Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative NEWS

November 2026

TAYLOR ELECTRIC Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



READY BEFORE THE STORM

HEROES ARE NEVER THAT FAR AWAY

THE NEXT GENERATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

PECAN RECIPES



Taylor Electric's
Powering the Season Christmas Lights Contest

It's time to untangle those lights, dust off the decorations and get ready to enter Taylor Electric's Powering the Season Christmas Lights Contest. We are inviting you to show off your best Christmas lighting displays. Whether your display is classic and cozy, bright and colorful, or a full-blown holiday spectacular, we want to see it!

How to Enter

- Participants must be Taylor Electric members.
- Both residential and commercial displays are welcome.
- Register by **Friday, November 13.** To register call our office at 715-678-2411 or email lights@taylorelectric.org.

The first 10 members to register will receive a Willie Wiredhand Christmas ornament.

Get Your Lights Ready!

- Your Christmas display must be up and shining by **Monday, December 7.**
- A list of participating displays will be shared on the Taylor Electric Facebook page so everyone can enjoy the holiday lights. Each Christmas lighting contest entry will be identified by its street address and a numbered sign displayed in the yard.

Prizes

- The top three winners will receive:
  1st prize: $75 electric bill credit
  2nd prize: $50 electric bill credit
  3rd prize: $25 electric bill credit
- In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected by random drawing.
- Winners will be announced December 28.

Contest Rules

- Participants must be Taylor Electric Cooperative members.
- Participants must register by Friday, November 13, 2026. No late entries will be accepted.
- To register, members must call the TEC office at 715-678-2411 or email lights@taylorelectric.org.
- Displays must be in place by Monday, December 7, 2026.
- TEC employees may participate but are not eligible to win.
- Participation in contest may increase traffic past your property. Participants are responsible for their own safety and personal belongings.

How to Vote

- Voting is open to everyone! You do not need to be a Taylor Electric member to vote.
- Voting begins Tuesday, Dec. 8, and ends Saturday, Dec. 26.
- Go to Taylor Electric's homepage at www.taylorelectric.org or call 715-678-2411 to vote for your favorite display.

Cooperatives Give Back

On Wednesday, October 7, CEO Ken Ceaglske and Board Vice Chairman Chuck Zenner joined Dairyland Power and Jump River Electric Cooperative employees for Dairyland's Cooperative Day of Service at Josie Creek County Park near Tony. Volunteers painted benches, cleared brush, stacked wood, and pressure-washed and sealed a pedestrian bridge.

Board Chairman Brian Hallgren and Director Dave Makovsky volunteered at Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors in Willard, where they trimmed trees, hauled brush, rebuilt garbage boxes, stained a pavilion, and cleaned hunting shacks.



Left: Taylor Electric CEO Ken Ceaglske (far left) and Board Vice Chairman Chuck Zenner (front row, center) joined volunteers at Josie Creek County Park near Tony.



Right: Taylor Electric Board Chairman Brian Hallgren (middle row, far right) and Director Dave Makovsky (front row, second from right) volunteered at Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors in Willard.

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR LOWERING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Save energy at home with efficient lighting

Changing a light bulb may seem small, but the right bulb can make a noticeable difference on your electric bill. Lighting accounts for 15% of an average home's electricity use, so switching to energy-efficient bulbs can be one of the fastest and easiest ways to save energy.

Today's most common lighting options are LED bulbs, compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs, and halogen incandescent bulbs. According to Energy.gov, halogen incandescent bulbs meet federal minimum energy efficiency standards but are not the most efficient choice.

For the biggest energy savings, LEDs and CFLs offer the greatest return. ENERGY STAR-certified LED bulbs use up to 90% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last 15 to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. With the average U.S. household using about 70 light bulbs, switching to energy-efficient lighting can add up to significant long-term savings.

LED bulbs typically cost more upfront than CFL bulbs, but since they last longer and use less energy, the cost can be offset over time.

Here's a breakdown of how the most common lighting options compare:

LED bulbs: LED bulbs are the most energy-efficient lighting option available. They are designed to turn more electricity into light and waste less energy as heat. Because they direct light where it's needed, they're ideal for recessed downlights, task lighting and accent lighting. LEDs can last up to 34 years — three to five times longer than CFLs. They also produce very little heat, which helps reduce energy waste and the risk of overheating.

CFL bulbs: CFLs are compact versions of the fluorescent tube lights commonly found in older kitchens, garages, and workplaces. They use about 70 to 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer, with an average lifespan of 14 years. While they're much more efficient than incandescent bulbs, about 80% of the energy they use is still lost as heat.

Halogen incandescent bulbs: These are an improved version of the traditional incandescent bulbs. A small capsule of halogen gas allows the filament to operate more efficiently, using about 20 to 30% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs. They are fully dimmable and come in a wide variety of shapes and colors. However, they have the shortest lifespan of the three options, lasting 4.2 years on average.

For more information on energy efficiency, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Taylor Electric's office will be closed:
Thursday, November 26, and
Friday, November 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday





HOLIDAY COOKING: SAVE ENERGY IN THE KITCHEN

During the holiday season, you may spend more time cooking, baking and prepping for family and friends. A few small changes can help you save energy, lower utility costs and keep your kitchen running efficiently.

Saving energy in the kitchen starts with using the right appliance for the job, keeping equipment in good condition and making simple changes to everyday cooking habits.

Cooking and prep

- **Use small appliances when possible.** Choose an air fryer, microwave, slow cooker or toaster oven for small meals or side dishes. They often use less energy than a full-size oven.
- **Keep the stovetop clean.** Clean burners and surfaces help heat transfer evenly.
- **Match the pan to the burner.** Using a small pan on a large burner wastes heat. Choose a burner that closely matches the size of the pan.
- **Cover pots and pans.** Lids keep heat inside, help water boil faster and allow food to cook evenly at lower settings.
- **Keep the oven door closed**. Use the oven light instead of opening the door to check on food. Opening the door lets heat escape and makes the oven work harder.
- **Thaw frozen foods ahead of time.** Move frozen foods to the refrigerator in advance to avoid microwave defrosting.
- **Cook more at once.** Bake multiple dishes together when possible and make larger portions to freeze for later.
- **Cut food into small pieces.** Small pieces of vegetables and meat cook faster and more evenly than large ones.
- **Skip the self-cleaning cycle.** Use it sparingly, since it requires very high heat and uses extra energy.
- **Turn down the thermostat while cooking**. Cooking and baking can warm your home quickly, especially when guests are gathered.

Refrigeration

- **Let leftovers cool slightly.** Allow hot foods to cool before refrigerating (but do not leave them out too long). This keeps your refrigerator from working harder to cool warm food.
- **Check the door seal.** Make sure the refrigerator door closes tightly. Test the seal by closing the door on a dollar bill. If it slides out easily, the gasket may need to be replaced.
- **Prevent frost buildup.** Too much frost can make the freezer work harder to maintain the right temperature.
- **Keep it full, but not crowded.** Refrigerators work best when cold air can circulate.

Dishwashing

- **Run full loads.** Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it to make the most of each cycle.
- **Skip heated dry.** Use the air-dry or eco-mode setting to dry dishes while reducing energy use.

Small changes in how you cook, cool and clean up can help save energy, no matter the season.



SAVE SOME GREEN ON ENERGY BILLS THIS WINTER

How can you save on heating costs this winter?

Some answers to that question are simple: Turn down the thermostat a few degrees from where you would normally keep it, and dress in layers. Keep your feet warm and have plenty of blankets nearby.

Most people like to pull up the covers at night when it's cold outside. Use flannel sheets and a thick comforter so you can turn down your thermostat while you sleep.

It also helps to use insulated or lined curtains to keep cold air out; not only in your bedroom but throughout your home.

Another way to make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible is to get an energy audit before the cold weather hits. The changes you make based on the audit could help you save energy costs this winter.

Other energy-saving tips include:

- **Get your heating system regularly maintained** by a HVAC professional so that it is working at peak efficiency. Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly.
- **Vacuum or clean vents** on a regular basis.
- **Keep fireplace dampers closed when not in use.** If you do not use your fireplace, plug and seal the flue.
- **Do not heat an empty home.** A programmable or smart thermostat can help this become automatic. According to the Department of Energy, lowering the temperature by 7 to 10 degrees for 8 hours a day can reduce energy costs by up to 10 percent.
- **Let the sun shine in** during the day to use Mother Nature's warmth. Close window coverings after dusk, however, to reduce heat loss.
- **Set ceiling fans to run clockwise** to push down and redistribute warm air that naturally rises.
- **Consider turning down your water heater** to 120 or 125°F. Also install a water heater blanket to help insulate it to give it a step up in warming your water.
- **Consider updating your furnace or HVAC system with an energy-efficient model** by looking for the ENERGY STAR® designation when it comes time to replace it.
- **Decrease use of built-in ventilation fans** in your kitchen and bathrooms. In the colder months, they transfer heat from inside your home to the backyard. Use the fans only when needed and turn them off as soon as you can.
- **Bring in the moisture with a humidifier** or research other ways to do that (e.g. well-watered plants, containers of water throughout the home). Dry air makes the air feel colder, and increasing moisture in the air causes indoor air to retain more heat.

Contact us for more information about energy audits or energy efficiency. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

LOAD CONTROL TEST SET FOR NOV. 18

The winter test for interruptible heat (dual fuel) members is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18. 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.

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.

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.

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO
N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451
715-678-2411 • 800-862-2407
email: taylrec@taylorelectric.org
website: www.taylorelectric.org
Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor

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