

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

November 2025

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Local Electric Cooperative

CAMP NAWAKWA REVIVING A CAMP, RENEWING A MISSION

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE POWER

PREP NOW FOR WINTER SAVINGS

KIDS AND CRITTERS





SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL SETTLEMENT AND POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

I may have mentioned in the past that natural gas prices drive electricity costs in the market where Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) operates. Natural gas is the primary fuel for generating power over any baseload amounts and can respond rapidly to fluctuations from resources like wind and solar.

Historically when we were predominately coal generation, the price for the dominant fuel was very stable, we were not in competition with other uses for coal and the supply was abundant. The price of natural gas is much less predictable since there is competition for it as a fuel for generation as well as fuel for home uses, industrial processes, vehicle fuels, etc. combined with the market driven harvest of the resource.

This brings us to why it matters to

you, the end-use member. DPC sets a budget and rate plan in November for the upcoming year based on both known and estimated natural gas prices. When the next year becomes reality, those natural gas rates are almost guaranteed to be different than the estimates. This year they have come in high over the last few months and are looking to stay high through the end of the year. This is why you may have noticed Power Cost Adjustments (PCA charges) on your bill.

Another aspect of DPC's historical power resources is the lingering cost of running the La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR) nuclear plant. Even though the plant has been shut down for many years, there is spent nuclear fuel (SNF) stored in concrete casks near the LACBWR site. Many decades ago, there was a process in place where the government was supposed to have

a long-term storage plan for the SNF. This has not happened and DPC has been carrying the cost of storage. There has been a (poor) process with the government termed "sue and settle" for these costs. The good news is that DPC just received a settlement payment for these costs which will be shared with Taylor Electric.

The timing of the settlement and the elevated gas costs coincide well for the rest of the year. The board has authorized the use of the incoming funds to offset the PCA charges until the funds run out, which should be approximately the end of the year. So, while gas prices remain elevated, we should be able to offset power cost charges through the end of the year. 2026 will start the year with new estimates and no PCA's until we get into the year and see the variances (up or down).

THE SEASON OF GIVING AND CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY, A COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity, and looking out for one another—and at Taylor Electric, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase—it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve—our members, our neighbors, and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family

has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong, and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season. Next month, Taylor Electric will again take part in the Christmas Wish program. The cooperative, along with other area cooperatives and WKEB Radio, come together to help those less fortunate during the holiday season.

We're also proud to support local students through the youth leadership program, where some of our community's brightest young people have an opportunity to earn a trip to Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action and dream big about their futures. That's giving in the

most meaningful way—by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because safety is always a concern for our community, we conduct hotline demonstrations at our area youth museum, teaching children and folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too—and we love sharing it.

At Taylor Electric, we believe concern for community is more than a value—it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at the cooperative, we wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday season.

IT WAS A PERFECT FALL DAY!

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Saturday, October 11 to celebrate October Co-op Month. Nearly 200 members enjoyed lunch from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Centennial Community Center.

This year's event was packed with fun for everyone! Children especially enjoyed interacting with animals from Whitehaven Petting Zoo, face painting by Kayla Thompson

and cotton candy made and served up by employee Sheena Fuchs and her daughter, Maddie Johnas. Kids were also treated to Halloween bags and a free pumpkin to take home and decorate.

Lucky \$30 electric bill credits winners included: Jack Baxter, James Dray, Esther Henrichs, Beth Kosik, and Don Purvis.



All ages enjoyed the sunshine filled day. Thank you for celebrating October Co-op Month with us!

Nominating Committee

If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee for the process of electing board members, please contact CEO, Kenny Ceaglske at 715-678-2411 by November 24.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 2

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.



ATTICS ARE FOR MORE THAN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

A Quick Guide to Insulation

Upgrading your attic insulation is one of the easiest and most effective ways to lower your energy bills, make your home more comfortable, and boost energy efficiency year-round. Older homes can save as much as 15% on energy costs by improving attic insulation.

Step 1: Seal air leaks

Before adding insulation, take care of air leaks. Common trouble spots include:

- Recessed lighting
- Chimneys
- Attic hatches or pull-down stairs
- Pipes, ductwork, and wiring

Seal these gaps with caulk, expanding foam, or weather stripping. This helps keep warm air in during winter and hot air out during the summer.

Step 2: Understand R-values

R-value measures how well insulation resists heat flow based on its type, thickness, and density — the higher the number, the better. How much you need depends on your climate:

Mild climates: R-30 to R-38 (10-14 inches)

Cold climates: R-49 or higher (16-18 inches)

You don't need to remove existing insulation unless it's wet, moldy, or contaminated. Otherwise, it's safe to leave in place and add new insulation on top.

Step 3: Pick the right type

There are two main types of attic insulation:

Batt or roll insulation:

- Easier to install for DIYers.
- Must be cut precisely to avoid gaps, especially around obstructions like pipes and vents.

Blown-in or loose-fill insulation:

- Installed with a machine that “blows” insulation into place.

- Fills gaps more evenly; great for hard-to-reach areas.
- Blown-in cellulose is the top pick for attics due to its high R-value, good coverage, and air-sealing benefits.

Step 4: Plan for storage

It's tempting to use the attic for storage, especially for those holiday decorations, but if you're looking to maximize efficiency, store them elsewhere.

If you store items in your attic, don't flatten the insulation. Build a raised platform high enough to keep insulation at the recommended depth.

Step 5: Check old wiring

If your home is older, inspect attic wiring before insulating. Cracked or brittle wire insulation can be a fire hazard — have a professional electrician replace it if needed.

Step 6: Insulate the attic hatch

Whether you have an attic hatch or a dropdown ladder, this opening can leak lots of air if it's not sealed properly.

For standard hatches:

- Add insulation to match your attic's R-value.
- Upgrade to a pre-insulated panel or ¾-inch plywood.
- Install weather stripping and a dam to prevent loose-fill from spilling.

For dropdown ladders:

- Add an insulated cover box in the attic.
- Seal the frame with foam or weather stripping.
- Be sure to leave room for the folded ladder.

You'll feel the difference

A well-insulated attic means lower energy bills and a more comfortable home, whether it's blazing hot or freezing cold outside. Start by sealing leaks, checking your R-value needs, and picking the right insulation for your space — your future self (and wallet) will thank you!

TAYLOR ELECTRIC PARTICIPATES IN THE THIRD ANNUAL COOPERATIVE DAY OF SERVICE



Brian Hallgren, Chairman of Taylor Electric (front row, 5th from right), and Director David Makovsky (front row, 2nd from right), took part in the 3rd Annual Cooperative Day of Service on Wednesday, October 1. They were joined by Ellie Rundahl, Sr. Communications and Public Relations Specialist, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and Wendy Fassbind, WECA Director of Education and Events, along with volunteers from Chippewa Valley Electric and Jump River Electric. The group gathered at Camp Nawakwa in Cornell to help freshen up the buildings by painting and staining, winterizing cabins and the shower house, deep cleaning the lodges, and splitting wood.

LOAD CONTROL TEST SET FOR NOVEMBER 19

The Winter Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) members is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19. This test is designed to provide you with the opportunity to observe your control device, ensure that the indicator lights on your load-control receiver (pictured at right) function properly, and check that your heating system and/or backup heating system is working properly before winter sets in.

Residential interruptible heat load classes will be controlled as follows:

Control Start

- All Interruptible Heat load classes will begin at 7 a.m.

Restoral

- All loads will be restored by noon.

If you notice any problems with the load management receiver during this test, please contact the cooperative, 715-678-2411. If you find that your heating system does not work as it should, contact your electrician or heating service representative.



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