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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

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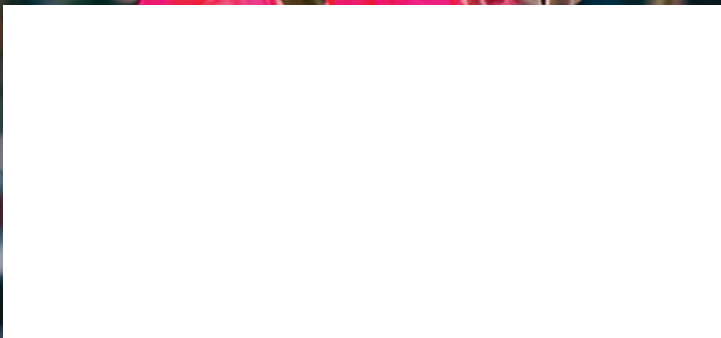
TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

FRESH FLOWER
FIELDS AND FARMS

A LEGACY OF INDEPENDENCE

IT ALL STARTS WITH "WHY?"

WATERMELON RECIPES





UNDERSTANDING DATA CENTERS

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO



There has been a lot of stir lately about data centers. The biggest part of it is about BIG data centers and all of the negative press. Did you know data centers come in all shapes and sizes, from the hyperscalers that make the big news to home and business uses locally that go nearly unnoticed?

First, what are these data centers for? Bitcoin currency and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are the big ones that make the news, but really, they can be for anything from banking, social media, business operations, backup for all of our technology, and as humble as storing family photos. It includes everything that resides on the internet and that we ask to be available both remotely and 24x7. Is there anything on that list that society is willing to give up? If not, data centers become a part of life. Much like cell phone towers and cell phones, without the tower, no cell phone. Without the data center, no data.

Here at Taylor Electric, we utilize remote data centers for much of our billing system and operational data like mapping and metering. We occasionally use AI for some business needs. Searching the internet is probably a daily use for many of us looking for specific technical data or other resources.

What demands do these systems put on the electrical grid? The hyperscalers can bring huge loads, from 100 MW and larger and take up a similarly large footprint of real estate. These types are very specific with regards to their power needs. They need to be close to the largest power lines on the grid. The nearest power lines in our area that fit their needs are down by Colby, or out by Gilman. Getting that size power line into the Medford area would take tens of millions of dollars, so it is very unlikely that we would see anything like that. Most days the grid has enough power to support tremendous growth, but some days we are closer to the limits. With many of these data centers, new power production sources may be needed.

The hyperscalers support many of the big-name internet companies. One that comes to mind is Meta (Facebook, Instagram, etc). Meta has a data center in Altoona, Iowa that uses as much capacity as our power supplier Dairyland Power. It took DPC 85 years to grow to that size. Meta, less than 10. Also interesting, for a sense of scale from one of the active protesters that has a very active online presence. From an electricity use perspective, supporting both the online protest videos and their active videos that made them famous, the data center that supports their media empire would consume as much energy as the existing TEC

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system. It seems strange to be protesting the use of data centers and social media by using data centers and social media to stage the protest.

Taylor Electric has been approached by the smaller data centers a few times but the projects never quite came together. A few of the contacts were bitcoin miners, they come looking for the cheapest rates that they could get, with the exchange that they would turn off any time the power cost was high. This would be similar to our peak alert members, but possibly even more frequent since they link into the MISO pricing. The rate structure gets much more complex as it is based on MISO pricing plus an adder for TEC. Another was an “edge” data center, they handle processing and storage to support a larger central data center. These are more focused on reliability and proximity to the main data center. Both of these types of data centers come in much smaller packages; specially built shipping containers to be exact. They seem to prefer building in 1-10 MW groups near substations. These types only need a connection to power and the internet but use zero water and very little land. They look for areas in the grid with the necessary capacity already installed and try to use excess installed capacity allowing them to get started on a budget and grow from there. We have a few areas on the system that can support growth like that without added cost to existing members, while bringing much needed growth to the system. In any case, loads like this would be expected to pay their share of any new construction or upgrades. Getting a load like that would bring growth that can help spread the costs of operations and keep rates steady.

I know that there are people who are opposed to data centers for various reasons, but we need reasonable growth to maintain rates in a climate where costs are rising every year. Less talked about is the fact that we are required to serve any load that comes into our territory. Fortunately, not “at any cost”, so we can set the rules, parameters, rates, and establish the costs to make improvements to the system to support the new load. It is with that thought we will keep our members in mind as we look at any load growth, data centers or otherwise.

2026 WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR

Max Klussendorf and Laura Wegerer represent Taylor Electric in the nation's capital

Delegates from eleven Wisconsin electric cooperatives traveled to Washington, D.C., for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour, held June 15–19, 2026.

Taylor Electric was represented by Max Klussendorf, son of Ryan and Cheri Klussendorf of Medford, and Laura Wegerer, daughter of Jamie and Karen Wegerer of Medford. Max and Laura earned this opportunity through their participation in the Youth Leadership Congress (YLC), where they were elected by their peers to serve as board members. Over the past year, they expanded their knowledge of cooperatives while helping plan the 2026 YLC, which took place mid-July. YLC is a cooperative-sponsored leadership program for high school students who want to learn about cooperatives, develop leadership skills, and connect with peers from across the state.

Throughout the week, they learned about history, government, and the cooperative business model. They toured iconic landmarks and memorials, including the Pentagon, the National Mall, and Arlington National Cemetery, where they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony. They also visited



museums, explored the FBI Experience, and gained a deeper understanding of how electric cooperatives serve their members.

Max and Laura had the opportunity to witness the legislative process at the United States Capitol, where they watched Ron Johnson cast a vote. They also met with Tammy Baldwin and staff from Derrick Van Orden's office. Throughout the week, they connected with Youth Tour delegates from across the country, participated in leadership programs, and wrapped up the experience at NRECA Youth Night, featuring an inspiring presentation by Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist.





Thank You from our delegates



Dear Taylor Electric,

Thank you for the opportunity to go to Washington, DC! I have learned so many new things and met so many amazing people. Also, thank you for sending me to YLC last summer. I learned a lot more about cooperatives. Through all of my experiences on the youth board and youth tour, I've learned and grown in so many ways. Thanks again for the amazing opportunities.

-Laura Wegerer



Dear Taylor Electric,

Thank you for sponsoring me to attend the Youth Tour in Washington, DC. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this awesome experience and learn more about the nation's capital. My favorite place was the WWII Memorial, and the pin trading is a once in a lifetime experience. Thank you again for making this opportunity possible.

Sincerely, Max Klussendorf

TAYLOR ELECTRIC HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Taylor Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting on Tuesday, June 23, at the Centennial Community Center in Stetsonville. A packed house enjoyed a chicken dinner before the business meeting.

During the meeting, discussion was held regarding the 2025 director election after it was determined that some ballots had been unintentionally omitted from the original count due to being left in the ballot bag. The inclusion of those ballots changed the final election results. Board Chairman Brian Hallgren and Taylor Electric Cooperative Legal Counsel Jessica Shrestha were present at the meeting to explain the process that was followed in addressing the discovery of the uncounted ballots and the subsequent recount.

Don Everhard, Paul Woods, and Chuck Zenner were re-elected to three-year terms on the board of directors and members approved three bylaw amendments.

Finance Manager Patricia Nelson presented the 2025 financial report, while Line Superintendent Wade Matyka provided the operations report. CEO Ken Ceaglske presented information on Winter Storm Fern

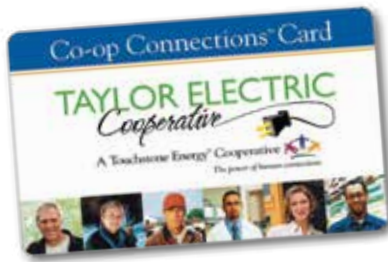
and its impact on the grid and electric consumption.

Each member in attendance received a \$10 electric bill credit. Kathy Jochimsen won the \$100 electric bill

credit door prize, while Pete Henrichs, Dave Manecke, Wendy Sackmann, and Jack Strebig each received a \$50 electric bill credit.



Top: Members enjoy a chicken dinner and conversation before the start of the meeting. Bottom left: Vice-Chairman Chuck Zenner (right) with former Board Secretary Diane Albrecht and her husband, Bruce. Bottom right: Former Board Secretary Pat Waldhart and her husband, Harley.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS®

Local and National Deals, Local Savings!

Use your **Co-op Connections® Card** to take advantage of these savings! This card is a free member benefit for Touchstone Energy cooperatives like Taylor Electric Cooperative. It offers valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. Participating local business are listed below.

Advance Auto Parts, Medford

10% discount on purchases up to \$200.

Broadway Theater, Medford

Buy any size drink, get a matching soda for \$1.00.

Glass to Go, Inc., Medford

5% off in-shop ONLY windshield replacement.

Life's High Points Photography, Medford

10% discount.

Medford Health Mart Pharmacy, Medford

20% off any Health Mart label.

Meyer Auto Body, Medford

5% discount on any body repair over \$500. Up to a \$100 value.

Meyer Lumber, Dorchester

5% discount on discountable items, excluding all sale and clearance items (cash sales only). Cannot be used in conjunction with any other discounts/promotions. Card must be presented at each purchase.

Meyer Tire and Service, Medford

\$5 off any passenger or

light truck tire – not good in conjunction with any other coupons or offers.

Napa Auto Parts, Medford

10% discount on cash & carry items (excludes engines, engine kits, transmissions, oil labor & sale items).

Northwoods Embroidery, Medford

Free digitizing on embroidery. Free set up on first color of screen printing.

River Country Cooperative

Athens, Greenwood, Owen
10% discount on all dog and cat food.

Schierl Tire & Service Center, Medford

\$5 off an oil change. \$10 off parts for service repairs.

Stetsonville Lumber, Stetsonville

5% off single purchase over \$500 – not good in conjunction with other coupons or offers.

Subway, Medford & Colby

50¢ off any sub or salad.

Tallman Landscaping

5% off labor on projects over \$1,000 – free estimates.

Taylor Credit Union, Medford and Abbotsford

Free rental for one year on 3"x5"x22 1/2" safe deposit box – new rentals only. Requires existing savings account or initial savings account with \$5 balance. Limit one per family.

Turtle Bay Gardens, LLC, Medford

10% off purchase.

Wanke Builders, Medford

Free foundation waterproofing on new home purchase.

[Connections.coop](https://connections.coop)

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Amazing Savings at Your Fingertips!

While the Co-op Connections® app is going away on July 31, you can still find a whole world of discounts by visiting our mobile responsive site at [Connections.coop](https://connections.coop). This program is a free member benefit brought to you by your local electric cooperative.

Health & Wellness

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Pet Care

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