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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

November 2018

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner





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WE'RE THANKFUL FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP



**By Michael Schaefer,
President/CEO**

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

In the spirit of this quote by author William Arthur Ward, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Taylor Electric Cooperative, we are able to make our community a better place.

I generally use this space to provide updates on new projects and developments, and report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. We share these updates so that all of our consumer-members have a window into our priorities, progress and challenges. However, during this season of giving thanks, I think it's equally important to let you and other consumer-members of Taylor Electric know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is "Concern for Community." While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We are purposeful in partnering with local businesses such as Taylor Credit Union, People's Choice Credit Union, Medford Cooperative, and Clark Electric Cooperative for Christmas Wish and other programs.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations and award college scholarships. Taylor Electric also participates annually in Youth Leadership Congress where we send local students to UW-River Falls for three days to learn about cooperatives and meet other students from around the state. They are also given the

opportunity to earn a trip to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you! You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger cooperative membership.

Because we are locally governed by members of our community, we are able to get a firsthand perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs and equipment and technology upgrades.

We are thankful that our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings, and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in better informed advisors who serve the co-op's interests in a way that our consumer-members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

Taylor Electric Cooperative was originally established 80 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that, we're thankful for your membership.





ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR THE MODERN FAMILY AND ITS MANY DEVICES

If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations, and power cords that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor your energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms—controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics, and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your



thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the program periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features, such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers, and dishwashers allow you to program when you want the load to start. This means you can program your task for off-peak energy hours—a smart choice if your electric rate is based on time of use.

“Old school” energy savings for new devices

Of course there are the time-tested “old school” methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones, and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users, meaning they drain energy (and money) even when not in use. If these items can be turned off

without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off with a switch or placed on a timer.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric co-op.

Regardless of your level of technical expertise with electronic devices, Taylor Electric Cooperative can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, energy use, local weather patterns, and additional factors unique to your community.

ENERGY-SAVING TIPS TO GOBBLE UP THIS THANKSGIVING

The holidays typically bring the family kitchen into full use, which can have an impact on your energy costs. However, we've got some tips to ensure your energy bill will look as good as your Thanksgiving dinner.

- If you expect a large group of people for dinner, lower the thermostat a degree or two before the guests arrive. Otherwise, since people generate heat, the space may become wastefully overheated.
- Check the refrigerator and freezer doors to make sure they seal tightly. This will keep the cold air in and the warm air out. To test, close the refrigerator door on a dollar bill. If you can slip the bill out easily, or, worse, if it falls out on its own, the door needs to be adjusted or the gasket needs to be replaced.
- Allow hot foods or liquids to cool off before placing them in the refrigerator. The cooling-off period should not hurt the taste of the food and will reduce the load on the refrigerator. Discard any uncooked food that has remained at room temperature for more than two hours.
- Use a "lids-on" approach to cooking. Tightly fitted lids on pots and pans help keep heat in, enabling you to lower the temperature settings and shorten the cooking times.
- Use the microwave instead of your regular oven whenever possible. Microwave ovens draw less than half the power of your regular oven, and they cook for a much shorter period of time.
- When preheating your regular oven for baking, time the preheat period carefully. Five to eight minutes should be enough time. There is no need to preheat for broiling or roasting.
- When roasting or baking, avoid making frequent progress checks that involve opening the oven door. Each time the door is opened, a considerable portion of the oven's heat escapes.
- When using an electric oven, cook as much of your meal as possible in it at one time. Foods with different cooking temperatures often can be cooked simultaneously at one temperature—variations of 25 degrees Fahrenheit in either direction still produce good results and save energy.
- After the feast, many people put the leftovers in a second refrigerator in their garage. This can be bad for both the food and the energy bill. If it's very cold in the garage, frozen foods may melt (as the temperature sensor in the refrigerator will not activate the compressor if the temperature in the garage is 42 degrees Fahrenheit or lower). If you have a second refrigerator, consider placing it in the basement or other insulated area of your home.
- When all of the cooking is done, don't use your oven's self-cleaning cycle unless a major cleaning job is needed. Wipe up minor spills and splatters with a damp cloth. When you do use the oven's self-cleaning feature, start the cycle right after cooking, while the oven is still hot, or wait until late evening hours when use of electricity is lowest.—Source: Edison Electric Institute



LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BE TESTED

The Winter Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) Members is scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 14.

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 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 control at 5 p.m. without pre-alert.

Restoral

Miscellaneous Heat loads (class 4B) will be restored at 8 p.m. All other Interruptible Heat loads (classes 2A, 2B, 2C and 2W) will vary in restoral, beginning at 9 p.m., with all loads restored by 10 p.m.

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.

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 4!

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour.





CHRISTMAS WISH PROGRAM

You can make someone's Christmas a little brighter by participating in the 22nd annual Christmas Wish program.

For more than 21 years, Taylor Electric has sponsored this program, making wishes come true for those whose spirits could use a little lift during the holidays. It's just one of the ways we practice the Seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community.

Watch next month's issue of the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News for more details about this year's program. For more information, contact WIGM/WKEB radio at 715-748-2566.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Our office will be closed
Thursday and Friday,
November
22 & 23.



SAFE DÉCOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

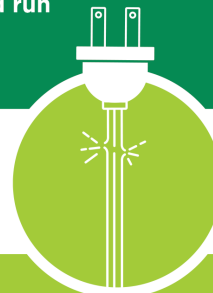
It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.



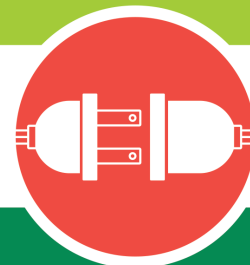
Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.

Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.



Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.

Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

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