

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* May 2025 NEWS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC

*Cooperative*



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



**FORAGE FOR FUN AT THE  
MUSCODA MOREL  
MUSHROOM FESTIVAL**

**COOPERATIVE FAMILY FUND**

**TIPS TO BEAT THE ENERGY PEAK**

**BEEF RECIPES**





## ELECTRIC POWER RATES AND DINNER

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO



As you look at your electric bill, you see three main components: the service availability charge, energy charges, and the demand charge. These charges are made up of many different expenses around the cooperative.

As we have described in the past, some costs occur whether we sell any energy or none at all, such as expenses for trucks, buildings, poles, wires, and employee costs. These are called fixed costs and are billed as the service availability charge.

Certain items, such as wires, transformers, and large equipment like generation units, are determined by the maximum needs of the individual member or the system as a whole. These are called demand costs.

What is left is called energy charges. This includes mostly fuel costs and other expenses that vary with the cost of energy.

If this was laid out as cleanly as described above, it would look something like a chicken dinner plate, with the chicken, a biscuit, mashed potatoes, and green beans all neatly in their own place. And like an à la carte menu, each item would have its own price. Due to various reasons, rates over time have evolved into something that looks more like a good bread bowl soup, with each of the components blended and held together with the bread as the bowl. Similarly, the costs for each component have been blended across the various rate components with a heavy mix of everything in the energy component. You buy the bread bowl and as much soup as you consume.

In recent years, we've been working to break down the rate structure to identify and charge separately for the different ingredients in the "soup." We have pulled some of the fixed costs out and applied them to the service availability charge as you have seen. The next change coming up is to begin to remove some of the demand portion of costs from the soup of the energy charge. In doing this, we will also be lowering the energy charge a bit.

Starting in the next few months, we will be implementing the demand charge at \$2 per kW (measured from 3-8 PM, M-F) and reducing the energy rate 1.2 cents per kWh. While the comparison of \$2 vs. \$.012 doesn't seem quite equal on the surface, remember that the average peak kW reading is around 6, and the average kWh reading is around 1200. This should result in very little change for the average member.

With this change, you have the capability to control some of your bill. If you can adjust your usage between 3 and 8 PM, you can lower your peak demand. Avoid using high-demand appliances (such as the electric stove, dryer, and water heater)

all at once. Air conditioning, dishwashers, and clothes washers come in as close seconds. Instead, try to use them one at a time whenever possible. To calculate the demand, we look at the usage across an hour and use that to indicate the demand reading. Using a full hour softens the amount a little and allows for some overlap of equipment.

### Example of Average Bill

1200 kWh and 6kW

Old Rate:  $1200 \times .1171 = \$140.52$  (without demand)

New Rate:  $(1200 \times .105) + (6 \times 2) = \$138.00$  (with demand)

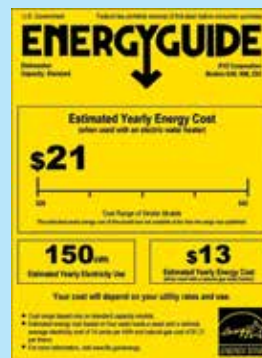
There is a secondary benefit to controlling the load in that time frame as well. Our billing from Dairyland is heavily weighted towards those hours, both in energy price and demand components. If we all can lower our evening demand just a bit, the cooperative overall saves money, helping to delay cost increases.

Thank you for doing your part to help.

## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

### EnergyGuide

The EnergyGuide is useful for directly comparing the energy use of similar models in the store.



### ENERGY STAR

The ENERGY STAR makes it easy to identify the most energy-efficient products that offer savings on energy bills without sacrificing performance, features, and comfort.



# FROM WISCONSIN TO WASHINGTON: OWEN KLUSSENDORF'S LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Owen Klussendorf, an alternate board member of the Youth Leadership Conference and representative of Taylor Electric, participated in Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's (WECA) Education and Lobby Days in Madison on April 1-2, 2025. During this event, Owen visited the state capitol to advocate for funding aimed at eradicating wild parsnip, an invasive plant species. Through his role on the YLC board, Owen has been involved with efforts focused on improving the future of rural America.

Additionally, in June, Owen will be attending the YLC Youth Tour in Washington, DC. He will have the opportunity to tour historical monuments and learn about our nation's capital while representing the state of Wisconsin.

### How did Owen get involved in such a great organization?

**You can be involved too! How?** Sign up to attend Youth Leadership Conference, July 15-17, 2025 at UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI. This dynamic three-day event is for high school students across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

### Who should apply?

High school students with family members who belong to Taylor Electric Cooperative.



### What does it cost?

Nothing to the student! All registration costs are covered by the generous support of sponsoring electric cooperatives.

### Want to learn more?

Visit [www.weca.coop](http://www.weca.coop) and click on Youth Education under Education in the menu, or contact Taylor Electric Cooperative at 715-678-2411 for more information.



Left: Klussendorf meets with state representatives along with (front row) Taylor Electric CEO Kenny Ceaglske and TEC Secretary/Treasurer Cheri Klussendorf to help advocate for the future of Wisconsin's electric cooperatives. Center: Klussendorf with Tyler Longsine, Research Assistant to Representative Karen Hurd. Right: Klussendorf's Instagram post capturing the event. Top: Klussendorf with the Honorable former Governor Scott Walker at Education and Lobby Days in Madison.





# MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



## TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

## SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



## WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

## USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



## DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machinery or truck makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

## CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with your feet together as far as you can.



Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## PROTECT YOUR HOME

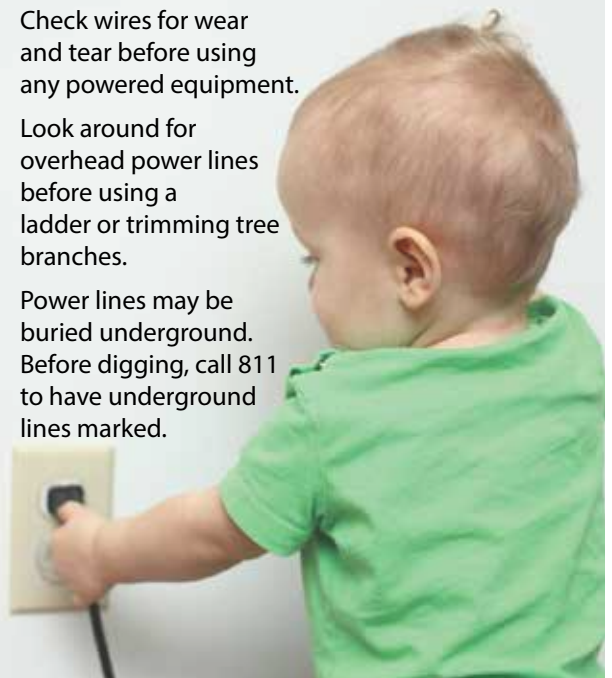
May is National Electrical Safety Month, which is held annually to highlight the importance of electrical safety issues. Protect your family with these important safety tips for inside and outside your home.

### INSIDE

1. Avoid plugging too many devices into one outlet.
2. Make sure all powered devices are properly grounded.
3. Install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets in kitchens, bathrooms, and other potentially wet areas.
4. If small children are present, install safety plugs on all unused outlets.
5. Use extension cords only on a temporary basis and never locate them under rugs or furniture.
6. Make sure all lightbulbs are the appropriate wattage for the fixture.

### OUTSIDE:

1. Install protective covers on all outlets and make sure they are GFCIs.
2. Use only weather-resistant extension cords rated for outdoor use.
3. Check wires for wear and tear before using any powered equipment.
4. Look around for overhead power lines before using a ladder or trimming tree branches.
5. Power lines may be buried underground. Before digging, call 811 to have underground lines marked.





## TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, June 24**

**Centennial Community Center  
Stetsonville, WI**

Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.

Dinner served starting at 4:30 p.m.

Business meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.



## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS BEGIN MAY 23

Taylor Electric Cooperative's office  
will close at 11:30 a.m. on Fridays  
from May 23–August 29.

Office hours will be 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Monday–Thursday, and 7:30–11:30 a.m.  
on Friday during this time period.



Taylor Electric Cooperative's office  
will be closed Monday, May 26.

## COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7: COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



Recently, Taylor Electric Cooperative CEO Kenny Ceagslske and Senior Billing/CSR Sheena Fuchs volunteered through the Junior Achievement program at Medford Area Elementary School to speak to the third-grade students. They addressed topics including the importance of saving and managing money as well as how money moves around throughout the local community.

**Kenneth Ceagslske, President/CEO**

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**Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor**



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