

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* November 2022 NEWS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



## HOW THE GRID KEEPS RELIABLE POWER FLOWING

IT'S THE PRINCIPLE

VETERANS DAY APPRECIATION

WILD FOR WILD RICE





# RISING COSTS NECESSITATE FACILITY CHARGE ADJUSTMENT



**Kenneth Ceaglske,**  
President/CEO

For those regular readers of the magazine, the board continued discussions on the rate changes for 2023 that were mentioned in the last issue. At the September board meeting, the projected 3-5% revenue increase was settled at 4%, or just over \$400,000. The plan for the adjustment is an increase in the facility charge, across all rate types, of \$8.05 per main meter. The new

charge will now be \$44.95 for single phase, with similar adjustments to the three-phase rates. The increase will take effect starting with the January 2023 bills.

The costs that are climbing the most in the utility world are the things that we need no matter how much energy is sold. Looking at our expenses, many of the costs for things we are responsible for do not change based on usage. From the poles, wires, and transformers that bring the power to you, to the buildings, trucks, and employees that keep things working, to the behind-the-scenes costs like our billing system and insurance, all are commitments that we have to take care of. With these costs being unrelated to energy use, we needed to build them into the fixed charge for this year. We are

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planning a full cost-of-service study for late summer next year. This is where we bring in a consultant who specializes in co-op rate topics and takes an in-depth look at our costs and where to best apply them.

## Concern for Community

As we edge our way closer to the holidays, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Taylor Electric, we are able to make our community a better place.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is "Concern for Community." While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good. As you may have noticed elsewhere in this section, you, our members, we able to raise \$425 for a local charitable organization, Taylor County Moving for a Cure.

In December, we will once again take part in the Christmas Wish program. With your help and input, we are able to help those less fortunate during the holiday season.

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.

Taylor Electric was originally established 86 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that reason, we're thankful for your membership.



# TEC CELEBRATES COMMUNITY AT OCTOBER CO-OP MONTH EVENT

Around 250 members gathered for breakfast on Tuesday, October 4 to help us kick-off October Co-op Month at the Centennial Community Center in Stetsonville. Everyone enjoyed a warm breakfast and good conversation with friends and neighbors. The weather was fantastic, and members had the opportunity to test drive two electric trucks that were on display. Ryan Lemke from

Medford Motors brought a Ford F-150 electric truck and Chippewa Valley Electric's Rivian was also on site.

This year, in an effort to demonstrate the cooperative principles, we chose "Concern for Community." A basket was raffled off with all proceeds going to Taylor County Moving for a Cure. October is not only Co-op Month but also Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

We were able to raise \$425 thanks to the generous donations of our members attending the breakfast. Carla Smola was the lucky winner of the basket that was valued at \$150. The check was presented to Carmen Thiede, chair of Taylor County Moving for a Cure, on October 10.

The lucky winners of \$30 electric bill credits went to: Donna Albers, Betty Ludwig, George Lukewich, Darlene Thompson and Sylvyn Wenger.



Above: Among the 250 guests were former lineman Ron Mayer and his wife, Lynn (at left), and former line superintendent Wayne Miller and his wife, Sue (right). Right: Carla Smola won the raffle for a gift basket valued at \$150.



Left: CEO Ken Ceaglske presents a \$425 check to Carmen Thiede, chair of Taylor County Moving for a Cure. Above: Guests included former directors Dave Mauer, seated in front across from his wife, Sandy, and Diane Albrecht, seated in back across from her husband, Bruce.



Members had an opportunity to try out a variety of electric vehicles. At right: Sharon Jochimsen checks out the Ford F-150.





## COOKING HABITS REPRESENT THE BIGGEST POTENTIAL FOR ENERGY SAVINGS IN THE KITCHEN

Families will gather soon for the holiday season and that means more cooking and gatherings. Cooking habits, not technology, represent the biggest potential for energy efficiency and savings in the kitchen. Tests by the U.S. Bureau of Standards have shown that some people use 50 percent more energy than others in order to cook the same meal. Several strategies can help you save energy using your existing cooking equipment.

- **Plan ahead.** Defrosting food in a microwave may be convenient, but defrosting it in the refrigerator doesn't cost you anything extra since the refrigerator is already running.
- **Use the oven only when cooking large dishes or batches.** Conventional ovens or ranges are inherently inefficient because in order to heat up food, they must first heat up about 35 pounds of steel and a large amount of air; tests indicate that only about 6 percent of the energy output of a typical oven is actually absorbed by the food.
- **Think small.** Opt for a smaller appliance, such as a toaster oven or microwave, whenever possible.
- **Don't preheat the oven** unless you are baking or a recipe requires it. If preheating is required, only preheat for the designated time.

- **Put a lid on it.** Cover pans while cooking to prevent heat loss and decrease the energy use of the stove.
- **Bake with ceramic or glass pots and pans.** This will allow you to lower the oven temperature by about 25 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Don't peek.** Opening the oven door can lower the internal temperature as much as 25 percent.
- **Don't cover oven racks with foil.** This reduces heat flow and increases cooking time.
- **Make sure your pan covers the coil of your range.** If you can see coil peeping out from the sides of your pan, you need a bigger pan (or a smaller burner).
- **Turn the oven or stove burners off a few minutes before your food is ready.** They will remain hot enough to finish cooking the food.
- **Clean up right away.** If you have a self-cleaning oven, plan to clean it right after you've finished baking something so it doesn't have to heat up a second time.

These steps are easy to take and they come at no extra cost. Making a habit out of them will save you both energy in the kitchen and money on your electric bill.

# LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BE TESTED

The Winter Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) Members is scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 16. This test is designed to provide you with the opportunity to observe your control device, ensure that the indicator lights on your load-control receiver (pictured at right) function properly, and check that your heating system and/or backup heating system is working properly before winter sets in.



Residential interruptible heat load classes will be controlled as follows:

### Control Start

All Interruptible Heat load classes will begin control at 5 p.m. without pre-alert.

### Restoral

Restoral will begin at 8:30 p.m., with all loads restored by 10 p.m.

If you notice any problems with the load-management receiver during this test, please contact the cooperative, 715-678-2411. If you find that your heating system does not work as it should, contact your electrician or heating service representative.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 6**

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.



**THANK YOU VETERANS**  
Honoring all who served

Veterans Day  
November 11

### Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

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