

POWERLINES

Nov. 2026



Co-op returns \$1.8 million to members, see your November electric bill *by General Manager Steve Stroshane*

In October, we recognized National Co-op Month and reflected on what makes an electric co-op different than other utilities and businesses. First and most important is you. Our cooperative is owned by you and exists to serve you. Everyone who receives electricity from Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op is a member-owner.

Another key difference is that co-op decisions are made locally, by board directors who live in our community. Our board is made up of nine co-op members who are elected by the membership.

A third advantage is that our electric cooperative is not in business to generate profit. Any revenue left after expenses is allocated and returned to members as Capital Credits. I'd like to share more about Capital Credits with you in my column this month.

Annual Capital Credits are a benefit of your electric co-op membership

I'm happy to announce that Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will return **\$1,813,166** to members this year!

Our 2026 Capital Credit retirement is payable to members who purchased electricity in **2003 and 2004**.

If you were a Polk-Burnett member those years, you will get money back!

Capital Credits will be distributed to 17,500 active and former members who purchased electricity in 2003 and 2004.

Active members will receive a credit on November electric bills. Former members will be mailed a check if their Capital Credits are \$25 or more; lesser amounts will be left to accrue for future payouts.

Capital Credit amounts are **based on how much electricity was purchased** by the member in 2003 and 2004.

Even if you don't receive a Capital Credit distribution this year, you earn *allocations* on your account each year that you are a Polk-Burnett member. When you become eligible for a distribution, you'll receive a bill credit, or a check if you've moved away, so please keep your mailing address up to date.

Learn more about Capital Credits on our website or contact us, 800-421-0283, ext. 335. ►

Make sure you receive your Capital Credits, keep contact information up to date

Make sure you receive your Capital Credits and the best service from Polk-Burnett by keeping your account information current. In addition to returning Capital Credits, there may be times when we need to contact you about a power outage at your location. If we have your cell number, we will send you an outage text when your electricity goes out.

Update contact information on SmarHub, by phone, 800-421-0283, ext. 335, or on our website. ►

Polk-Burnett scholarships are funded with unclaimed Capital Credits, not rates

While we are talking about Capital Credits this month, it's important to know that Polk-Burnett scholarships are funded by the generosity of members who donate Capital Credits and with *unclaimed* Capital Credits (checks that were not cashed or returned to us as undeliverable).

Co-op members may donate future Capital Credits to co-op scholarships. If you'd like to support education for students of co-op families with your Capital Credits, please contact us for assistance, 800-421-0283, ext. 335, or enroll on our website. ►



Class of 2027: Apply for a co-op scholarship

Sons and daughters of active co-op members in the Class of 2027 are invited to apply for a Polk-Burnett scholarship, good for training and education at an accredited technical school, college or university in fall 2027. Students are also encouraged to apply for the Co-op Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. Learn more and apply online by January 1.

Since 1987, Polk-Burnett has awarded more than \$1.5 million in scholarships. Giving back to our members and community is part of our mission as a cooperative. If you know co-op students graduating in the Class of 2027, please invite them to apply for a Polk-Burnett scholarship on polkburnett.com.



Class of 2027: Win a Polk-Burnett scholarship
Up to \$2,000 for college for seniors
whose parents are co-op members!

Apply online by January 1, 2027.

How are we doing? We're conducting a member survey to ask for your feedback about our performance. If you are contacted by email in early December, please share your thoughts with us.

The survey has just four quick questions and your responses help us understand what we're doing well, what we can improve and what matters most to our members.

All who participate will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit; 10 will be awarded. Thank you!

Spirit of giving continues, join us for our 19th Holiday Gift Drive

As the holiday season approaches, we're reminded that this is truly a season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another, which are cooperative principles that guide us all year long. We're not only here to keep the lights on, but to make life better for the communities we serve. Our gift drive makes the holiday bright for local kids. Please join us! ~ *General Manager Steve Stroshane*



2026 Polk-Burnett Holiday Gift Drive

**Help us make
the season
bright
for local kids**

19th Annual Polk-Burnett Holiday Gift Drive

Donate NEW, UNWRAPPED gifts

NOV. 23 - DEC. 7, 2026 | Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Polk-Burnett Centuria, 1001 State Road 35, Benefits Operation Christmas, Polk County Kids
Polk-Burnett Siren, 7298 State Road 70, Benefits Interfaith Caregivers, Burnett County Kids





Looking to replace your old water heater?

Members: Get a special price of \$1,050 on load control

A new 100-gallon electric Marathon pays for itself in energy savings

When you install on our off-peak rate, it's one of the most cost-effective ways to heat water in your home! It operates like a battery by charging overnight when power prices are low and stores hot water for use throughout your day!

- ▶ Durable and built to last with corrosion-free tank.
- ▶ Backed by co-op service and Marathon warranty.

Learn more on polkburnett.com or call us at 800-421-0283, ext. 318.



Farm animals may be sensitive to electricity

Animals are more sensitive to electric currents than humans. If you notice sensitive behavior in cows and livestock on your farm, such as a tendency to shy away from objects or a hesitancy to enter stalls or milking parlors, contact your electric cooperative. You may have stray voltage issues caused by poor grounding or defective electrical equipment.

For assistance, contact Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, 800-421-0283, ext. 322.



Brighten your yard from dusk to dawn with LED security lights for co-op members

Energy efficient LED security lights installed on Polk-Burnett poles operate from dusk to dawn. Members are charged a monthly fee for the light and may be charged for installation. Polk-Burnett LED security lights are approved by the International Dark Sky Association.

Call or visit our website to brighten your yard, 800-421-0283, ext. 389.

Holiday cooking tips to save energy and money

During the holidays, you may spend more time cooking. A few small changes can help you save energy, lower utility costs and keep your kitchen running smoothly:

- ▶ Keep oven door closed. Use the oven light to check food.
Opening the door lets the heat escape and makes your oven work harder.
- ▶ Turn down the thermostat when cooking. Cooking warms your home quickly!



Hunters, be safe, stay away from utilities

Do not shoot at power lines or utility equipment.

Never place deer stands or decoys on utility poles or equipment.

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.

Follow us on Facebook. Sign up for our SmartHub app.

800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

