

# POWERLINES

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative

November 2021



## Is an electric vehicle right for you?

by General Manager Steve Strohane

Should your next car be an electric vehicle? EVs currently account for just 2.2% of the U.S. auto market. Research suggests that EVs could reach 10% of passenger vehicle sales globally by 2025, growing to 30% by 2030. We are watching EV trends on your behalf. An important part of our job as your electric co-op is looking out for our members and providing reliable electricity for all your needs. We're here to power your homes, farms and businesses... and even transportation if you decide an EV is right for you!

The average American drives 37 miles a day, which is more than 13,000 a year, spending about \$1,240 on gas. Most EVs can go between 200 and 350 miles on a full charge. Tesla's long-range Model 3 (MSRP: \$49,990) boasts 353 miles of range, which is more than enough for the average daily commute, even in rural Wisconsin.

Like gas cars, there are outside factors that affect range, such as frequent use of the heater or air conditioner. Some EVs will run a fan while parked if the internal temperature of the car gets too hot or too cold; this uses electricity and reduces range.

There are currently 10 all-electric vehicles on the market for under \$40,000, and it's becoming more common to find used EVs.

In 2022, two electric trucks are expected: the Rivian R1T and the Ford F-150 Lightning. I've heard that Ford has pre-orders for more than 150,000 Lightning trucks. Tesla's Cybertruck is also expected in late 2022.

### About 80% of EV charging occurs at home

When an electric car is done driving for the day, you can plug it in to recharge overnight. More than 80% of EV drivers currently charge their vehicles at home, and wake up to a fully charged battery every morning, when using a Level 2 charger. There are three ways to charge an EV:

**Level 1 is the most basic**, where you plug the car into a standard 120-volt outlet. This is the easiest and cheapest charging solution, but it takes longer. The battery charges at a rate of two to five miles each hour.


**Level 2 charging is faster** and adds 10 to 25 miles of range for each hour of charging—a rate that fully charges the battery overnight. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet, commonly used for larger appliances like a clothes dryer. A Level 2 charging device can also be hard wired. Either way requires professional installation. You often see public Level 2 chargers at shopping centers, restaurants and parks. Polk-Burnett offers an \$800 rebate on a Level 2 smart

charger, when purchased from the co-op. It can be installed in your garage and operates overnight when electricity cost and demand are low.

**Level 3 DC fast chargers** are located in high-traffic public areas and can bring a car battery up to 80% of capacity in 30 minutes. As EVs become more popular, you can expect to see more fast charging stations.

### Some benefits of owning an EV:

- Instant torque.
- Latest driving technology, such as driver assist, emergency braking and software updates.
- No oil changes and less maintenance.
- Safety. EVs are 10 times less likely to catch fire than conventional cars and less likely to roll over.
- No carbon emissions when operating. EVs are better for the environment—even when accounting for emissions during manufacturing and when powered by electricity from coal. As more electricity comes from renewables, the fuel used to power EVs becomes cleaner.

 *If you are charging an EV at home, please contact us. We can help ensure your home is prepared for the additional energy demand and you charge in the most cost-effective way.*



Polk-Burnett is a member of **CHARGE™**, a regional electric vehicle charging network that helps alleviate range anxiety and encourages EV adoption in rural communities. Currently, most large-scale charging efforts have focused on bringing EV chargers to interstate and major transportation corridors. Acting on the cooperative principle of cooperation, **CHARGE™** is filling the gaps by bringing EV chargers to rural highways across the Midwest, as well as to co-op member garages.

Watch for our upgraded Level 3 fast charger coming to Marketplace in St. Croix Falls in 2022, and please call us if you'd like to order a Level 2 smart charger for residential charging.

**DRIVE ELECTRIC!**  
We're changing the way rural America fuels transportation.

**CHARGE**  
POWERED BY CO-OPS

**CO-OP MEMBERS:**  
**\$800 REBATE** ON A  
**LEVEL 2 EV SMART CHARGER ON LOAD CONTROL**  
When purchased from Polk-Burnett

Contact us before installing an EV charger. We can help charge your e-vehicle in the most cost-effective way.

Off-peak rate available.





Clip & Save

## Phone extension directory

Dial 800-421-0283, then enter extension number:

- Billing, Electric Accounts, 335
- Board of Directors, 313
- Capital Credits, 335
- EV Chargers, 595
- Evergreen Renewable Blocks, 595
- Heating & Cooling, 595
- Load Management, Off-Peak, 595
- Member Services, 595
- New Construction, 308/365
- News Media, 333
- Operations, 308/365
- Operation Round Up, 333
- Propane, 378/411
- Rebates, 318
- Right-of-Way, 329
- Scholarships, 333
- Security Lights, 308
- SmartHub, 335
- Solar & Wind, 595
- Water Heaters, 595



## COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

From our table to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

## Electric grid and meter upgrade

We're upgrading 26,000 meters in 2021-22 to improve member service and reliability.

Learn more about the project on [polkburnett.com/electric-grid-meter-upgrade](http://polkburnett.com/electric-grid-meter-upgrade).



# EnergySense REBATE DEADLINE

## January 1, 2022

For items purchased in 2021.

[polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) | 800-421-0283, ext. 318



## Be prepared for winter storms and power outages

Polk-Burnett works all year long to strengthen its system and prevent power outages, but winter storms are always a threat. Ice, snow and wind can damage power lines and cause power outages.

### If your lights go out this winter:

- ❄ Check circuit breakers, fuses and the neighbors.
- ❄ Report outages on SmartHub or 800-421-0283.
- ❄ Keep away from fallen power lines, and trees and branches near lines. Report these hazards.
- ❄ Crews first respond to hazards, substations and major distribution lines, followed by smaller tap lines and individual service lines.

*Our goal is to restore power safely and quickly, while keeping you informed.*

## OUTAGE TEXT ALERT

ENROLL ON [POLKBURNETT.COM](http://POLKBURNETT.COM)

WE'LL SEND YOU A TEXT:

- ✓ If the power goes out at your location.
- ✓ With estimated time of restoration, when possible.
  - ✓ When the power is restored.
  - ✓ The cause of the outage, when possible.

## OUTAGE MAP

KEEPS YOU INFORMED WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT

- ✓ See outage location.
- ✓ If help has been dispatched.
- ✓ How many affected.
- ✓ Estimated restoration time.

[polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) | [SmartHub](http://SmartHub)  
[Facebook.com/polkburnett](https://www.facebook.com/polkburnett)

## Sons and daughters of co-op members in the Class of 2022: YOU COULD WIN A \$1,250 CO-OP SCHOLARSHIP

Apply online by January 1, 2022.



## Farm animals can 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, call 800-421-0283, ext. 322.

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](http://polkburnett.com)



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

