️ What is the overall energy efficiency of your home?	☀️ What is the best system size to power your home?
☀️ What is the age and pitch of your roof?	☀️ What is your sun orientation and tree coverage?
☀️ What is the cost? Is there a large up-front payment or fees spread over time?	☀️ Are there hidden costs, such as a roof replacement or land clearing before you can start?
☀️ What are the ongoing maintenance costs?	☀️ Are tax incentives or rebates available?
☀️ What is required to ensure safety?	☀️ Is the energy savings worth the investment?
☀️ How do you connect to the electric grid for power when the sun doesn't shine?	☀️ Is it more cost-effective to invest in other energy saving measures for your home?

We can help you look at your total energy picture and consider the best options for your home. While rooftop solar works for many, it is not the answer for all.

I invite you to our solar energy seminar April 9 and I encourage you to contact our member services team if you are considering solar for your home. We also have resources on our website under Home Solar and Wind. We stand ready to help our members with energy options that make sense for the environment and your pocketbook.

## 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

Tuesday, April 9, 5 p.m., by Kris Schmid, Legacy Solar

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, Centuria

Register by April 5, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.

All who attend will be in a drawing for a \$50 electric bill credit. We hope to see you there!



## Food backpack program receives \$2,000

Operation Round Up awarded \$10,994 to 14 local nonprofits this winter, including \$2,000 to **The Salvation Army** to provide food for children in Polk and Burnett county schools.

**THANK YOU CO-OP MEMBERS FOR ROUNDING UP YOUR ELECTRIC BILL**  
**YOUR SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!**

See all grant recipients and learn how your community organization can apply.

[polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)



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 Sign up for auto pay from your checking or savings account.  
 It's the easiest, most hassle-free way to pay your electric bill.  
 No paper.  
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 Enroll on SmartHub, polkburnett.com or call. We're happy to assist.

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 An up-to-date phone number, address and e-mail address allow us to provide you with better customer service, outage response and Capital Credit distribution.  
 Update your information on:  
 SmartHub  
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 800-421-0283



**❄️ March can be our snowiest month! ❄️**  
**ENROLL TO RECEIVE OUTAGE TEXT ALERTS**  
 If the power goes out at your location. [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)



**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
- \* Cheese Curds, Kettle Corn, Mini Donuts,  
 Root Beer Floats
- \* Giveaways and Prize Drawings!

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**



Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.  
 Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

 Receive co-op rebate deals, offers and energy savers in your inbox.  
**SIGN UP FOR MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
 Especially handy for members who request paperless billing. Don't miss a thing!

**Get a \$5 electric bill credit when you sign up for SmartHub and switch to paperless billing**



Take control of the electricity you use and the money you spend on your electric bill with Polk-Burnett's SmartHub app.

1. Access account from computer or mobile device
2. Track your electricity use
3. View and pay your electric bill
4. View and report power outages



**Free download from your app store or [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) | 800-421-0283**

**Did you know you can purchase renewable energy from your co-op?**

No equipment or installation cost.  
 No maintenance.  
 No panels or turbines on your property.  
 No worries! *We make it easy to be Green.*

**\$1 per month, per 100 kWh block**  
*Added to your monthly electric bill*

Buy one block or enough to power your whole house!

**Evergreen<sup>SM</sup>**

Learn more on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)  
 800-421-0283, ext. 595

**IN 2018, CO-OP MEMBERS RECEIVED \$146,664 in REBATES and SAVED 1,074,350 kWhs of energy by making ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS in their homes.**  
**CONTACT US TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN GET REBATES IN 2019!**

**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.  
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