

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative*

March 2025 NEWS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

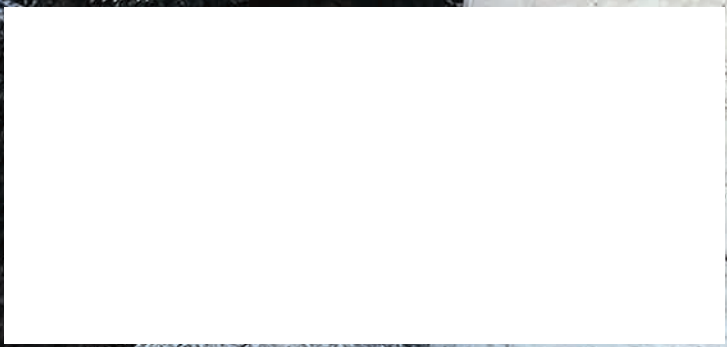


BIG SNOW, BIG SMILES

**WISCONSIN LEADS THE WAY ON
ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM**

LANDSCAPING TO SAVE ENERGY

KIDS AND CRITTERS





WATT'S WHAT WITH LEDS?

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

Recently I took a call from a member asking about lighting and what it all means. In particular, there was an ad from a big box store selling LED shop lights as “a great replacement for two 32-watt T8 bulbs” (2x 32watt=64 watt). What got the members’ attention was that it was a 65-watt LED. That math doesn’t work; the 65-watt is always going to consume one watt more per hour (unless, of course, one of the bulbs is burnt out). This led to further research.

The first discovery on the big box store ads, many of the shop light replacements read “a great replacement for two 32-watt T8 bulbs” no matter the energy consumption. These shop lights emitted anywhere from 3,000 to 20,000 lumens of light with wattages from 30 to 200+.



“Great replacement” seems to mean “fits in the same hole,” not necessarily more efficient or even the same light output. I will add that I have some of the 175-watt/20,000-lumen lights in my shop. It doesn’t take many of those to light the place up very nicely, but I wouldn’t want to install one of those in my unfinished basement, where a few 4,500-lumen smaller lights scattered about do a much better job.

This led to research to look at lumens, or the measurement of visible light. Four-foot T8 fluorescent tubes produce roughly 2,500-3,000 or 5,000-6,000 when new for a pair. So, the 6,500-lumen LED was about the same consumption as the fluorescent for similar light output. I found capabilities of 70-100 lumens per watt on fluorescent and 80-130 lumens per watt on LED, so a very efficient fluorescent could perform better than a low-end LED, but in most cases, the LED will outshine the fluorescent. The lower end of the output for LED is for the older generation of technology. Since the 6,500-lumen lights were on the cheaper end, I’m assuming older technology.

OK, so now we know what a lumen is, how much do I need? There are many calculators and guides available on the internet. There was also a term introduced called the foot candle (fc, or 1 lumen per square foot). For a workshop, since this all started with shop lights, it is recommended to have 80-100 fc of light per square foot. So, a 30x30 shop needs between 70,000 and 90,000 lumens of light. Home use ranges from 70-80 fc in the bathroom or kitchen, where you need to see better, to 5-10 fc in hallways, just to make sure you don’t

trip over the dog.

I had installed a 6000-lumen shop light in my mom’s sewing area to help her out a bit, which does fit in the recommended range. Its closer proximity to the work space made it a little too intense, so we backed it off to a 3000-lumen unit, used with the existing room lights.

Cold weather startup has always been a shortcoming of fluorescent lights. I can recall my previous, mostly unheated shop being very dark in the winter until I got the stove fired up. Also, as they age, the fluorescent lights lose light output. Speaking of age, LEDs have more than twice the expected life. Some LED lights can be attached to dimmer switches to control the output as well as control the color of the light from the yellowish soft white to the bright blue-white, and even some decorative types that can be any color of the rainbow.

In the end, the LED lights typically do emit more light (lumens) per watt than fluorescent, offer more (and more controlled) light color variations, varying light amounts available, cold weather tolerance, and longer life without a decrease in light output. Whether you use less energy depends greatly on the fixtures you choose and the needs of your space.

Knoll Obtains Journeyman Lineman Certification



Pictured above (l to r): CEO Kenny Ceaglske, Lineman Jessie Knoll and Line Superintendent Wade Matyka at the Line Superintendent’s Conference held in Wisconsin Dells, January 15-17, 2025. Knoll was presented the Certificate of Commendation after completing his apprenticeship program last year.



Youth Leadership Conference

UW–Stout | July 15-17, 2025

The annual WECA Youth Leadership Conference is a dynamic three-day event sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and facilitated by WECA. It is a unique opportunity for youth across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

What will you do at YLC?

- See what makes the cooperative business model different and successful, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with industry professionals.
- Be entertained and challenged by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.
- Run for a spot on the Youth Board, which plans the next year's conference and has the opportunity to attend the National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.



Taylor Electric's Owen Klussendorf (back row, second from left) was elected as an alternate to the 2024 WECA Youth Board. He is the son of Taylor Electric Sec/Treasurer Cheri Klussendorf and her husband, Ryan, Medford and will travel to Washington, DC in June of this year.



Owen Klussendorf lends a hand(s) to motivational speaker Craig Hillier during a session at Youth Leadership Conference.

A few things that make this conference different:

- This is a by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference. It is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.
- Attendees don't pay. They are sponsored by their local electric cooperatives.
- Students spend three days on a college campus and experience a typical college environment, complete with living in the residence halls, attending sessions throughout campus, and even experiencing a university dining service.
- Finally, attendees elected to the youth board, like Owen, will not only plan the next conference their way; they also have the opportunity to attend the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., the following June.

Who should apply?

High school students whose parents who belong to Taylor Electric Cooperative.

Students active in their community.

How to Register

Contact Taylor Electric Cooperative to request a registration form to attend the Youth Leadership Conference.

Complete the co-op required form(s) and return them to your sponsoring co-op no later than Friday, June 1, 2025.

Register by June 1, 2025.



DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING FOR YOUR EDUCATION?

Taylor Electric Cooperative is awarding six \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Funding for the scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits.

Students living in households that receive their electric service from Taylor Electric and who will be graduating from high school in 2025 are eligible.

Final selection for the scholarship recipients will be made by the board of directors, with the cooperation of those schools involved. If you are interested, please complete the accompanying request form and return it to our office by April 4, 2025.



Apply by April 4, 2025

NOTE: The funds for these scholarships are derived from unclaimed capital credit refunds. Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that unclaimed refunds may be used for educational and charitable purposes. Otherwise, they become unclaimed property and must be paid to the State of Wisconsin as such.

Taylor Electric College Scholarship Application Request

Name _____

Name on Electric Account _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____ TEC Account No. _____

High School (or indicate if home-schooled) _____

Return to Taylor Electric Cooperative, N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451

Want to serve as a board member?

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 9

Daylight savings time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9. Make sure to set your clocks ahead!



AMAZING SAVINGS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Visit the new **Connections.coop** member benefits site and download the free app to unlock great deals and special promotions.



VISIT WWW.CONNECTIONS.COOP FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Advance Auto Parts, Medford
10% discount on purchases up to \$200.

Broadway Theater, Medford
Purchase any size drink, and get a matching size soda for \$1.00.

Glass Innovations LLC, 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 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, Dorchester, Greenwood, Hamburg, 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.

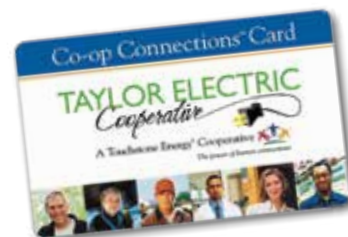
Tallman Landscaping
5% off labor on projects over \$1,000 – free estimates.

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.

Willow Cottage Pet Grooming, Medford
\$5 off full groom service.



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