

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

April 2023

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Partner

THE POWER BEHIND
OUR POWER:
WE SALUTE OUR
LINEWORKERS

OBSERVING EARTH DAY

CONTACT YOUR CO-OP BEFORE
MAKING THE CALL ON SOLAR

AMERICA'S FUEL MIX IS CHANGING





TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023

NRECA Board Resolution: “Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America’s Electric Cooperatives.”

Pictured above – Taylor Electric’s linemen: (front row, l to r) Tim Habermeyer, Jessie Knoll, and Mike Eloranta; (back row, l to r): Justin Fuchs, Geoff Mueller, and Colten Cummings.

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 2022 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.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

July 11–13, 2023
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.

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.

Registration forms are due at
Taylor Electric Cooperative
June 7, 2023.



Last year's delegate from Taylor Electric Cooperative, Theodore Robisch, earned a spot on the Youth Board and will be visiting Washington, D.C. in June for NRECA's Youth Tour. He will also help plan and develop this year's Youth Leadership Conference.

CANDIDATES SELECTED FOR DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

There's still time to be a candidate yourself; petitions are due April 27

The Nominating Committee has met and we have four candidates for the three seats on the board of directors that are up for election this June. Incumbents Chuck Zenner and Don Everhard are running again, and Sara Matyka and Paul Woods have expressed interest in running as well. The third incumbent, Pat Waldhart, has reached her term limit and is unable to run.

If you have interest in running for the board, there is still an opportunity to get a petition signed by at least 25 members and returned to the office prior to April 27. Keep on the lookout for your copy of the TEC Annual Report arriving in your mailbox in late May or early June. We will have details on the candidates, bylaw changes, and the new option of absentee voting.

Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.



EFFICIENCY UPGRADES TO HELP YOU SAVE THIS SUMMER

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and DIY projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money—and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can purchase an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.

Speaking of smart, additional devices like **smart LED bulbs** also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness levels—and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to illuminate your home at night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, **sealing air leaks around your home** is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.

If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need **additional insulation**. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home, and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

Of course, there are additional efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, like replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy efficient windows. Don't forget to check on Taylor Electric's incentive program for additional savings on appliances and LED bulbs.



DIY projects that will help make your home more energy efficient include installing a smart thermostat (left), installing smart LED lighting (center, photo courtesy of Unsplash), and sealing air leaks with caulk and weatherstripping (right, photo courtesy of Scott Van Osdol)

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!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans.

Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees.

To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Taylor Electric Cooperative's office will be closed April 7 for Good Friday.



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