

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative NEWS

January 2026

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Partner



QUILTS, COMMUNITY,
AND CREATIVITY
BIND IN WITTENBERG

PICKING WINNERS AND SOLAR LOSERS

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

SHEET PAN RECIPES



WORKING TOGETHER TO LOWER DEMAND

By Ken Ceaglske, CEO

When winter comes and outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder weather and shorter days drive us indoors, where we rely more heavily on home heating systems, more lighting, and household appliances. Heating systems run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. Combine that with the fact that most people use electricity at the same times—typically in the mornings and early evenings—and the result is significant pressure on our electric grid.

Taylor Electric works closely with Dairyland Power, our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, to plan for these seasonal weather patterns and changes and ensure you have reliable power every day of the year. This partnership involves detailed resource and infrastructure planning to make certain electricity is available whenever you need it. However, it's important to remember that our local system is part of a much larger regional and national electric grid.

During the winter months, when homes and businesses across the country are using more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can approach—or occasionally exceed—available supply. This is especially true during severe weather events, such as ice storms, sudden temperature drops, or equipment malfunctions that reduce generation capacity. In rare cases when demand threatens to outpace supply, the regional grid operator may call for temporary, controlled outages—often referred to as rolling blackouts—to prevent broader system failures. If such a situation arises, Taylor Electric will provide timely updates and information to members.

To prepare for these scenarios and minimize risks, Taylor Electric and Dairyland Power take proactive measures to

strengthen reliability year-round. These include routine system maintenance, investments in grid modernization and comprehensive disaster response planning, and load management programs. These proactive steps are designed to ensure our portion of the grid remains resilient even under extreme conditions. Yet, maintaining a reliable electric system requires a collective effort—and every member plays an important role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress.

You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use, especially on the coldest days of winter:

1. Lower your thermostat slightly. Even reducing the temperature by a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances during peak hours, which are 4-8 p.m. Run dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers during off-peak hours—typically midday or late evening.
3. Adjust your water heater. Setting it to 120 degrees F and spacing out showers helps conserve both energy and hot water.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.

Understanding how winter weather impacts electricity demand is key to maintaining system reliability. By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bill—you also help strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community. Together, through small actions and shared awareness, we can ensure that our homes remain warm, our lights stay on, and our local grid continues to serve us reliably throughout the season.

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.

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

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MAKE SAVING ENERGY YOUR RESOLUTION

Want to cut costs and make your home more comfortable? A DIY home energy audit can uncover hidden energy drains, like leaky windows, drafty ducts and inefficient appliances. Identifying trouble spots now can set you up for savings and comfort year-round.

Your step-by-step efficiency guide

Before you dive in, grab a few basic tools: flashlight, dust mask, tape measure and something to take notes (your phone works great!). We'll start with simple, no-cost changes you can do right away, then move on to tasks that take a little more effort.

Step 1: Adjust your thermostat

- Lowering the temperature at night or when no one is home is a simple way to cut costs.
- Use a smart thermostat for even greater savings. It automatically adjusts based on your schedule. Check on focusonenergy.com for rebates for even more savings.

Step 2: Lower water heater temperature

- Lower your water heater temperature to save money and reduce the risk of scalding burns. Some water heaters are factory-set to 140 F, but most households only need 120 F.

Step 3: Find and fix energy vampires

- Shut off energy vampires — devices that draw electricity even when turned off. This idle load can account for 23% of your home's energy use.
- Unplug appliances when not in use and fully power down devices like computers or gaming consoles.
- Use a smart power strip to shut off multiple electronics at once — it's an easy way to stop energy waste at the source.

Step 4: Check your lighting

- Swap out older bulbs, like incandescent or CFLs, for LEDs. They use less energy and last longer. Lighting can account for about 10% of your electric bill.
- Add dimmers or timers to cut down on wasted electricity.
- Don't overlook outdoor fixtures. Choose LEDs with features like daylight shut off or motion sensors for even more savings.

Step 5: Review major appliances

- Look for the ENERGY STAR label when buying new. If your refrigerator, washer, dryer or heat pump is more than 10 years old, it may be worth replacing rather than repairing. Newer appliances are more energy-efficient and can often pay for themselves in savings within a few years.
- Check your heating and cooling systems. Their lifespan can range from 10-30 years depending on the type and maintenance. If yours is older, start planning ahead for an upgrade.

- Replace air filters to keep your system running efficiently.

Step 6: Seal leaks

- Air leaks can waste 10-20% of your home's energy each year, but they're often simple to fix. Here's where to look and how to seal them.
- Check baseboards, floor edges and wall-to-ceiling joints indoors.
- Focus on where different materials meet outdoors.
- Pay special attention to windows, doors, light fixtures, plumbing and outlets.
- Use caulk for gaps around windows, doors and baseboards.
- Add weatherstripping to doors and operable windows.

Step 7: Inspect insulation

Check attic insulation:

- Grab your dust mask and tape measure to check the depth of the insulation. It should be at least 12 inches deep, but you may need more depending on the type and your climate. Check EnergyStar.gov for recommended R-values.
- Spread insulation evenly. Loose-fill or blown-in insulation should be fluffy with even coverage, while rolled batt insulation should fit snugly with no gaps.

Inspect exterior walls:

- Check insulation by turning off the power, removing an outlet cover or switch plate and shining a flashlight into the cavity. Many homes built before the 1960s have little to no insulation, and houses from the 1960s-70s often need more.
- Call a professional to blow in insulation (from the outside or inside) if wall insulation is missing.

Don't forget the basement:

- Ensure rim joists (the area between the top of the foundation and the underside of the first floor) are well insulated in unfinished basements.
- Insulate the underside of the floor between the joists in crawl spaces.
- Add insulation to pipes and ductwork for an extra efficiency boost.

Enjoy your energy savings.

Congratulations — you've taken important first steps toward lowering your energy bills and boosting comfort. As always, be sure to check out the incentives listed in this section for more savings!

Source: safeelectricity.org

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INCENTIVES

Effective January 1, 2026 • Rebates and rebate criteria are subject to change without notice

HVAC		WATER HEATERS	
Heat Pump – Air Source & Mini Split SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+ OR SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+	\$200/ton	Commercial Water Heater –75-99 gallons	\$250/each
Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs – < 20 tons: EER 11+, 20 to < 60 tons: EER 10.5+, ≥ 60 ton: EER 10+	\$200/ton	Commercial Water Heater –100+ gallons	\$400/each
Heat Pump – Geothermal	\$400/ton	Residential Water Heater – 77-99 gallons, Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$250/each
New Furnace with Efficient ECM Blower Motor – Variable speed motor (not multi-speed) OR Eae ≤ 670 kWh/year	\$35/each	Residential Water Heater – 100+ gallons, Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$400/each
Smart Thermostat – Honeywell or Emerson brand unit. Must be enrolled in Load Management Program.	\$25/each	Heat Pump Water Heater – Integrated (all-in-one) units, Energy Factor 2.20 or greater	\$500/each
Dual Fuel (8 kW min - new installations) – TEC only	\$100 bill credit		
ETS Units –TEC only	\$30 per kW		
Electric Hydronic Slab –TEC only	\$20 per KW		
ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES			
All-in-One Washer/Dryer Combo – must use ventless heat pump drying	\$50/each		
Clothes Dryer – electric only	\$25/each		
Clothes Washer	\$25/each		
Dehumidifier	\$25/each		
Dishwasher	\$25/each		
Freezer – Must be ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25/each		
Inductive Range – All inductive ranges qualify	\$25/each		
Refrigerator – Must be ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25/each		
Appliance Recycling – Freezer/Refrigerator/Room Air Conditioner (Must be working appliance)	\$25/each		
LIGHTING			
LED Bulb – 50% capped at cost	\$.50/bulb - 5 bulb min.		
LED Fixture –50% capped at cost	\$.50 /fixture per 800 lumens		
LED Exit Sign – 50% capped at cost	\$5/sign		
Occupancy Sensor –doesn't include motion detector bulbs or fixtures–50% capped at cost	\$5/each		
CONSERVATION			
Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative.	\$500/unit		
EV Charging Station – Installation Costs – For secondary "controlled" meter as defined by cooperative, \$200 cap	varies		
Electric \$ense® New Home – Must meet 1 of 5 program/code requirements.	\$500/ea		
AUDITS/ASSESSMENTS			
Audit Recommended Improvements – \$500 cap	varies		
Energy Audit- Cost of Audit – 50% of audit cost, \$200 cap	varies		
Compressed Air Audit – \$500 cap	varies		
AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT			
Circulation Fan – Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 pounds force/kW, Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 pounds force/kW	\$1/inch		
Exhaust Fan – Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP, Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP	\$1/inch		
Electric Forklift Battery Charger – Must be "controlled" as defined by the cooperative.	\$200/each		
Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-Cooler	\$500/each		
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery w/Electric Backup – used with controlled electric water heater as defined by co-op	\$300/each		
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer – ≤ 500 watts, insulated tank	\$50/each		
Scroll Refrigerator Compressor – \$1,000 cap per compressor	\$30/HP		
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) – \$1,000 cap per drive, must provide motor size	\$30/HP		

- » Water heater rebates require installation of co-op's Load Management (LM) control.
- » A/C and Heat pumps require LM only when separately metered for off-peak rates.
- » Dual Fuel, ETS, & Hydronic or slab systems require LM control to qualify for incentive. (timeclock control when under the time of day rate is acceptable).

Maximum rebate = \$20,000 per member account per year.

In addition, call FOCUS ON ENERGY at 800-762-7077 for additional incentives.



SAVE MONEY WITH CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Your Co-op Connections Card is a free member benefit for Touchstone Energy cooperatives like Taylor Electric Cooperative. It offers valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. Participating local business are listed below.

Advance Auto Parts, Medford
10% discount on purchases up to \$200.00

Broadway Theater, Medford
Buy any size drink, get a matching soda for \$1.00

Glass To Go, Medford
5% off in-shop ONLY windshield replacement.

Life's High Points
Photography, Medford
10% discount

Medford Health Mart Pharmacy, Medford
20% off any Health Mart label

Meyer Auto Body, Medford
5% discount on any body repair over \$500.00. Up to a \$100 value.

Meyer Lumber, Dorchester
5% discount on discountable items, excluding all sale and clearance items (cash sales

only). Cannot be used in conjunction with any other discounts/promotions. Card must be presented at each purchase.

Meyer Tire and Service, Medford
\$5.00 off any passenger or light truck tire- not good in conjunction with any other coupons or offers.

Napa Auto Parts, Medford
10% discount on cash & carry items (excludes engines, engine kits, transmissions, oil labor & sale items)

Northwoods Embroidery, Medford
Free digitizing on embroidery. Free set up on first color of screen printing.

River Country Cooperative
Athens, Greenwood, Owen
10% discount on all dog and cat food

Schierl Tire & Service Center, Medford
\$5.00 off an oil change. \$10.00 off parts for service repairs.

Stetsonville Lumber, Stetsonville
5% off single purchase over \$500.00-not good in conjunction with other coupons or offers.

Subway, Medford & Colby
50¢ off any sub or salad

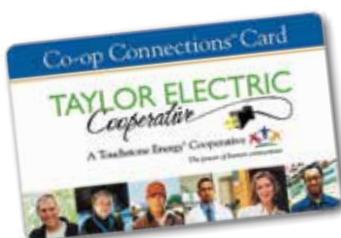
Tallman Landscaping
5% off labor on projects over \$1,000 – free estimates

Taylor Credit Union, Medford and Abbotsford
Free rental for one year on 3"x5"x22 1/2" safe deposit box – new rentals only. Requires existing savings account or initial savings account with \$5.00 balance. Limit one per family.

Turtle Bay Gardens, LLC, Medford
10% off purchase

Wanke Builders, Medford
Free foundation water proofing on your new home purchase

Willow Cottage Pet Grooming, Medford
\$5.00 off full groom service



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