

POWERLINES

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | MAY 2020



Powering our community during COVID-19 and moving forward

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

I've come to realize that our electric cooperative is much more than geography and a set of boundary lines on a map. We're a community.

In a community, neighbors watch out for neighbors, families take care of families, and we all work together toward the common good. That's what we experienced in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Like you, we've followed CDC guidelines and Governor Evers' orders to limit personal contact to help protect our community and keep our employees safe, healthy and on the job. We closed our lobbies March 16, but our drive-through, phone lines and website remained opened. Throughout the pandemic, we've been fully staffed to continue normal operations. Our linemen and member services team are here to serve you.

During COVID-19, we put plans in place for the continued delivery of reliable service to your families, homes, farms and businesses, and took steps to keep your power on and our community safe. We know the most important thing we can do to help in a time like this, is to keep your power on.

As always, we remain community-focused, and our goal is to deliver reliable power with efficiency and extraordinary service to the people who count on us – our 20,000+ electric members and 4,000+ propane customers.

Our electric cooperative was built by the communities we serve, and we continue to be led by members like you. To me, the power of a community comes from the people who live and work here. I know that all of us at Polk-Burnett are truly grateful to be a part of this community. We are stronger together. And we will be stronger going forward.



ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY POSTPONED WATCH FOR NEW DATE AND DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

Energy efficiency lessons for kids while school's out

by Todd Schulte and Debbie Waalen, member services



Electronics and mobile devices, TVs, computers and gaming stations have become standards in our homes. Our children are growing up in a connected world that relies on technology, and in turn, energy consumption. Teaching kids to save energy is an important life lesson.

Before parents and grandparents can teach children how to save energy, you must first answer *what's in it for me?* As most of us know, teaching kids to care about energy conservation is a hard sell. Adults need to explain *why* it's important to save energy and how it *benefits* the child, otherwise, children won't understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated.

In the simplest terms, *less* money spent on an electric bill can mean *more* money for fun activities; that's something children and all of us can relate to! Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means you're doing your part to conserve natural resources and help the environment.

Because saving energy is an abstract concept for kids, provide specific actions and set an example. We know that children learn by watching what their parents do. Even if you don't say anything, children process your actions. When you turn out the lights or unplug your phone charger, they will notice.

For younger kids, turn energy savings into a game. Challenge them to count all the electronics, appliances and lights in your home. Then ask which gadgets can be turned off or unplugged every day to save power.

For older kids, show them how to program a smart thermostat or appliance. Shop with them for LEDs and Energy Star appliances. Show them the electric bill, so they can see costs, energy use and how their actions impact the bill.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy saving habits that last a lifetime:

1. Turn off the lights, devices, computers and gaming consoles when not in use.
2. Close curtains in summer to keep your home cooler, open in winter to let sunshine in.
3. Teach children to wait for full loads before running dishwasher and clothes washer.

For more tips to save, please give us a call, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.

Families that spend more time at home during COVID-19 restrictions may see a surge in home energy use – and in upcoming electric bills. Call us or visit polkburnett.com for money-saving steps to lower monthly electric bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

OVERLOADED electrical outlets are potential FIRE HAZARDS.

May is National Electrical Safety Month
plug into safety

NEVER use electrical equipment NEAR WATER and other liquids.

May is National Electrical Safety Month
plug into safety

\$67,500 in co-op scholarships to Class of 2020

Congratulations to the winners of Polk-Burnett's 2020 Community Service Scholarship program. The 54 students below will each receive \$1,250 to continue their education after high school, for a total of \$67,500 awarded to these sons and daughters of co-op members:

Co-op District 1

Eric Vater, Osceola High School
Makayla Quigley, Osceola High School
Adrianna Meath, Somerset High School
Emily Fox, Osceola High School
Grace Haase, Osceola High School
Logan Maxon, Osceola High School
Zachary Solsrud, Osceola High School
Bailey Johnson, Amery High School
Logan Johnson, Osceola High School
Madison Link, Osceola High School
Nicholas Kremer, Osceola High School
John Klugow, Osceola High School

Co-op District 2

Riley Holsclaw, St. Croix Falls High School
Matthew Ward, Osceola High School
Hannah Cross, St. Croix Falls High School
Sequoia Sirek, St. Croix Falls High School
Grayden Hershfield, Luck High School

Co-op District 3

Zoe Christensen, New Richmond High School
Maggie Rosen, Clear Lake High School
Morgan Brotzel, Amery High School
Abigail Aune, Clear Lake High School
Dylan Thomsen, Amery High School
Nicholas Erickson, Amery High School
Garrett Anderson, Clear Lake High School

Co-op District 4

Hannah Orf, Turtle Lake High School
Nicholas Paulsen, Unity High School
Maggie Conlan, Unity High School
Savannah Strenke, Turtle Lake High School
Kassy Coleman, Turtle Lake High School

Co-op District 5

Lucas Hammer, Madison West High School
Noah Kazmierski, St. Croix Falls High School
Courtney Crown, Cumberland High School
Abigail Lowe, Unity High School
Allison Hafner, Stillwater High School

Co-op District 6

Lily French, Home School
Jordyn Thiex, Siren High School
Tate Ovik, Frederic High School
Adam Ruud, Siren High School
Kincade Engen, Frederic High School

Co-op District 7

Lindsey Muntifering, Forest Lake High School
Kinzie Gray, River Falls High School

Co-op District 8

Jeni Petersen, Webster High School
Gage Holmes, Siren High School
Morgan Mulroy, Webster High School
Karlee Sybers, Siren High School
Brady Amundson, Eagan High School

Co-op District 9

Raisa Jensen, Grantsburg High School
Myah Nelson, Unity High School
Sydnie Roberds, Savannah Arts Academy
Luke Stang, River Falls High School
Hannah Smestad, Grantsburg High School
Connor DeTienne, Grantsburg High School
Coleton Peterson, Webster High School
Shilo Covey, Grantsburg High School



Since 1987, Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op has awarded more than \$778,500 to high school seniors.

Polk-Burnett's scholarship program does NOT affect electric rates; it is funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that otherwise would be forfeited to the state, and by the generosity of co-op members who donate Capital Credits to the scholarship fund.

If you would like to donate your Capital Credits to the co-op's scholarship fund, please call us or visit our website for an enrollment form. You can also learn more about Capital Credits and co-op scholarships on polkburnett.com

Download SmartHub to manage your electric account, view and report power outages, track electricity use, and view and pay your bill from your computer or mobile device.

Cut energy costs and improve comfort in your home



Have your home tested by a certified energy rater, using a blower door fan and infrared camera. The energy rater will identify heat loss, evaluate insulation and provide you with a report with the best ways to improve your home's energy performance. *Plan now for when COVID restrictions end!*

**\$300 OFF HOME PERFORMANCE TEST
UP TO \$1,000 REBATE ON HOME ENERGY UPGRADES**

For details, contact member services, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.



New construction this summer?

Congratulations! We know you are eager to hook up your electric service to power your lights, appliances, electronics and so much more. We've developed a simple checklist to help you through the process. Please call or visit polkburnett.com for new construction checklist, helpful resources, video and forms.



Convert home power line from overhead to underground

Members of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative may convert individual electric service lines from overhead to underground. Your service line connects your home to the transformer and primary power lines.

This is an option for an additional fee. *Contact us to get started and quote a conversion cost.*

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.

800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

