Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative NEWS

March 2026

TAYLOR ELECTRIC Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

FROM POWER LINES TO FIREWALLS:

THE RURAL REALITY OF CYBER THREATS

HOW ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES AND INCENTIVES WORK

AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PEANUT BUTTER RECIPES

TAYLOR ELECTRIC Cooperative
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WIRED FOR GROWTH:

Balancing Data Center Demand and Reliability

By Ken Ceaglske, CEO

Data centers may feel like a big-city phenomenon, but more and more of them are showing up in rural communities like ours—and there's good reason for that. Rural areas offer what data centers need most: affordable land, room to grow, and access to transmission lines that can move large amounts of power.

Data centers come in various sizes, from "hyperscalers", or the huge data centers that need access to the largest of power lines, take up hundreds of acres, and demand large amounts of power 24x7 to support the needs of the people making use of it. These house the data that we need and use right away. If you think of the big names that store data in "the cloud," these are likely for those uses. Nobody wants to store their data in the cloud and only be able to retrieve it when the system has capacity, hence the 24x7 nature of their power usage. The middle of the pack ranges from that size down quite a bit and can sustain what they need to do with some downtime or capacity limitations, so on the highest power cost days, they may lower their usage and restrict users. The smallest data centers may be colocation sites, think semi-trailer sized or smaller, that can be scattered anywhere there is just a little capacity that can support them. They may contain data storage, data processing, or bit-coin mining systems. These systems are designed to turn off when energy prices get high enough and reduce load on the electrical grid.

For electric cooperatives like Taylor Electric, powering data centers creates both opportunities and challenges.

On the plus side, data centers have the potential to bring steady, long-term load growth that helps support investments in the local grid. With proper planning and policy support, those upgrades—including new substations, stronger lines and smarter technology—could benefit all Taylor Electric members and help keep electricity rates steady.

But providing power to data centers presents challenges, too. The data centers can be constructed and operating in as little as one year, but ensuring the necessary infrastructure, equipment and electricity requires longer lead times and significant financial investment. Strategic planning and partnerships, as well as long-term power supply strategies are essential to the process.

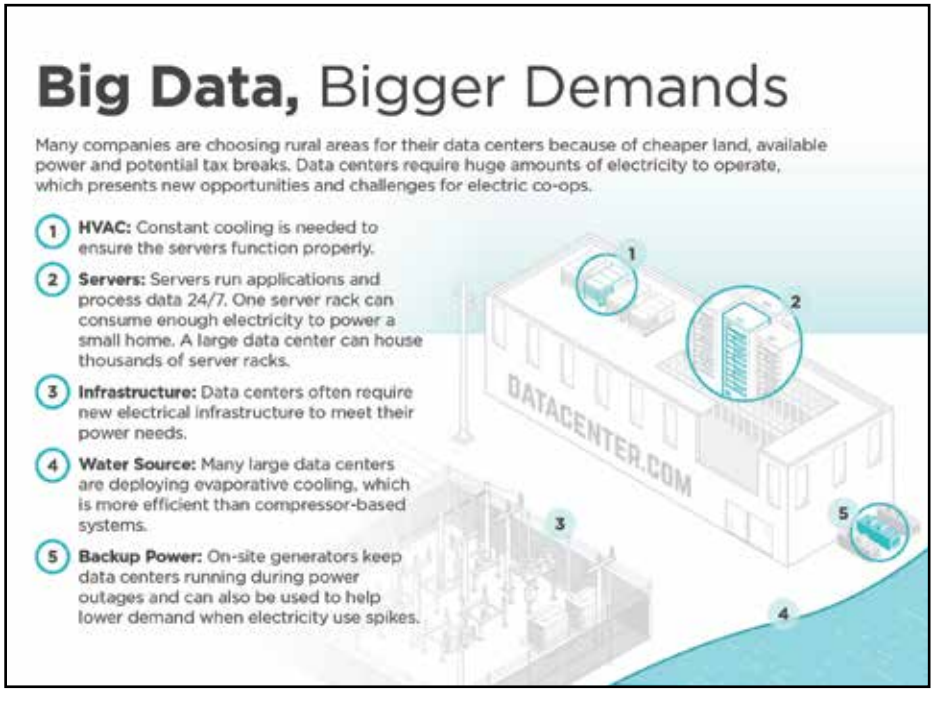
Taylor Electric has been approached by some smaller data centers looking for locations that might fit their needs and have existing capacity. Depending on the needs of the data centers, they may have upgrade costs that they will be required to pay for to prevent those costs from adding to the existing membership. Co-ops nationwide are fielding requests and inquiries from tech companies, and lessons learned are being shared across the co-ops nationwide.

As a member-owned cooperative, our responsibility is twofold: to listen to the communities we serve and to provide reliable, affordable electric service to all members. Part of the way that we can do that is by finding new ways to increase kWh sales. Balancing those responsibilities is not always simple, especially as new types of large-scale energy users, like data centers, become part of the local landscape.

The energy landscape is changing, and with it comes both opportunities and challenges. My commitment, and the commitment of Taylor Electric's board and employees, is to continue listening, communicating, and working with our members and community partners to ensure all decisions reflect the best interests of the people we serve.

If you have questions or concerns regarding data centers, your energy bills, or any other co-op matters, we encourage you to stay engaged and reach out.

Your voice matters at Taylor Electric.



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. Over two consecutive years, brothers Owen and Max Klussendorf each ran for the Youth Leadership Board and successfully earned positions. They have expressed that their experiences have helped them build confidence, leadership skills, and a better understanding of the role electric cooperatives play in their communities. Their involvement reflects a family connection to cooperative leadership, with their mother, Cheri, serving as Taylor Electric's secretary-treasurer.

2025 YLC board members Laura Wegerer and Max Klussendorf along with Owen Klussendorf, 2024 YLC board member.

Taylor Electric's Laura Wegerer (back row, center) and Max Klussendorf (back row, right) were elected to the 2025 WECA Youth Board. Laura and Max will travel to Washington, D.C. in June of this year.

A few things that make this conference different:

- This is a by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference. It is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.
- Attendees don't pay. They are sponsored by their local electric cooperatives.
- Students spend three days on a college campus and experience a typical college environment, complete with living in the residence halls, attending sessions throughout campus, and even experiencing a university dining service.
- Finally, attendees elected to the youth board, like Owen, Max, and Laura, will not only plan the next conference their way; they also have the opportunity to attend the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., the following June.

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.

LIGHTING THE PATH OF SUCCESS FOR AREA YOUTH

Additional $1,000 Scholarship Now Offered by Dairyland Power Cooperative

Taylor Electric Cooperative is awarding six $500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Dairyland Power Cooperative is also offering one $1,000 scholarship to be chosen from all eligible applications.

Students living in households that receive their electric service from Taylor Electric and who will be graduating from high school in 2026 are eligible.

Final selection for the scholarship recipients will be made by the board of directors, with the cooperation of those schools involved. If you are interested, please complete the accompanying request form and return it to our office by April 4, 2026.

NOTE: The funds for these scholarships are derived from unclaimed capital credit refunds. Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that unclaimed refunds may be used for educational and charitable purposes. Otherwise, they become unclaimed property and must be paid to the State of Wisconsin as such.

Apply by April 4, 2026

Taylor Electric and Dairyland Power Cooperative College Scholarship Application Request

Name _____

Name on Electric Account _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____ TEC Account No. _____

High School (or indicate if home-schooled) _____

Have you attended Taylor Electric's Youth Leadership Congress? Yes No

Return to Taylor Electric Cooperative, N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 8

Daylight savings time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8. Make sure to set your clocks ahead!

JOIN US AT THE MEDFORD HOME AND BUSINESS EXPO

Simek Rec Center
1037 W Broadway Ave
Medford, WI 54451

Friday, March 20 – 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 21 –10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, March 22 – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

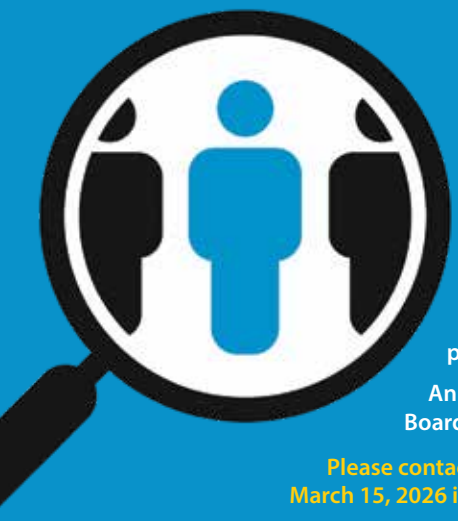
TWO GROUPS WITH ONE MISSION IN MIND:
Electrical Safety in an Emergency Situation

In late January, Taylor Electric linemen Tim Habermeyer, Colten Cummings, and Jessie Knoll gave a hotline demonstration to members of the Stetsonville Volunteer Fire Department. Line Superintendent Wade Matyka and CEO Kenny Ceaglske were also present to help answer questions. The demo focused on the dangers of electricity and the importance of coordination during emergency responses. Linemen and firefighters often work side by side during storms, vehicle accidents, and structure fires—situations where electrical hazards can escalate quickly.

During the demonstration, linemen explained how electrical distribution systems work, from overhead and underground power lines to transformers. Using a hotline demo trailer from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, they showed firefighters how lines can remain energized even when they appear damaged or de-energized, and how electricity can travel through unexpected paths such as fences, trees, or metal objects.

Both linemen and firefighters agreed that ongoing training and shared knowledge are crucial in emergency situations. The event not only increased awareness of electrical hazards but also helped to strengthen the working relationship with the department, ultimately helping to protect responders and the communities they serve.

Working together to keep our communities safe: Taylor Electric linemen Tim Habermeyer, Colten Cummings, and Jessie Knoll demonstrate electrical hazards during a hotline safety training for the Stetsonville Volunteer Fire Department in late January.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A DIRECTOR ON TAYLOR ELECTRIC'S BOARD? Here's How...

Members interested in serving on the board should contact CEO Kenny Ceaglske or one of the nominating committee members:

Kathy Jochimsen – 715-785-8049
JoAnn Smith – 715-748-2506
Patricia Waldhart – 715-678-2385

Interested candidates will need to fill out a form and be willing to submit a brief questionnaire for publication in the annual report candidate section.

An advisory resolution submitted by a member may only be considered if a written copy is submitted to the Board for consideration at least 60 days in advance of the annual meeting (April 23).

Please contact one of the committee members or CEO Kenny Ceaglske at 715-678-2411 by March 15, 2026 if interested.

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO
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Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor

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