

# POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC CO-OP Powerlines

Your Source for Reliable Power & Extraordinary Service

September 2018

## We're returning **\$1,010,000**: If you purchased power in 1990, 1996 and/or 2015, you'll get money back

by General Manager Steve Stroschane



I'm pleased to report that Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will return more than \$1 million this year in Capital Credits, including \$860,000 to co-op members who purchased electricity in 1996 and/or 2015, plus a Capital Credit retirement of about \$150,000 from Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale provider, to members who purchased power in 1990.

**It pays to be a co-op member:** 16,504 active members and 7,050 former members will receive Capital Credits in September. **Capital Credits are a benefit of your co-op membership! Any money left after expenses is returned to members, according to our co-op principles.**

**WATCH FOR CREDIT ON YOUR SEPTEMBER BILL!** (In past years, members received a check in the mail.)  
The amount of your credit is based on electricity you purchased in 1990, 1996 and/or 2015.

## Win a co-op scholarship! **\$56,250** to be awarded to Class of 2019



Just in time for a new school year, applications are available for Polk-Burnett's Community Service Scholarships. We'll award 45 scholarships for \$1,250 each to high school seniors whose parents are members of Polk-Burnett. Scholarship candidates are also invited to apply for a trip to Washington, D.C.

"This is our opportunity to recognize the sons and daughters of co-op members who make a difference in the lives of others," said Joan O'Fallon, Polk-Burnett communications director. "Since 1987, Polk-Burnett has awarded more than \$655,000 to co-op youth. You could be one of them!"

*Polk-Burnett scholarships are funded with unclaimed capital credits and do not affect electricity rates. Giving back to the community and local youth is part of our mission as a cooperative.*

**Scholarship applications are available at local high schools, Polk-Burnett offices in Siren and Centuria, and on polkburnett.com.**

## Operation Round-Up awards **\$18,165** to local nonprofits

Polk-Burnett's Operation Round-Up awarded \$18,165 to 24 local nonprofits in July, including \$1,000 to Burnett County Interfaith Caregivers (left) and \$1,000 to Moms and Dads Against Meth (right).



**Funding for Operation Round-Up is donated** by co-op members 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 and grants are awarded to organizations that improve our local quality of life.

**THANK YOU FOR ROUNDING UP YOUR ELECTRIC BILL.**

The average donation is \$6 per year, which may not seem like a lot, but when combined with 10,000+ co-op members, it all adds up; 2017 grants totaled \$61,000!  
**YOUR SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG IMPACT!**

Visit [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) to see summer grant winners and learn how your nonprofit can apply.

## Your opinion counts, watch for email survey

Polk-Burnett is conducting an email survey using SurveyMonkey to ask for your feedback about co-op performance. If you receive a survey, please share your thoughts. Your input will help us plan for the future and improve our service to you.

*We're not just another utility. Polk-Burnett is an electric cooperative and belongs to the people it serves. As a member-owner, YOU have a voice.*

**THANK YOU! All who participate will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit.**





## 7 tips for a safe harvest: Keep farm equipment clear of power lines

- 1) Use a spotter when operating machinery near power lines.
- 2) Use care when raising augers and truck beds near power lines.
- 3) Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.
- 4) Inspect height of farm equipment and know clearance.
- 5) Always lower extensions when moving loads.
- 6) Never move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- 7) If a power line is sagging or low, call us at 800-421-0283.

If contact is made with a power line, stay inside the equipment. Warn others to stay away and call 911.

Do not exit until the utility crew says it is safe. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire.

In this case, jump with feet together, then hop away. Do not touch ground and equipment at the same time.



POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC CO-OP

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

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

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

## Keeping the right-of-way clear for reliable power and safety

The right-of-way (ROW) is a strip of land under power lines. The co-op has the *right and responsibility* to clear vegetation in the ROW that may disrupt your electric service or cause harm to people.

Keeping power lines clear of trees and brush **reduces power outages and blinks**, and gives linemen better access to maintain and repair power lines.

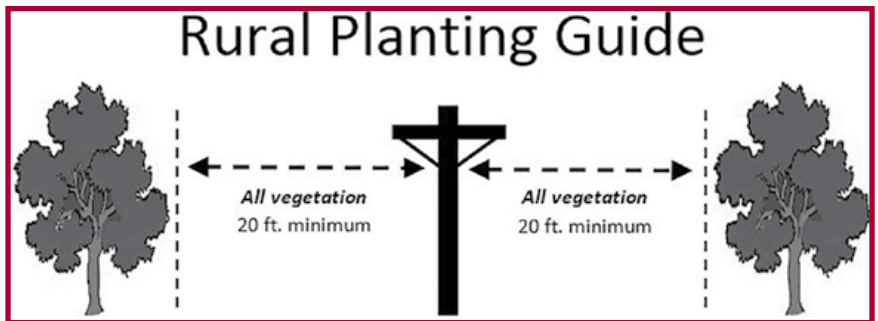
ROW clearing also **improves safety for your home and family**, and helps **prevent forest fires** by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to contact with power lines.

Power lines carry high-voltage electricity that can be dangerous—even deadly. Never trim a tree in the ROW or near power lines, and do not allow kids to climb trees close to power lines.

Polk-Burnett employees and contractors will work throughout the fall to maintain a clear right-of-way.

**If you see vegetation near power lines that needs to be trimmed or removed, please contact us.**

*It's our goal to keep everyone safe and your electric service reliable.*



We appreciate your cooperation in keeping trees out of the right-of-way, especially if you're planting this fall.

For planting guidelines, visit [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) or call 800-421-0283, ext. 308.



**LOWER YOUR ELECTRIC BILL FOR WINTER, BOOST ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND COMFORT IN YOUR HOME!  
GET CO-OP REBATES FOR APPLIANCES, LIGHTING, HVAC, RENEWABLE SYSTEMS & E-CAR CHARGERS.**



## Safety: Call 811 before you dig



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

Are you planting this fall? Installing a fence? Or building a deck? Before you dig into any home improvement project, have utility lines marked. One call helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Contact Diggers Hotline three working days before you dig to have buried utility lines located, 800-242-8511, 811 or [diggershotline.com](http://diggershotline.com). It's free!**

Note: Diggers Hotline does not mark private utility lines. Contact your co-op for a list of local electricians that provide this service.



**Want an easy way to pay your bill? Check out Prepay Your Way.**

**No deposits. No late fees. No due dates.**

**You choose when to pay.**

**[polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) | 800-421-0283, ext. 335.**

## Notice: Wisconsin Energy Assistance

Your household may be eligible for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, based on household income and size. For information, contact your county energy assistance office:

☎ Barron 715-537-5691

☎ Burnett 715-349-7600

☎ Dunn 715-232-1116

☎ Polk 715-485-8480

☎ St. Croix 800-606-9227

☎ Washburn 715-468-4747



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

**Turn off kitchen and bath exhaust fans within 20 minutes after cooking or bathing.** *Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*

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



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Not for Profit



**POLK-BURNETT  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative