

For your unwavering dedication to our safety and freedom, we thank all veterans for your service on Veterans Day and every day!

# POWERLINES

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

November 2020



## Electrify your world!

by General Manager Steve Strohane

Our world increasingly revolves around our homes. Sheltering in place, distance learning and remote work have become a new way of life for many during the COVID-19 pandemic. Connecting with others online for school, work, business transactions, information and entertainment is likely here to stay.

All around your home, electricity from Polk-Burnett is powering the technologies and devices you rely on, whether it's your lights, TV, dishwasher, laptop or phone.

**Look around your home to see what else electricity can do for you?** I'm excited because electricity and new electric products can save you money, increase your comfort and safety, and improve your quality of life.

A new idea, called *Beneficial Electrification*, is catching on because it helps individuals and our country meet economic and environmental goals. Beneficial electrification means using electricity instead of fossil fuels to power our homes, devices and cars. **As electricity becomes cleaner and electric products become more efficient, using electricity is a smart choice.**

### Choose electric!

Electric equipment that heats your home and water, such as heat pumps and mini splits, are incredibly energy efficient and can reduce your energy costs. Air source heat pumps now work down to -5 degrees. I invite cooks who like the control of a gas range to check out electric induction stoves: they provide immediate heat, boil water faster and create a better cooking experience, with no open flames or combustion fumes. Choosing electric lawn equipment means less noise and exhaust. And imagine an electric vehicle in your future: EVs are fun to drive and good for the environment, with no gas or oil changes!

### Electricity is clean and efficient

Electric technology is increasingly meeting our needs better than ever, and because electricity is becoming cleaner and more renewable every day, choosing electricity can help the environment while saving you money.

Thanks to new technologies, we have more options than ever to improve our homes and the world around us.

*Polk-Burnett promotes the efficient use of electricity with rebates, incentives and off-peak programs. Please contact our member services team to learn more about beneficial electrification and electrify your world today, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.*

### Four pillars of beneficial electrification

Beneficial electrification can be described as the use of electricity to power devices where it satisfies at least one of the following conditions without adversely affecting the others:

- 1 It saves consumers money over time.
- 2 It benefits the environment and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3 It improves product quality or consumer quality of life.
- 4 It fosters a more robust and resilient grid.

Examples of beneficial electrification include replacing older, inefficient gas furnaces and water heaters with more efficient electric heat pump technology. Another is our off-peak program, which uses abundant, inexpensive energy at night to charge high efficiency water heaters that maintain water temperature for hours and reduce demand during peak daytime hours. This reduces the need for power generation, lowers energy costs and carbon emissions.

## Polk-Burnett to award 54 scholarships

Over the years, you've probably heard about our efforts to support our local youth and community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken that mission to heart: Since 1987, Polk-Burnett has awarded more than \$778,000 in scholarships to the sons and daughters of co-op members.

This school year, the co-op will award \$1,250 scholarships to 54 students in the Class of 2021, for a total of \$67,500. Scholarship candidates are also invited to apply for the 2021 Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

Polk-Burnett's scholarship program is based on community service, not academic grades, athletic performance or financial need. Candidates are required to submit a community service resume. In addition, candidates must be:

1. The child or legal dependent of a Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op member
2. Graduating from high school in 2021
3. Enrolling at an accredited technical school, college or university

Scholarship applications will be accepted on the co-op's website. The deadline to apply is Friday, January 1, 2021.

Our number one priority is to keep your lights on, but our passion is our community. Because we live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all. If there is anything we can do to help you with your electric service or account, please reach out to us at 800-421-0283, ext. 595.



Polk-Burnett's scholarship program does not affect electric rates; it is funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that if not used for education would be forfeited to the state, and by the generosity of co-op members who donate Capital Credits to the scholarship fund. If you would like to donate your Capital Credits to the co-op's scholarship fund, please call us or visit our website for an enrollment form.

## Get a \$5 electric bill credit when you sign up for SmartHub and switch to paperless billing

Take control of the electricity you use and the money you spend on your electric bill with SmartHub:

1. Access your account from your computer or mobile device
2. Track your electricity use
3. View and pay your electric bill
4. View and report power outages

Free download from your app store or polkburnett.com



# 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.*

<h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">OUTAGE TEXT ALERT</h2> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>ENROLL ON POLKBURNETT.COM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">WE'LL SEND YOU A TEXT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If the power goes out at your location.</li> <li>✓ With estimated time of restoration, when possible.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ When the power is restored.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ The cause of the outage, when possible.</li> </ul>	<h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">OUTAGE MAP</h2> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">KEEPS YOU INFORMED WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ See outage location.</li> <li>✓ If help has been dispatched.</li> <li>✓ How many affected.</li> <li>✓ Estimated restoration time.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>polkburnett.com   SmartHub</b> <b>Facebook.com/polkburnett</b></p>
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## 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.*

# EnergySense REBATE DEADLINE

## January 2, 2021

For items purchased in 2020.

polkburnett.com | 800-421-0283, ext. 595



**YOUR VEHICLE JUST HIT A POWER POLE AND POWER LINES ARE EVERYWHERE.....**

**WHAT DO YOU DO?**

*Safety message for drivers of all ages from Safe Electricity and Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives*

LICENSE TO LIVE

WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG/LICENSE-TO-LIVE

### Stay in your vehicle if power lines are down

Following an accident or storm that drops power lines around your car:

- ✓ Stay inside car until power is shut off; the ground outside may be energized.
- ✓ Do not drive over wires; they may be live with high-voltage electricity.
- ✓ Call 911 and keep others away until help arrives.
- ✓ If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear so no part of your body touches the car when you land.
- ✓ Keep both feet together and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away. Keeping feet together and on the ground minimizes the chance for electrocution. Always assume the ground and power lines are energized!



## 15th annual holiday gift drive

Co-op offices will NOT BE PUBLIC COLLECTION SITES for holiday toys and gifts this year because our lobbies are closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We hope you'll join us again next year.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

*Source: www.energy.gov*



### 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

