Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative NEWS

February 2024

TAYLOR ELECTRIC Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

EAU CLAIRE TO HOST U.S. NATIONAL SNOWSHOE CHAMPIONSHIPS

TREADING WATER

EFFICIENCY TIPS FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES

KIDS AND CRITTERS

WARM DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR RATE ADJUSTMENTS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

Once again, December did not fail to be an unusual month for weather. While 2021 and 2022 brought us thunderstorms, ice, and wind, December 2023 was a very pleasant month. Unfortunately, the only white on Christmas weekend was a blanket of fog in the air while the potential "Christmas goose" enjoyed a leisurely swim on open water. As I type this, winter may finally be coming into the picture and the lakes are re-freezing over. With the warmer-than-usual temperatures in December, our sales for the month were down almost 10% and almost 4% for the year. This highlights why the recent rate changes have been focused on the fixed charge, not the variable energy charge. So many of our costs are the same no matter how much energy we sell.

With regards to the rate changes, you will see the base fee increase on the bill arriving this month. However, through the process of evaluating the rates, we will be making a few other adjustments that will take effect on March 1, 2024. Accounts with submetered loads will see an increase in the submeter charge of $.50, from $4.50 to $5.00 per month. This will include electric heat, air conditioners, and EV chargers.

We are also going to change the on-peak/off-peak times on the Time-of-Day rate to more closely reflect the changes to our rates from Dairyland. The new on-peak hours are shorter by two hours in summer and winter and by one hour in the spring and fall. In summer, the new on-peak hours will be from 1–7 p.m. and all other months will be 4–8 p.m. Weekends and holidays are always off-peak. These on-peak times reflect the times that our power purchases are typically high for Taylor Electric, so estimated increases in cost are passed through in the rate. Any decreases in the off-peak times are also shared during the off-peak times. In the end, about 14% of the hours of the year are on-peak and 86% are off-peak.

Even if you are not on the Time-of-Day rate, keeping usage lower in the 4–8 p.m. timeframe on exceptionally warm or cold days can help keep costs down for everyone, since our power cost is heavily influenced by our loads on the warmest and coldest days of the year.

Even if you are not on the Time-of-Day rate, keeping usage lower in the 4–8 p.m. timeframe on exceptionally warm or cold days can help keep costs down for everyone.

The EV on-peak charging time will increase from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. to reflect staying off the morning peaks, especially in the winter.

If you have an interest in running for a board seat at the annual meeting in June, now is the time to express your interest. The nominating committee will be meeting in February to establish the slate of candidates for the elections at the annual meeting. Please contact one of the committee members before February 23 to let them know that you are interested in serving on the board. The committee members are: JoAnn Smith, 715-748-2506; Patricia Waldhart, 715-678-2385; and Kathy Jochimsen, 715-785-8049.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

Age group 1–3
Harper Schmidt, child of Cody and Jackie Schmidt

Age group 4–6
Kenlee Zondlo, child of Cassandra and Carl Zondlo

Age group 7–9
Anna Daniels, child of Melissa and Mike Daniels

Age group 10–12
Julianna Burkholder, child of Marlin and Esther Burkholder

Winners received a $25 Chamber gift certificate. Each child received a gift for entering. Thanks to all of our participants!

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INCENTIVES

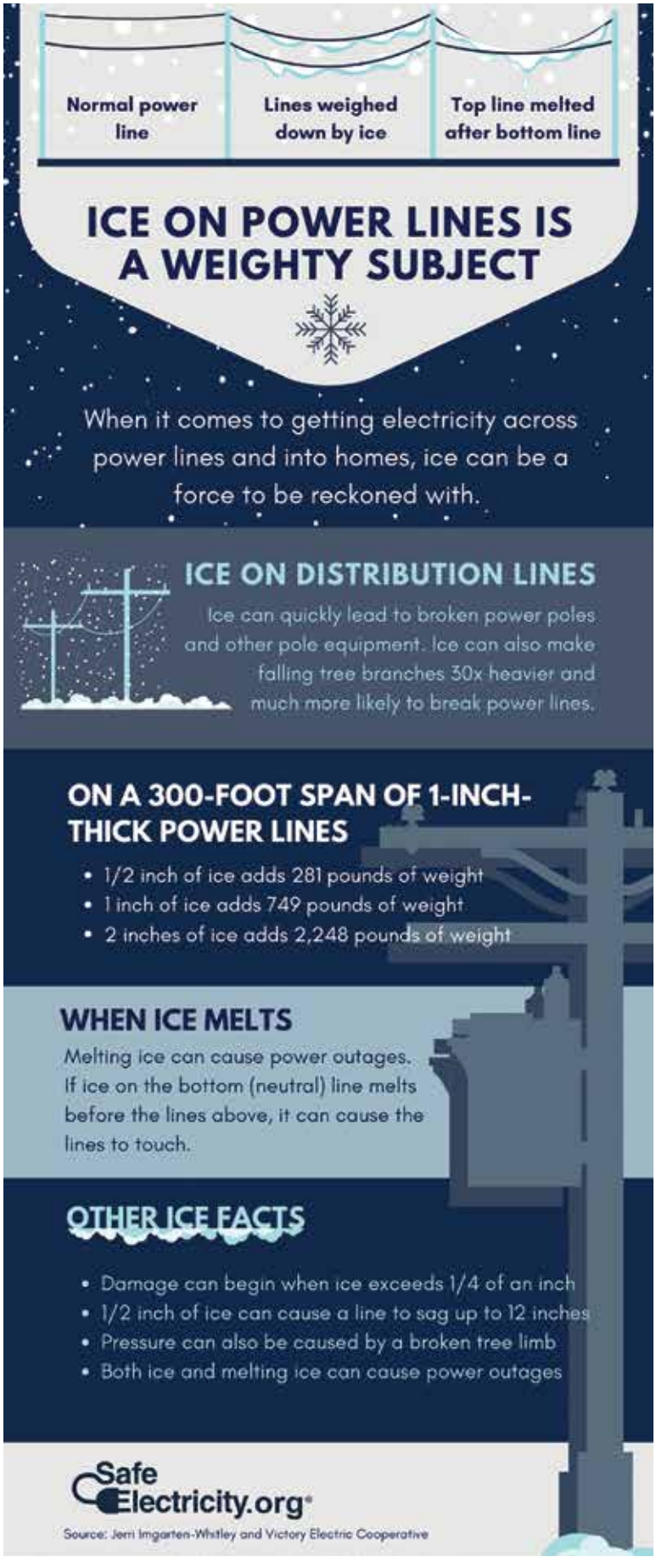
Effective January 1, 2024

Rebates and Rebate Criteria are subject to change without notice

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES — MUST BE ENERGY STAR	
Clothes Washer	$25 per unit
Clothes Dryer	$25 per unit
Refrigerator >= 10 cubic feet	$25 per unit
Inductive Range – *all inductive ranges qualify*	$25 per unit
Freezer – *freezer must be ≥ 10 cubic feet to qualify*	$25 per unit
Dishwasher	$25 per unit
Dehumidifier	$25 per unit
Recycling – Refrigerator/Freezer/Room A/C *(Signed certification required – must be working)*	$25 per unit
CONSERVATION	
Electric Vehicle Charging Station *(Load Management control required)*	$400 per unit
Electric Vehicle Smart Charger with Integrated Meter *(Load Management control required)*	$800 per unit
Electric $ense® New Home Program – must meet 1 of 5 requirements *(criteria for multi-family dwellings include one incentive per habitable structure(not warehouse, not per apartment), structure must be on cooperative lines and person requesting incentive must be owner and a member)*	$500 each
AUDITS & ASSESSMENTS	
Compressed Air Audit	capped at cost - $500 max
Audit Recommended Improvements	capped at cost - $500 max
ELECTRIC WATER HEATER* **	
Commercial and Residential – 75-99 gallon *(Energy Factor .88+, Residential)*	$150 per unit
Commercial and Residential – 100 gallon+ *(Energy Factor .88+, Residential)*	$300 per unit
Heat pump water heater *(Integrated (all-in-one) units, Energy Factor 2.0 or greater)*	$300 per unit
LIGHTING	
LED bulb – capped at cost	$.50 per bulb- 5 bulb minimum
LED fixture – capped at cost	$.50 per fixture per 800 lumens
LED Exit signs-capped at cost	$5 per sign
Occupancy Sensor – doesn't include motion detector fixtures	$5 each
HVAC** **	
Heat Pump – Air-Source & MiniSplit *(SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+, SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+)*	$300 per ton
Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs *(Less than 20 ton: EER 11+)* *20 to less than 60 ton: EER 10.5+ , Greater than or equal to 60 ton: EER 10+*	$300 per ton
Heat Pump – Geothermal	$500 per ton
New Furnace w/ECM Blower Motor – *Variable speed motor (not multi-speed)* *'OR' Eae <=670 kwh/year*	$35 per unit
Smart Thermostat-Honeywell or Emerson brand unit – Enrolled in Load Mgt	$25 each
Dual Fuel (8 KW min. – new installations)	TEC only - $100 bill credit
ETS Units	TEC only - $30 per KW
Electric Hydronic or Slab	TEC only - $20 per KW
AGRICULTURAL & C&I	
Commercial Vending Machine Controls	$25 each
Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-cooler	$500 per unit
Dairy Refrig Heat Recovery w/electric backup – used with controlled water heater	$300 per unit
Low/zero Energy Livestock Waterer *(500 watts or less, insulated tank)*	$50 per unit
Scroll Refrigeration Compressor *($1,000 cap per compressor)*	$30 per HP
Variable Frequency Drive *($1,000 cap per drive)*	$30 per HP
Electric Forklift Battery Charger – *must be controlled as defined by cooperative*	$200/each
Ag Fan – Exhaust, less than 36" must be >= *18 cfm/Watt @ 0.05" SP*	$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Exhaust, greater than 36" must be >= *21 cfm/Watt @ 0.05" SP*	$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Circulation, less than 36" must be >= *18 lbs. force/kW*	$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Circulation, greater than 36" must be >= *21 lbs force/kW*	$1 per inch diameter

******Water heater rebates require installation of co-op's Load Management (LM) control.**
******A/C and Heat pumps require LM only when separately metered for off-peak rates.**
******Dual Fuel, ETS, & Hydronic or slab systems require LM control to qualify for incentive.**
(timeclock control when under the time of day rate is acceptable).
Maximum rebate = $20,000 per member account per year.
Most rebates must be applied for within 3 months of purchase.

In addition, call
FOCUS ON ENERGY
800-762-7077
for additional incentives



HORSES GALLOP AND SO CAN POWER LINES

Galloping power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. Freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. This change in airflow can cause the power line to start to bounce.

Once the lines get going, they can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damaging themselves enough to cause an outage or even fall to the ground.

There is not much a power company can do to alleviate galloping lines since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. To help prevent this, many power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. While they can help, sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping wind.

Aside from ice storms, year-round storms can cause damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact Taylor Electric or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line. Do not try to guess the types of lines—stay away from all lines.
- Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and metal culverts.
- Keep in mind that a dead line could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.
- Never drive over a downed line. It could start a chain reaction and cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.
- If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.
- Only exit a car or cab near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.

What better way to show your love than by keeping your loved ones safe? These five simple steps will help keep your home safe from potential electrical hazards.

HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

1. Never overload an electrical socket with too many plugs. Check all outlets to ensure they are cool to the touch, have protective faceplates, and are in proper working order.

2. Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Not only could this be a tripping hazard, but the cords can overheat, and the constant foot traffic can make the wires frayed or broken over time.

3. Make sure you're using the right extension cord for the job, and never double up. Remember that extension cords are meant to be temporary.

4. Install safety caps and covers over all electrical outlets to keep children from inserting objects—including their fingers—into the outlet.

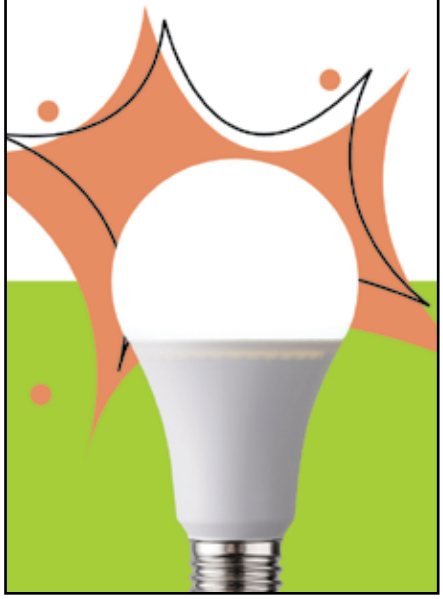
5. Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages, and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.

Sources: Safe Electricity, Electrical Safety Foundation International

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



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