

WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY!
Small change makes a big difference!

June 2026

POWERLINES



Above: A "Special Day in the Amery School Forest" was made even more special thanks to a \$2,500 **Operation Round Up** grant and the generosity of co-op members who round up. Funds will be used for school forest signage and goat fencing. The ag dept. is introducing goats to eradicate buckthorn, and the elementary school is adding educational and trail signs for school and community use.



Do you know someone on our unclaimed Capital Credit list?

They may have unclaimed money due to them by General Manager Steve Strohane

Every few years, Polk-Burnett makes an effort to locate and pay out (former) members with unclaimed Capital Credits on our books. One of the best ways to find them is with your help!

This year, we are looking for members who have unclaimed Capital Credit checks issued in 2021 and 2022. The checks were returned by the post office as undeliverable, were never cashed, or there was no valid address to send funds to. There are more than 5,000 inactive member names on the unclaimed list!

If these members are not located by July 10, 2026, the unclaimed funds will be turned over to our scholarship program for educational or charitable purposes as directed by our bylaws.

The easiest way to view the unclaimed Capital Credit list is on our website. To scroll through a PDF with the list of names, visit polkburnett.com and click on the web banner or scan the QR code below. Members can also view the list in person; just stop by during office hours and we'd be happy to assist.

To claim Capital Credits, please contact the co-op, 800-421-0283, ext. 335.

About Capital Credits, cash back for co-op members

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Polk-Burnett operates at cost. Any money left after annual expenses is returned to members as Capital Credits.

Capital Credits are allocated and distributed each year and are a direct benefit of cooperative membership. Watch your electric bill in November for your Capital Credits.

About Polk-Burnett scholarships for co-op families

Since 1987, Polk-Burnett has given more than \$1.4 million in scholarships to support co-op families.

Scholarships do not affect electricity rates; they are funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that would be forfeited to the state if not used for education, and by the generosity of co-op members who donate their Capital Credits.



This year, 77 students in the Class of 2026 were awarded \$2,000 scholarships. All are sons and daughters of active co-op members who demonstrate community service. Scholarship winners are on polkburnett.com and in your May Powerlines.

Donate Capital Credits to scholarship program

Polk-Burnett's scholarship program is funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that would be forfeited to the state if not used for education, and by the generosity of co-op members who donate Capital Credits.

If you would like to donate your future Capital Credits to the scholarship fund, complete our online enrollment form on polkburnett.com or contact us for assistance, 800-421-0283, ext. 335.

Scan QR code >



Summer rates in effect June through September

Polk-Burnett's summer rate is in effect for invoice dates June through September. Co-op electricity rates are based on actual costs. Polk-Burnett pays a higher summer rate for wholesale power because members use more electricity systemwide during the hot days of summer, making demand and cost rise.



5 ways to get your home ready for summer comfort and energy savings

Is your house ready to handle the hot, humid days of summer? Don't sweat it. With these simple steps, you'll stay cool and save all season long.

- 1. Get a tune-up:** Hire a qualified professional to inspect and clean your air conditioning system. If your AC is older or in need of repair, consider making the switch to an energy efficient heat pump. *Rebates are available for co-op members.*
- 2. Install a Wi-Fi thermostat:** Adjusting your thermostat is the most effective way to reduce your cooling costs. Smart thermostats make it easy, automatically adjusting the temp based on your schedule with the convenience of remote control.
- 3. Air seal your home:** Check around windows and exterior doors for gaps where conditioned air can escape. Seal gaps with weatherstripping for doors and caulk for windows, which you can find at your local hardware store.
- 4. Check insulation with a home performance test:** Make sure your walls and attic are insulated according to levels recommended for our climate zone. A certified energy rater, armed with an infrared camera, can inspect your home to ensure that it's insulated properly. *We offer rebates on home performance test and recommended upgrades!*
- 5. Change to LEDs:** Traditional incandescent bulbs give off a lot of heat, wasting energy and making your cooling system work harder. High-efficiency LEDs bulbs are cool to the touch. *We offer LED lighting rebates for members.*

Contact our member services team for rebates and expert advice on energy savings and keeping your home comfortable this summer, 800-421-0283, ext. 318.

POLK-BURNETT



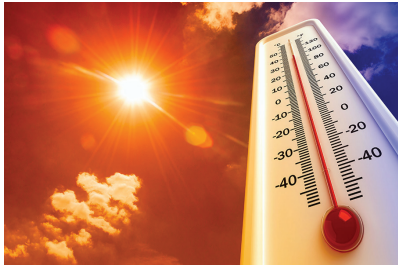
Rebates for Polk-Burnett propane customers

- \$300 propane water heater
- \$300 propane furnace
- \$250 propane clothes dryer
- \$250 propane fireplace
- \$250 propane kitchen stove/cooktop

Scan QR code for rebate webform and details >



Rebates help customers with savings in new and existing homes. Installations in travel trailers, mobile or manufactured homes not in permanent residential or commercial use are ineligible. A propane furnace replaced with a propane furnace does not qualify for this rebate. The installation must take place on real property located within Wisconsin and be clearly identified by physical address on the rebate application. Customers may receive multiple appliance rebates, but only one rebate per appliance type. Contact us for rebate forms and details, 800-421-0283, ext. 378 or 411.



Ease summer strain on the electric grid

Do the Summer Shift: Co-op members, shift energy use away from peak times when demand and cost are highest, summer weekdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. It's easy: Run your dishwasher and laundry before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., turn off lights and raise AC a few degrees; a fan can help you feel 4 degrees cooler!

Beat the Peak: We'll send you a peak alert by text, email or phone asking you to reduce electricity when demand and cost are high. Participants receive up to nine peak alerts in summer and seven peak alerts in winter. Enroll on polkburnett.com or 800-421-0283, ext. 595. **Together we save energy and money!**

AC notice for members in load management

During peak demand periods, air conditioners/heat pumps enrolled in the co-op's load management program are cycled every 15 minutes, with up to nine peak events per summer from 2 to 6 p.m. Participating members may also experience economic-driven control. Load control reduces the co-op's cost for power during times of peak demand and benefits all members. Historically, control periods are on the hottest days of the summer; they are based on electricity demand throughout the entire Midwest region and may occur when local weather conditions are not extreme. Thank you! Sign up for load control notifications at polkburnett.com/load-management.



Please **DON'T** post signs on power poles.



Don't post on poles

Please help keep lineworkers safe: Don't post signs, birdhouses, satellite dishes or any objects on power poles. Thank you!

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs are dangerous for co-op lineworkers. Objects on poles can puncture protective gear, making lineworkers vulnerable to falls, cuts and electrocution.

Proactive measure for homeowners: Move your service line out of harm's way (underground)



Scan QR code for rebuild webform >



As we enter the summer storm season, we'd like to offer you a fee-based opportunity to move your overhead service line underground. Your service line connects your home to the transformer and the primary power line. Moving the line underground is one way homeowners can add protection from storm outages. Other benefits of underground lines are a cleaner appearance and eliminating the need for right-of-way clearing in your yard.

There is a fee to move your service line underground. Converting your line requires trenching or plowing and may require a padmount transformer box or pedestal. A co-op staking engineer will visit your site to determine the best route for an underground service line and will quote a cost for conversion. To get started, complete our rebuild webform or call 800-421-0283, ext. 389.

Grid Power Players: How power flows across the grid to you



When you flip a switch, electricity is there. It's instant, reliable and ready to power your day. Behind that moment is a carefully coordinated system of grid power players who work together to keep your lights on. It's important to understand how this system works, from power generation, across high-voltage transmission lines to the substation. We take it from there and deliver electricity across local distribution power lines to your homes, farms and businesses.

- > Once electricity is generated, it travels across long distances to reach our local communities.
- > Our generation and transmission partner is Dairyland Power Cooperative.
- > A few of our local substations depend on a flow of power from transmission lines owned and operated by Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company.
- > The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) acts as our traffic controller for the grid, balancing supply and demand every second of the day.

See *Grid Power Players infographic and video on our website.* Scan QR code >



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

