

THE VALUE OF

Your Co-op Membership



April 2022 PowerLines



We're giving money back to our members

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

I am happy to announce that the board of directors approved a **special Capital Credit retirement** for all co-op members who purchased power in 2021. This special Capital Credit is being paid out to you because revenue from 2021 energy sales was greater than anticipated. See special Capital Credit on your April electric bill.

Capital Credits are a sign of strong financial performance

KWh energy sales were up in 2021 and we've been able to hold expenses down. According to our cooperative business principles, any revenue left after expenses is allocated and returned to members as Capital Credits. Capital Credits are a direct benefit of your co-op membership.

Co-op pays out \$1 million special Capital Credit retirement See credit on your April electric bill

Your special Capital Credit is based on the amount of electricity you purchased in 2021. Active members will receive a credit on April electric bills. Former members will be mailed a check if \$10 or more; lesser amounts will be left to accrue for future payouts. **This special retirement is in addition to the regular Capital Credit distribution members receive each fall. Watch your bills again in November!**

At the beginning of 2020, we didn't know how the pandemic would affect our local community, the co-op or the utility industry. Today, I can report that the electric cooperative is more efficient, resilient and financially secure for our members. Our priority has been to keep your power on by providing you with reliable electricity and propane. After severe storms in 2019 and 2020 negatively impacted reliability, we achieved our second best outage measure ever at just under one hour per member per year in 2021. We offer convenient, electronic options to help our members manage your accounts, and we donated more than 600 volunteer hours and \$72,000 through Operation Round Up in 2021 to improve our local quality of life. Throughout this unprecedented time, we've remained committed to our members and our community.

On the financial side of our business, we saw an increase in energy sales in 2021 and kept expenses low. We were expecting the need for a rate increase in 2022; instead, we are giving excess revenue back to members as a special Capital Credit retirement this month.

Members have also seen a power-cost adjustment (PCA) on bills

Last April through December, we passed through a credit when the power supply market was favorable. This month, you'll see a power-cost adjustment to cover the higher cost of power. As a co-op, we not only charge what it costs, but we also return any excess and provide you with transparency on your electric bill.

Capital Credits and our co-op scholarship program

Whenever we talk about Capital Credits, it's an opportunity to talk about our scholarship and Youth Tour program. I'd like you to know that Polk-Burnett scholarships and Youth Tour are funded with *unclaimed* Capital Credits. If we are not able to reach members after years of looking and checks go unclaimed, we are able to use unclaimed Capital Credits for our scholarship and Youth Tour program (if not used for qualifying educational or charitable purposes this unclaimed money would be forfeited to the state). In addition, co-op members may donate Capital Credits to the scholarship fund. We are grateful for this generosity! *If you would like to donate your future Capital Credits to the co-op's scholarship and Youth Tour program, see our online enrollment form or contact our billing office, 800-421-0283, ext. 335.*

84TH ANNUAL MEETING OF CO-OP MEMBERS

Friday, June 10, 2022
Join us Online at 1 p.m.

Registration opens May 1
on polkburnett.com

2022 BOARD ELECTION CO-OP DISTRICTS 4, 5 & 6

Ballots Mail April 29
Vote by Mail or Online

Your co-op is governed by local
members who live and work here

Drive Electric! Learn if an e-vehicle is right for you.

FREE EV SEMINAR

with Jeff Springer, EV expert
Dairyland Power Cooperative

Tues., May 10, 5:30 p.m.
Polk-Burnett, Centuria
Register: 800-421-0283, x595
or polkburnett.com



CHARGE
POWERED BY CO-OPS

We make charging easy!

CO-OP MEMBERS: GET AN \$800 REBATE ON A LEVEL 2 EV SMART CHARGER ON LOAD CONTROL

When purchased from Polk-Burnett

Off-peak rate available



SEE WHAT'S NEW IN E-VEHICLES FOR 2022!




**LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION
DAY
APRIL 11**

#ThankALineworker

**Lineworkers always
rise to the challenge.**

**HAPPY EARTH DAY
APRIL 22**

*Do you know that you can buy
renewable energy from your electric co-op?*



**100 kWh blocks are just \$1 per block
per month, added to your bill.
Buy one block or enough
to power your whole house!**



Help us protect the Karner blue butterfly

Polk-Burnett follows eco-friendly practices to help protect the Karner blue butterfly. We've marked habitat sites under power lines, and ask co-op members and employees to tread carefully in these areas this spring and summer. This will help the DNR preserve and study the endangered butterfly. The Karner blue butterfly is often found near purple lupine plants in sandy soil. Thank you!

Building or landscaping this spring? Call before you dig



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

April is national Safe Digging Month. Before you build a deck, install a fence, plant a tree or dig into any home improvement project, have utility lines marked. One call helps protect you from injury and expense.

Call Diggers Hotline three working days before you dig to have buried utility lines located, 800-242-8511, 811 or diggershotline.com. It's free!

Please note: Diggers Hotline does NOT mark PRIVATE utility lines, but can help you find a locator who provides this service. See locator link at bottom of Diggers Hotline homepage.

A clear right-of-way means safe, reliable power

"Polk-Burnett maintains the right-of-way under power lines to keep power flowing safely to your home. Right-of-way maintenance is intended to keep tree branches and brush away from high-voltage power lines. This ensures fewer blinks and outages, improved access for faster restoration times, and less risk of fire and life-threatening electrocution. Thank you for your cooperation." ~ Rick Kosloski, rights-of-way manager



Annual herbicide notice for members

Polk-Burnett's mission is to provide members with safe, reliable power as efficiently as possible. An important part of this mission is our right-of-way program, which includes herbicide application to control growth of woody stemmed vegetation under power lines.

In 2022, Polk-Burnett will continue its herbicide program to control vegetation in the electric right-of-way. Trained, licensed contractors will walk the rights-of-way with a backpack container and use a hand wand to apply a low-volume herbicide; only the leaves of woody stemmed vegetation are targeted (see photo above). The application is scheduled to begin in June and will conclude in October.

If you choose to decline the use of herbicide, please complete and return form below by May 20 to:

Polk-Burnett, Rights-of-Way Department, 1001 State Road 35, Centuria, WI 54824.

If form is not received by May 20, 2022, herbicide application may occur on properties not currently in our database.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THIS FORM OR CONTACT US IF:

1) You are served by underground power lines. Polk-Burnett does not apply herbicide to underground lines.

2) You have already sent this form or contacted Polk-Burnett in the past to decline the use of herbicide.

Visit polkburnett.com/herbicide-faq to see if your property is already on the No Herbicide list.

Please do not apply herbicide on my property(s). I understand that if I have multiple properties where I do not want herbicide application, I must notify Polk-Burnett of all locations, so they can be properly identified. I understand that I must place signs (provided by Polk-Burnett upon request) beneath the power lines to identify my property boundaries and that future right-of-way maintenance will be performed by mowing.

Save paper and postage: Properties can be added to the No Herbicide list on polkburnett.com/herbicide-faq

Name: _____

Location Number or Account Number: _____

Parcel ID Number from County Tax Record: _____

Property Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address (Optional): _____

Signature: _____

If you do not know how the right-of-way on your property is maintained or if you have questions about herbicide application, call us at 800-421-0283, ext. 329. We're happy to help. To learn more about herbicide application, and view product labels and material safety data sheets, visit polkburnett.com/right-way.

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

