

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* December 2024 NEWS

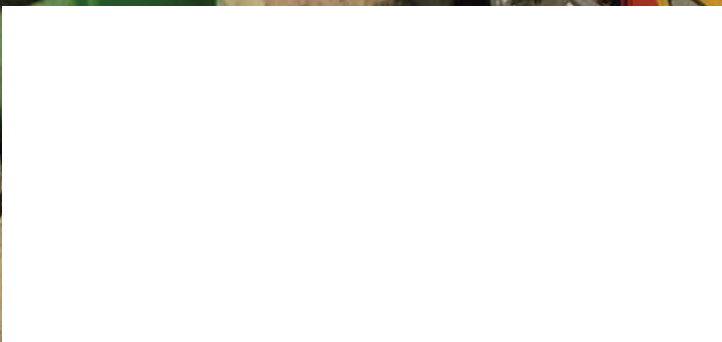
TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Tomahawk Energy® Partner

THESE ARE A FEW OF
MY FAVORITE THINGS

**SURGE OF SUPPORT
FOR LIGHT UP NAVAJO!**

BE AN ENERGY STAR

**BEST OF 2024
KIDS AND CRITTERS**





MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

By Ken Ceagske, CEO

As December kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at Taylor Electric Cooperative cares about your well-being. This month, I'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

Safety First

Families enjoy decorating their homes for the holidays. Before you deck the halls, always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This offers peace of mind, knowing holiday lights are ready to safely brighten your home. Also, double check the lights outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

In many households, holiday-scented candles are a favorite. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. Set a schedule and test them on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'Tis the Season for Savings

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.


Encourage family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling make up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

My family saved energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy-efficient lights available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs. For example, I used a Trickle Star energy monitor on my Christmas lights after converting to LED. The cost to light my house and garage was a mere 13 cents at night, roughly \$4 a month.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food—not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers, and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

Try implementing some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. I hope your holiday season is merry and bright.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

A CORD IS NOT A CHEW TOY



Q: What's the most common type of electrical injury for household pets?

A: Electrocutation from chewing on an electrical cord.

TAKE ACTION:

Pet proof your home by covering or enclosing electrical cords and taking steps to prevent other electrical hazards.

Although any pet can chew on a cord, puppies are the most likely culprit.

Learn more about pet safety at SafeElectricity.org.

Holiday Office Hours

Taylor Electric's office will be closed on the following days:

December 24 – Closed

December 25 – Closed

December 26 – Closed

December 31 – Closing at noon

January 1 – Closed

HEY KIDS!

Decorate this picture for a chance to win a prize!

Please bring your completed picture in person and receive a treat. **A drawing of all entries will be held on Friday, December 13, 2024.** Pictures will be displayed at the co-op office. Age groups include: 1–3 years, 4–6 years, 7–9 years, and 10–12 years. All participants' parents must be current members of Taylor Electric.



Name _____ Age _____

Parents' Names _____ Acct. No. _____

All employees' and directors' families are ineligible.

Christmas Wish

28 YEARS OF SPREADING JOY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The Christmas Wish Program is celebrating 28 years of granting wishes to and brightening the holidays for those in need during the Christmas season. Whether the need is financial, emotional, or physical, spreading holiday cheer and putting a smile on the faces of the families in our community has always been our mission.

In 2023, nearly 150 families were touched by the Christmas Wish program. In following with the cooperative principle “Concern for Community,” contributors to Christmas Wish have brought holiday cheer for the past 27 years to those who were battling a serious illness, friends and neighbors who had lost loved ones throughout the year, and community members with disabilities.

The 28th annual Christmas Wish Program is brought to you by area Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including Dairyland Power Cooperative, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Clark Electric Cooperative, Price Electric

Cooperative, and Jump River Electric Cooperative. Also sponsoring are the Taylor County Association of Cooperatives, Royal Credit Union, Co-op Transport, River Country Co-op, Ag Country Farm Credit, Taylor Credit Union, The Medford Cooperative, Lakewood Credit Union, United Mutual Insurance, WIGM 1490 AM and WKEB 99.3 FM Radio.

Wish Requests

Wish requests for area residents may be directed to WIGM/WKEB Radio; P.O. Box 59, Medford, WI 54451; phone, (715) 748-2566; fax, (715) 748-2752; or via the radio station’s website, www.k99wigm.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number as well as the name, address, and phone number of the individual you are making a wish for and the wish you would like granted. Requests are being taken now until December 17, 2024.

UPDATE ON BILLING CHANGES

Earlier this year, we had mentioned that we were going to bring in a new billing component for demand, which will offset some of the energy portion of the bill. We also mentioned we’d be converting from billing solar on a net basis to a wholesale purchase price for excess energy and a retail sale for member needs. We found that some of our meters were programmed for one setting and some for another. Through the winter months we will continue getting the needed changes made to the meters and will be implementing these billing changes by mid-2025.

WELCOME, KATE

Taylor Electric Cooperative's newest employee, Kate Beres, was hired in October as a billing/customer service representative.



She lives in Holcombe with her husband, Kevin. Kate has three stepchildren (Ivan, Marissa, and Sierra), two dogs (Tilly and Koda), and two cats (Harley and Steve). She graduated from WITC with an associate's degree in administrative work. She enjoys being outside and working on projects with her husband. Her hobbies include riding ATVs, going to car shows with their classic vehicles, riding motorcycle, playing with her dogs, and living the country life. Music is her passion, and she thoroughly enjoys going to concerts and seeing her favorite artists.

Welcome to Taylor Electric, Kate!

WINTER LOAD CONTROL SEASON BEGINS

Winter full load control/peak alert events will be split into morning and evening events from December through February. A review of winter electricity peaks revealed that 60% of peaks occur in the morning. To successfully reduce electricity needs during those times, enrolled dual fuel (electric heat) loads will be controlled in the mornings, beginning approximately at 7 a.m. with restoration by 11 a.m.

Enrolled dairy water heaters, grain dryers, and manual standby generators will remain in the traditional winter schedule of control beginning at 5 p.m. with restoral by 10 p.m.

Residential water heaters and other accounts enrolled by daily storage, and EV chargers will not be affected by the split control events and will be controlled during economic control events as in the past.

CAN YOU HELP US FIND THESE PEOPLE?

Taylor Electric Cooperative has capital credits for the following people, who we are unable to locate. If you know someone listed here, please have them contact our office at 715-678-2411 or 800-862-2407. In cases where the person is deceased, please have the family contact us with benefactor information. Any unclaimed checks will revert to the Wisconsin Federated Youth Foundation, Inc., a charitable tax-exempt trust established by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association for educational purposes. Claims may be made at the cooperative office by the rightful owners by December 31, 2024.

A&E Bar
Arneson, James Deceased
Baldwin, Marc
Beachy, Steven L & Faye E
Belanger, Dave
Berger, Carrie L
Blume, Travis
Bogaard, Helen
Brost, Mark A & Tonya
Campbell, Jesse & Heather

Cardinal, Linda
Correnti, Lucille
Dahm, Florence
Doberstein, John
Draper, Dennis E & Susan J
Drew, Dalyn
Fiegen, Steve & Melissa
Francis, Andrew
Frey, Cala Deceased
Gallagher, Mike

Gasek, Audrey
Goth, Willard A
Gruhlke, Ronny
Haase, Deborah
Hamelund, Joyce Deceased
Harbath, Andrew & Rebecca
Heser, Evelyn
Hollibush, Margot Deceased
Hotchkiss, Jean

Illmann, Carl & Joan
Immormino, Dillon
Judnic, Yvonne
Kolecheck, Rodney & Lisa
Kollmansberger, Ervin
Loveland, Ruth Deceased
Mabie, Bob & Cindy
Mejia, Terri
Morgan, Lawrence C & Cynthia M
Nelson, Ronald
Nelson, Thomas W Deceased
Nernberger, Ryan & Heather
Olsen, Eleanor
Olson, Michael
Pastime Trucking
Pavelich, Carmen
Pernsteiner, Bernard J & Anita E
Peterson, Monica J
Pfaff, Frank

Phillips, Jim & Stella
Prochnow, Tim & Laurie
Quiring, Brent & Jennifer
Radant, Donald & Janice
Ramm, Donald
Rinaldi, Anthony & Sara
Sauerman, Thomas A & Gail M
Sherburne Ginseng
Slate, Suzanne E Deceased
Spencer, Darin
Strobach, Gary
Tallman, Caroline
Underwood, Kenneth
Vlach, Ryan
Vogt, John & Jean
Weber, Glen E Deceased
Wirkus, Gary & Carrie
Wirt, Allen J Deceased
Wolff, Jerry Deceased

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451
715-678-2411 • 800-862-2407
email: taylrec@tayloelectric.org
website: www.tayloelectric.org

Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor



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