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# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

April 2026

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



LOOKING UP  
TO LINeworkERS

SHOULD I UPGRADE  
MY APPLIANCE?

CARROT RECIPES

KIDS AND CRITTERS

PLATFORM  
TILT UP

PLATFORM  
ROTATE CCW

ON



# LINeworkERS ARE READY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST



*April 13, 2026, National Lineworker Appreciation Day*

By Ken Ceaglske, CEO

As CEO of Taylor Electric Cooperative, I have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men and women who make that possible every single day—our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most—leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system—they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers. Electric cooperatives like Taylor Electric Cooperative were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, Taylor Electric Cooperative crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops—sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines—to help restore power. An example of this



Front row (left to right): Mike Eloranta and Tim Habermeyer; back row (left to right): Colten Cummings, Geoff Mueller, Jessie Knoll, and Justin Fuchs.

happened last December when Taylor Electric linemen, Geoff Mueller and Tim Habermeyer, traveled north to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to assist Alger Delta Electric Cooperative Association in late December to restore power following a severe snowstorm. The storm brought heavy snowfall and strong winds, causing widespread power outages. Downed trees and damaged power lines left approximately 5,000 cooperative members without electricity, prompting Alger Delta to request mutual aid through the regional network of electric cooperatives. Mueller and Habermeyer departed December 29 and returned January 1.

Sending crews to assist fellow cooperatives is a core part of Taylor Electric's commitment to the cooperative principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives—working together to support members and communities when they need it most, no matter the distance or condition. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all

cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 13, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our lineworkers: thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.



# Youth Leadership Conference

UW–Stout | July 14-16, 2026

The annual WECA Youth Leadership Conference is a dynamic three-day event sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and facilitated by WECA. It is a unique opportunity for youth across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

## What will you do at YLC?

- See what makes the cooperative business model different and successful, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with industry professionals.
- Be entertained and challenged by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.
- Run for a spot on the Youth Board, which plans the next year's conference and has the opportunity to attend the National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.



## How to Register

Contact Taylor Electric Cooperative to request a registration form prior to **June 1, 2026**.

## Who's Eligible to Apply?

High school students whose parents belong to Taylor Electric Cooperative.

## YLC BUILDS THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Brothers Owen and Max Klussendorf of Medford attended WECA's Education & Lobby Days in Madison on January 25 & 26. During the event, they shared their experience participating in the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). They were interviewed by Cale McCall, NRECA's youth program manager, where they shared how the YLC program helped them build leadership skills, confidence, and a deeper understanding of electric cooperatives.

Owen and Max were both elected by their peers on the YLC board. Owen completed his term last year, which included a trip to Washington, D.C., and had the honor of watching his brother, Max, also be elected to the YLC board in July 2025. Also elected to the board last year was Laura Wegerer of Medford. She and Max

will continue to learn about electric cooperatives throughout the rest of their time on the board and will attend the national conference in Washington, DC, in June and complete their time on the YLC board in July when a new set of board members will be elected.

Owen and Max's parents are Ryan and Cheri Klussendorf of Medford. Cheri currently serves as Taylor Electric's Board Secretary/Treasurer. Laura's parents are Jamie and Karen Wegerer, Medford.



Left photo: Owen and Max Klussendorf discuss their Youth Leadership Conference experiences during an interview with NRECA Youth Program Manager Cale McCall at WECA's Education & Lobby Days in Madison. Right photo (left to right): Laura Wegerer, Owen Klussendorf and Max Klussendorf.

# CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE ALLOCATED SOON

In the next month or two, you will receive a capital credit allocation notice from Taylor Electric Cooperative. In addition to your member number, which may contain multiple account numbers, the notice will provide your 2025 allocation along with your new balance. To avoid confusion, there are three things you should know about your capital credit allocation notice:

- **It is not a bill, so do not pay the amount shown on the face.**
- **It is not a credit that can be used to pay an electric bill.**
- **There is no provision in Taylor Electric’s bylaws to make early payment of capital credits to those members who leave the service area. It is important that we be provided with a current address so when the time comes to pay, we’ll know where to mail the check.**

The capital credit allocation notice represents the amount of ownership you have in your cooperative. In future years, this amount may be returned to you as a capital credit check. Meanwhile, your capital credits are an investment in the cooperative’s electric distribution system. Member investments, capital credits, and long-term loans are the only sources of funding for the co-op; there are no outside investors.

You will receive a capital credit allocation notice only for the years in which you are a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative. It is a good idea to keep all of your notices with other important documents as a record for future years. Members with questions about capital credits are encouraged to contact our office at 715-678-2411.




**CALLING ALL  
THIRD-GRADERS:**

You’re invited to participate in the  
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association’s

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **April 30, 2026**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

- 1st place – Chromebook**
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

Posters should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches.

Entries must include completed entry form and student’s name on the back of the poster.

Contact your local electric cooperative or go to [www.weca.coop](http://www.weca.coop) for registration forms.



# ARBOR DAY IS APRIL 24TH

## MONEY CAN GROW ON TREES....IF YOU PLANT THEM RIGHT!

When most people think about saving energy, they picture insulation upgrades, efficient windows and appliance swaps. But your yard can play a major role too. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a well-planned landscape can reduce air-conditioning costs by up to 25% and pay for itself in less than eight years.

Because landscaping results vary by region, keep in mind that the United States has four main climate zones: temperate, hot-arid, hot-humid and cool. Plant strategically for your zone.

### Choose the right trees: deciduous or evergreen

- Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in the winter) block sunlight in the summer and allow light in during the colder months, helping to regulate indoor temperatures year-round.
- Evergreen trees provide consistent shade and can serve as windbreaks, which is especially helpful in cool climates.

**Tip:** In hot climates, choose native or drought-tolerant species. They require less water and are typically more resilient.

### Placement matters

- **West and northwest sides:** Plant trees to block strong mid- to late-afternoon sun.
- **East and west windows:** Use deciduous trees to block summer sun but still allow winter light.
- **South side:** Tall trees planted at a distance equal to two to five times their mature height can shade your home without blocking winter sun.
- **West side:** Shorter trees and shrubs help shield against intense, low-angle afternoon sun.
- **Patios and driveways:** Shade these areas to reduce reflected heat.
- **Home perimeter:** Bushes can absorb sunlight and reduce heat transfer, but avoid dense plantings in humid climates, where airflow is important to prevent excess moisture.

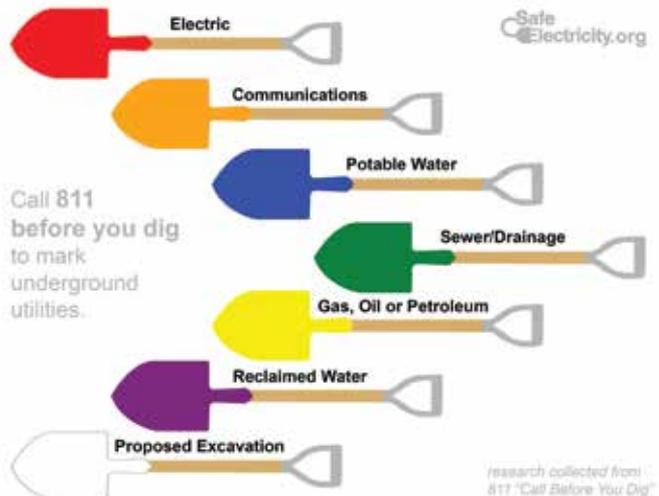
**Tip:** Be mindful near solar panels. Avoid planting tall trees on the south side of panels to prevent shade during peak sun hours.

### Plan for a tree's mature height

- Avoid planting trees that will grow taller than 15 feet near power lines.
- For taller species, plant at least 20 feet away — 45 feet is even better — to prevent safety hazards and avoid future pruning.

### Call Before You Dig! April is Safe Digging Month

Before you plant anything, call 811 to check for underground utilities. This free service marks public lines, like electricity, water and gas, so you avoid costly and dangerous mistakes. Call several business days before you plan to dig.



## SUMMER HOURS

Beginning the week of May 4 through the week of August 31

Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

*Happy Easter!*

**Our office will be closed on April 3  
for Good Friday.**



### Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

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