

RECIPES

EVENTS

THEY'RE BACK

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* October 2016 NEWS

## Co-op Careers: ***A Paycheck*** *and a Purpose*

**Customer Appreciation Day  
October 6**

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC**  
*Cooperative*  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



## Groundbreaking for SOCORE SOLAR PROJECT

From left: Craig Harmes, Dairyland Power Cooperative; Andy Seward and Jon Roberts, SoCore Energy; Taylor Electric President/CEO Mike Schaefer; and Taylor Electric directors Pat Waldhart, Chuck Zenner, Ray Henrichs, Dean Tesch, Dennis Engel, and Brian Hallgren.

**T**welve new solar facilities are being sited in Wisconsin through Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse; groSolar, White River Junction, Vt.; and SoCore Energy, Chicago, Ill.. Taylor Electric has been chosen as one of the designated cooperatives.

The solar installations will range between .5 MW to 2.5 MW in scale. These facilities will be tracking systems that follow the path of the sun to increase energy production. Together, the solar facilities will be able to produce enough renewable energy to power over 2,500 homes.

**Taylor Electric  
has been chosen  
as one of the  
designated  
cooperatives.**

As a cooperative initiative, the solar facilities will be built in the service areas of Dairyland's member electric cooperatives. The advantages of multiple projects in separate locations include: diversified weather, distributed grid infrastructure impacts, and locally based renewable energy.

The developers will install, own, operate, and maintain the solar facilities. The first projects became operational this summer, with others continuing to come online into the fall.

Following is a listing (by developer) of the proposed

locations, projected scale, and local electric cooperative:

#### SoCore Energy:

- Viola, .5 MW (Richland Electric Cooperative)
- Roberts, 2 MW (St. Croix Electric Cooperative)
- Conrath, 1 MW (Jump River Electric Cooperative)
- Necedah, 1.5 MW (Oakdale Electric Cooperative)
- Menomonie, 1 MW (Dunn Energy Cooperative)
- Medford, 2 MW (Taylor Electric Cooperative)
- Liberty Pole, 1 MW (Vernon Electric Cooperative)
- Hillsboro, 1 MW (Vernon Electric Cooperative)
- Town of Hallie, 1 MW (Eau Claire Energy Cooperative)
- Eastman, 1 MW (Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative)
- Arcadia, 1 MW (Riverland Energy Cooperative)

Although these projects constitute Dairyland's largest solar investments to date, Dairyland also purchases energy from major solar installations (Westby; Oronoco, Minn.; and Galena, Ill.) and supports 10 member cooperative community solar installations, with more planned. In addition, there are more than 700 consumer-owned distributed generation solar installations located in Dairyland's service area.

Dairyland, its member cooperatives, groSolar and SoCore Energy, look forward to working with residents and project stakeholders as we work cooperatively to develop these projects.







# CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS MAILED

Economic participation is a benefit of cooperative membership

**What sets Taylor Electric Cooperative apart from investor-owned utilities? One of the main things is that each cooperative member is an owner of the business.**

And, with being an owner comes the responsibility of operating the business, which is done through attendance at the annual meeting and electing fellow members to the board of directors, who in turn set policies and hire a manager. The manager then employs the staff to carry out those policies.

Each member-owner also has a responsibility to invest in the business. There is no stock to sell on Wall Street to provide financial backing for the business. Through member investments, the cooperative builds an equity reserve, which for Taylor Electric Cooperative is currently about 40 percent of the total assets of the co-op. This equity reserve is required by lenders who then share the risk by making loans to the co-op to finance power line construction and rebuilding projects that are needed to keep the electricity flowing.

Since there are no Wall Street stockholders, there are no dividends or monies paid to outside investors. When each year's finances are audited and closed out, the remaining profit or margins are allocated to the members based on the amount each member paid for electricity during the year. After a period of time, the allocations, or capital credits, are paid back to the members.

Taylor Electric Cooperative has returned more than \$6 million to its member-owners. This amount represents approximately 45 percent of all of the margins earned by the cooperative since its inception.

The bylaws of Taylor Electric Cooperative delegate authority to the board

of directors to determine the amount and method of capital credit retirement. With a need for large amounts of cash to invest in new power lines, as well as to replace and repair existing lines, it becomes a tough job to balance the right mix of member investment and borrowing from outside lenders. The decision directly affects the annual retirement of capital credits to past and present cooperative members.

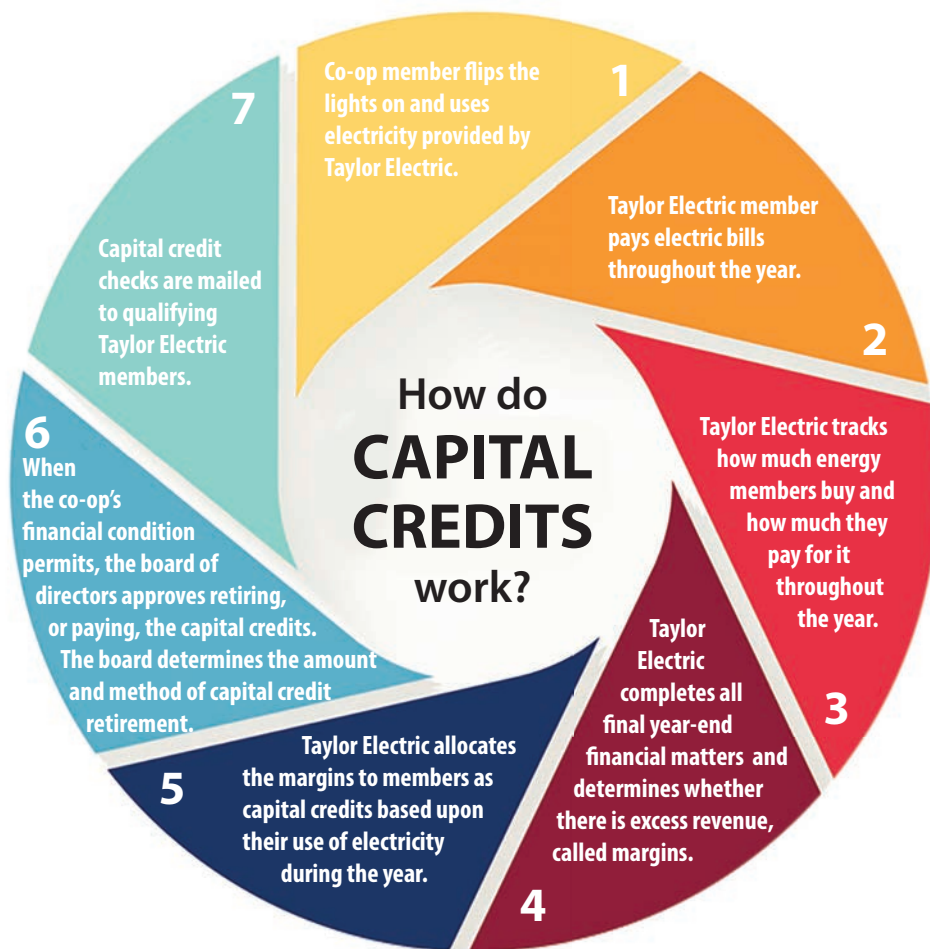
This year, the board of directors decided that capital credits of approximately \$252,800 should be returned to members of the cooperative. This amount is being

refunded to those members who received electric service from Taylor Electric Cooperative in 1988 and 1994. 1988 are Dairyland credits.

The directors believe there's a need to continue to refund capital credits, but they also realize the need to maintain a strong, viable financial position to meet the future needs of the members and the requirements of our lenders.

Capital credit refund checks were mailed in September.

The patronage of each cooperative member is greatly appreciated.





CO-OP MONTH | OCTOBER 2016

# CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

## Thursday, October 6

from 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Centennial Community Center  
412 E. Centennial Ave.,  
Stetsonville, Wisconsin

Enjoy a free lunch and pick up a free Green Bay Packers calendar while supplies last.

### ***The Seven Cooperative Principles***

Voluntary & Open Membership • Democratic Member Control

Members' Economic Participation • Autonomy & Independence

Education, Training & Information Cooperation Among Cooperatives • Concern for Community



**CO-OP MONTH 2016**

MY CO-OP







# MORE SAVINGS, MORE TRICK OR TREATING.



Taylor Electric Cooperative participates in the nationwide Co-op Connections program, offering further proof that being a member of an electric cooperative has its advantages.

A free offering for co-op members and participating businesses, the program benefits cooperative members by offering valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. Just present your card when shopping at any participating business and receive a discount on your purchase. Go to [connections.coop](http://connections.coop) to find participating businesses.

## Michael Schaefer, President/CEO

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451

715-678-2411 • 800-862-2407

email: [taylrec@tayloelectric.org](mailto:taylrec@tayloelectric.org)

website: [www.tayloelectric.org](http://www.tayloelectric.org)

## Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC**  
*Cooperative*



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

