



LOOKING AHEAD: ANNUAL MEETING AND ENERGY UPDATES

By Ken Ceaglske, CEO

Winter is upon us, but this is the time of year when my mind reaches towards thoughts of summer. This is when we begin the planning for the annual meeting in June. We have two seats up for election this year, currently held by Lisa Kohn and Dave Makovsky. If you have an interest in running for one of those seats, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee listed below, or you can call me at the office.

This is also the time of the year when we have announced rate changes in the past and with the increases in the industry slowing a bit, we feel comfortable with the revenue

that the rates provide as they are. We are still working on the computer system changes needed to implement the adaptation to including a demand component to the bills and adjusting the kilowatt hour (kWh) lower. As mentioned in the past, the changes to the rate structure will be revenue neutral to the average user, if you see changes in your bill, up or down, it is due to your specific usage in relation to the rate structure.

The best advice that I can offer to reduce your power bill is to level out usage and avoid stacking too many high energy use appliances in the afternoon and early evening hours.

Want to serve as a board member?

HERE'S HOW

Members interested in serving on the board should contact CEO Kenny Ceaglske or one of the nominating committee members:

- John Johnson -715-785-7777**
- JoAnn Smith - 715-748-2506**
- Patricia Waldhart - 715-678-2385**

Interested candidates will need to fill out a form and be willing to submit a brief questionnaire for publication in the annual report candidate section.

Please contact one of the committee members or CEO Kenny Ceaglske by March 15, 2025 if interested.

SMART TIPS FOR USING SPACE HEATERS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS



When cold weather sets in, covert battles over thermostat settings take place at many homes and businesses. Some people just can't seem to get warm, while others feel that they're suffocating from the heat. Not everyone experiences the same level of comfort at the same temperature. As a result, many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth. Safe Electricity and Taylor Electric remind those who use space heaters and electric blankets to keep safety considerations in mind and use these devices with caution.

While space heaters and electric blankets can provide needed warmth and comfort, they can also be deadly if they are not used with care.

When buying a space heater or electric blanket, check for approved safety certification marks to verify that the product has been tested for safety. Look for space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including an automatic shut off. Be very cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. They may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms. Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater or blanket.

To help you have both a warm and safe winter, Safe Electricity shares the following tips for using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Review and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using an extension cord.
- Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.
- Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.

- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Be aware of pets and children near heating appliances. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
- Keep space heaters and electric blankets away from water. If they become wet, do not turn them on to dry.
- Regularly examine cords to make sure there is no cracking or fraying. Do not use damaged appliances. Also inspect your electric blanket to ensure that it is not worn or damaged. It should not have any charred or dark areas. Replace old or damaged blankets.
- Store your electric blanket in a manner which avoids creasing. If it cannot be stored flat, loosely fold or roll the blanket in a cool, dry closet.

To help you and your family stay safe, also be sure to check smoke detectors every month, and replace batteries twice a year.

Also, develop and practice an escape plan. A good plan is known by all household members and includes an outside meeting location away from danger of the fire.

When it comes time to get rid of an old or damaged space heater or electric blanket, do not dispose of your electrical appliances with your general waste. Check with your local recycling facility to see if they accept space heaters and electric blankets.

To learn more on how to avoid electrical hazards, visit SafeElectricity.org.

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INCENTIVES

Effective January 1, 2025 • Rebates and Rebate Criteria are subject to change without notice

2025 Incentive

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES — MUST BE ENERGY STAR

All-in-one Washer/Dryer Combo-must use ventless heat pump drying	\$50 per unit
Clothes Washer	\$25 per unit
Clothes Dryer - must be electric	\$25 per unit
Refrigerator >= 10 cubic feet	\$25 per unit
Inductive Range – <i>all inductive ranges qualify</i>	\$25 per unit
Freezer – <i>freezer must be ≥ 10 cubic feet to qualify</i>	\$25 per unit
Dishwasher	\$25 per unit
Dehumidifier	\$25 per unit
Recycling – Refrigerator/Freezer/Room A/C (<i>Signed certification required – must be working</i>)	\$25 per unit

CONSERVATION

Electric Vehicle Charging Station (<i>Load Management control required</i>)	\$400 per unit
Electric Vehicle Smart Charger with Integrated Meter (<i>Load Management control required</i>)	\$800 per unit
Electric SENSE® New Home Program - must meet 1 of 5 requirements (<i>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.</i>)	\$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 (<i>Energy Factor .88+, Residential</i>)	\$150 per unit
Commercial and Residential – 100 gallon+ (<i>Energy Factor .88+, Residential</i>)	\$300 per unit
Heat pump water heater (<i>Integrated (all-in-one) units, Energy Factor 2.0 or greater</i>)	\$300 per unit

LIGHTING

LED bulb - 50% capped at cost	\$.50 per bulb- 5 bulb minimum
LED fixture – 50% capped at cost	\$.50 per fixture per 800 lumens
LED Exit signs-50% capped at cost	\$5 per sign
Occupancy Sensor – <i>doesn't include motion detector fixtures - 50% of cost cap</i>	\$5 each

HVAC****

Heat Pump – Air-Source & MiniSplit (<i>SEER2 14.3+, or HSPF2 7.5+ OR SEER 15+, or HSPF 8.8+</i>)	\$200 per ton
Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs (<i>Less than 20 ton: EER 11+ 20 to less than 60 ton: EER 10.5+, Greater than or equal to 60 ton: EER 10+</i>)	\$200 per ton
Heat Pump – Geothermal	\$400 per ton
New Furnace w/ECM Blower Motor – <i>Variable speed motor (not multi-speed). Must be the member's primary heat source. 'OR' Eae <=670 kwh/year</i>	\$35 per unit
Smart Thermostat-Honeywell or Emerson brand unit - Enrolled in load management	\$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

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 (<i>500 watts or less, insulated tank</i>)	\$50 per unit
Scroll Refrigeration Compressor (<i>\$1,000 cap per compressor</i>)	\$30 per HP
Variable Frequency Drive (<i>\$1,000 cap per drive - must provide motor size</i>)	\$30 per HP
Electric Forklift Battery Charger – <i>must be controlled as defined by cooperative</i>	\$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.

Plus, call
FOCUS ON ENERGY
800-762-7077

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: BE ENERGY EFFICIENT YEAR-ROUND

As energy consumers, we can all play a part in conserving resources and reducing our bills. Here are some practical tips to boost your home's energy efficiency throughout the year:

Know your energy consumption

Start by reviewing your energy bills for the past 12–24 months. Calculate your average monthly usage to establish a baseline for measuring your energy-saving efforts.

Adopt no-cost ways to save energy

Small changes can lead to significant savings:

- Turn off lights and unplug electronics such as chargers when not in use.
- Close or lower window coverings to regulate the temperature indoors.
- Change your air filters regularly as recommended.
- Use ceiling fans strategically: counterclockwise in summer and clockwise in winter to force warm air down.
- Grill outdoors in summer to keep the heat out of the kitchen.

Insulate your home

Weatherproofing is key to maintaining comfort and reducing energy use:

- Check for air leaks around windows and doors using the wet finger or tissue test.
- Apply caulk or weather stripping to prevent drafts.
- Remember to keep doors closed to maintain indoor temperature.

Get smart with your thermostat

Optimize your heating and cooling by using your programmable thermostat's features — many homeowners never use them — and allow it to adjust the temperature when you're asleep or away.

- Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat for automatic adjustments
- In general, adjust the thermostat a few degrees up or down for energy savings.

Explore renewable energy

Consider harnessing the power of natural energy sources:

- Look into installing solar energy panels for your home.
- Purchase a panel from Taylor Electric's Bright Horizons Community Solar.

By implementing these tips, you'll not only save on energy costs but also contribute to a more sustainable community.

For more tips on building a resilient and efficient home, visit SafeElectricity.org

6 Tips for Year-Round ENERGY SAVINGS

- 1 Use your ceiling fan** counterclockwise in the summer for a down breeze, and clockwise in the winter for an updraft to force warm air down into your room.
- 2 Turn off lights** and unplug chargers and electronics when not in use.
- 3 Regularly change or clean your furnace and indoor AC filters** as recommended, and keep the area around your outdoor AC unit clear of obstructions.
- 4 Close or lower window coverings** to keep out heat or cold.
- 5 Insulate your home** and weatherproof windows and doors.
- 6 Use a programmable or smart thermostat.** Adjust the temperature a few degrees for overall savings.

Get more tips on creating a resilient and efficient home:

SafeElectricity.org

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