

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* April 2025 NEWS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

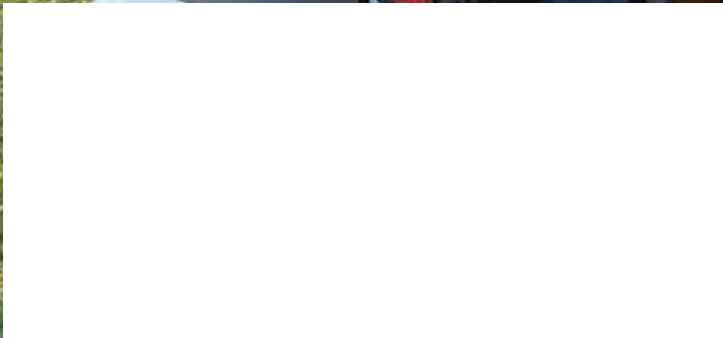


CELEBRATING LINEWORKERS

COOPERATIVES BUILD A BETTER WORLD

PREP NOW FOR SUMMER SAVINGS

BANANA RECIPES





BILLING SYSTEM CHALLENGES AND RATE STRUCTURE CHANGES



Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

Throughout the summer and fall of 2024, we had discussed the new rate structure that will include a demand component. Late in the fall, we discovered an issue on the meters where some were providing data in a half-hour interval and some in quarter-hour intervals.

A lack of standardization can create significant problems for a computer system. While working with our metering provider to make the recommended software upgrade to the meters, something in the system developed another roadblock. You may have noticed some crazy readings in February and March if you utilize the SmartHub application. This was caused by something within the software upgrade affecting how usage was displayed within SmartHub. If I were more IT knowledgeable, I may be able to give a full and formal explanation. The non-IT description: We get two sets of readings from the meters: interval and daily. We were able to prove that the daily reads were correct, however the interval reads (now all 15 minute) were getting confused with the change.

We did have to disable the usage graphing on SmartHub for a little while.

Our goal is to implement the rate structure changes with the billing for May or June usage provided we can get the metering system cleaned up and testing with our software system providers goes well.

Once we begin to implement demand, we will be lowering the energy charge a corresponding amount so that the change should be revenue neutral to the average member.

As a reminder, the rate structure change will begin using a billing rate component that has been displayed on your bill as “Peak Demand”. It has been there as an informational item for a few years with no associated charge. Once we begin to implement demand, we will be lowering the energy charge a corresponding amount so that the

change should be revenue neutral to the average member. The catch to this is that none of us are average users. Some users may see a decrease, while others may experience an increase.

The key is to do your best not to have exceptionally high use periods during evening hours between 3:00pm and 8:00pm on weekdays. Some increase in use is unavoidable; however limiting the use of the big energy users to one at a time is recommended best practice. Examples of some big energy users include, but are not limited to, electric stove, water heater, dryer, or other heavy-use items.

There is also a change in the way we calculate the solar net metering accounts. We are moving away from net metering settled monthly and towards net billing settled every fifteen minutes. This provides us a way to be more equitable to all of the membership due to the way that our wholesale rate structure works. Solar net metering customers can expect a letter outlining the change in the near future.



ATTENTION MEMBERS:

This month we are sponsoring a mail survey sent to a randomly-selected group of our residential members. The survey will ask about your home, appliances, energy efficiency, and opinions regarding a handful of energy topics. If you receive a copy of the survey, we request that you take about 10 minutes to complete it and return it to our survey processor in the postage-paid envelope that will be provided or by using the online survey provided.

We appreciate your participation and thank you in advance.

STAY SAFE THIS SPRING & SUMMER: BACKYARD ELECTRICAL SAFETY

As the weather warms, and you spend more time outdoors it's essential to prioritize electrical safety. Hidden hazards can pose serious risks. Here are some critical safety tips to keep your loved ones safe in your backyard.

Stay away from power lines

Overhead power lines can be closer than they appear. Teach children never to climb trees near power lines; and never to fly kites, drones, remote-controlled toys or balloons in areas where lines are present. If you see a downed power line, stay at least 50 feet away and report it to your local utility company immediately.

Trampoline safety

If you're considering an above-ground trampoline, remember to look up for power lines. Children jumping high into the air could come dangerously close to overhead electric lines, which pose a serious risk of shock or electrocution.

Thinking about installing an in-ground trampoline instead? Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked. Digging without knowing the location of buried electrical, gas, or water lines can result in dangerous utility strikes. This simple step can prevent accidents, service interruptions, and costly repairs.

Water safety

Water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Keep these tips in mind to prevent electrical hazards and create a safe space for outdoor fun.

- Ensure lights, filters, and outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection and inspect them regularly. GFCIs are designed to quickly shut off electrical power if they detect even a small change in electrical current.
- If you notice flickering lights or feel a tingling sensation in the water, exit immediately and contact a professional. Faulty wiring can cause electric shock drowning.
- Avoid using plug-in devices, like radios, speakers, or chargers, near water. Opt for battery-operated, waterproof devices to reduce the risk of shock.
- Know what to do in case of an electrical emergency. If someone is shocked, do not enter the water. Turn off the power source, call 911, and use a non-conductive tool, like a fiberglass pole, to assist.
- If it starts to rain, unplug electrical equipment, such as string lights, radios, speakers, or power tools. Teach children not to touch electrical appliances with wet hands.

Outdoor sports

Sports and play areas are a haven for children, but they can also contain hidden electrical hazards. Here's how to protect your loved ones:

- Ensure swings and other tall play structures are far from overhead power lines.
- If you have outdoor lighting for night games, ensure the fixtures are weatherproof and properly installed. Have a professional check for frayed wires or loose connections.
- If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them never to touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it.
- Install a weather app on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, seek shelter inside.

Supervise children around electrical equipment

Children are naturally curious, which is why they should be kept away from outdoor electrical equipment like utility boxes, transformers, and air conditioning units. If you have an outdoor generator, make sure it is stored in a secure, ventilated area that children cannot access and never plug a generator directly into your home's electrical system.

Avoid DIY electrical work

If you're planning a backyard upgrade, such as installing landscape lighting, sports lighting, or poolside outlets, leave the electrical work to licensed electricians. DIY electrical projects can pose serious safety risks to you and your family if done incorrectly.

From outside play to backyard sports, it's important to be aware of electrical hazards and how to avoid them. By following these guidelines, you can create a home oasis that is both fun and safe.

For more tips on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.





LINEWORKERS ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

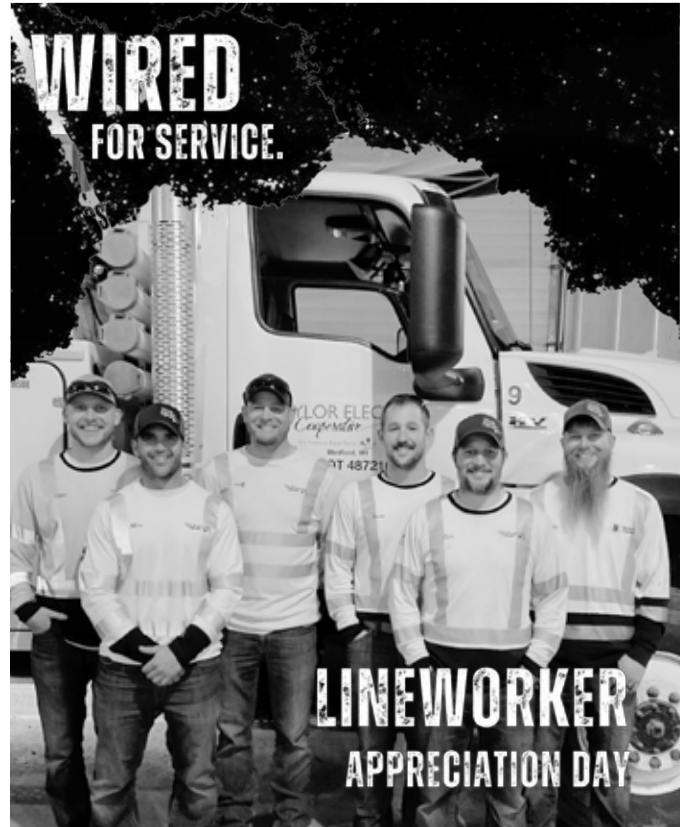
Amid towering utility poles and power lines, Taylor Electric’s lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems, or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Taylor Electric’s lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Last year several linemen were sent to assist in North Carolina after Hurricane Helene devastated the region. They sacrificed time away from their families to help those in need. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let’s recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



TEC Linemen back row l to r: Colten Cummings, Geoff Mueller, Jessie Knoll and Leadman Justin Fuchs. Front row l to r: TEC linemen Mike Eloranta and Tim Habermeyer.

CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE ALLOCATED SOON

In the next month or two, you will receive a capital credit allocation notice from Taylor Electric Cooperative. In addition to your member number, which may contain multiple account numbers, the notice will provide your 2024 allocation along with your new balance. To avoid confusion, there are three things you should know about your capital credit allocation notice:

- **It is not a bill, so do not pay the amount shown on the face.**
- **It is not a credit that can be used to pay an electric bill.**
- **There is no provision in Taylor Electric’s bylaws to make early payment of capital credits to those members who leave the service area. It is important that we be provided with a current address so when the time comes to pay, we’ll know where to mail the check.**

The capital credit allocation notice represents the amount of ownership you have in your cooperative. In future years, this amount may be returned to you as a capital credit check. Meanwhile, your capital credits are an investment in the cooperative’s electric distribution system. Member investments, capital credits, and long-term loans are the only sources of funding for the co-op; there are no outside investors.

You will receive a capital credit allocation notice only for the years in which you are a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative. It is a good idea to keep all of your notices with other important documents as a record for future years. Members with questions about capital credits are encouraged to contact our office at 715-678-2411.



GRILLING SEASON IS UPON US



Do it the easy way this summer

Take advantage of the simplicity and convenience of an electric barbecue grill. It's easy to operate—just plug it in to any standard 110-volt grounded outlet, turn the thermostat knob, and cook. Enjoy great barbecue taste for only cents per month to operate:



The Lock & Go portable electric grills cost \$70 plus tax.



The Combination Electric Grill and Water Smoker costs \$115 plus tax.



The Deluxe Cart electric grill costs \$210 plus tax.

Electric grills come unassembled in a box and can be easily transported.

Stop with the hassle of flames, and running out of gas or charcoal—start grilling the electric way!



Youth Leadership Conference

July 15-17, 2025 | UW-Stout

The annual Youth Leadership Conference is a dynamic three-day event for high school students across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.



Who should apply?

High school students with family members who belong to Taylor Electric Cooperative.

What does it cost?

Nothing to the student! All registration costs are covered by the generous support of sponsoring electric cooperatives.

Want to learn more?

Visit www.weca.coop and click on Youth Education under Education in the menu, or contact Taylor Electric Cooperative, 715-678-2411, for more information.

Registration forms are due at Taylor Electric Cooperative June 1, 2025.

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

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