



IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES

Taylor Electric, Taylor Credit Union, Medford Cooperative, Royal Credit Union, Agcountry Farm Credit, United Mutual Insurance, and Co-op Transport all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Taylor Electric was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1936, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the

greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective, or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Taylor Electric's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, and electric vehicle programs.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Taylor Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, and capital investments, and for supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Taylor Electric is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OCTOBER CO-OP MONTH KICK-OFF

The date has been set, so mark your calendars and join us for breakfast on Thursday, October 7, at the Centennial Community Center, Stetsonville, from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Help us kick off October Co-op Month and get your Green Bay Packers calendar. Watch for additional information in your bill, as well as Facebook and our website for updates. Focus on Energy will be on-site for a pop-up show and special lighting offers.



Event subject to change due to Covid 19 restrictions



ONLINE ENERGY-SAVING FAIR



We have partnered with FOCUS ON ENERGY® to offer exclusive discounts on energy efficient ENERGYSTAR® products such as LED lightbulbs, efficient showerheads, water aerators and more.

October 4th - 25th

Water Saving Kit \$10

- (4) 9w LEDs (60w equivalent)
- (2) 11w LEDs (75w equivalent)
- (2) 16w LEDs (100w equivalent)
- (1) 1.5gpm handheld showerhead
- (2) 0.5gpm bathroom aerators
- (1) 1.0gpm kitchen aerator
- (1) 15 foot roll of pipe wrap
- (1) hot water temperature card

LED Starter Kit \$10

- (1) 5w (40w equivalent) LED desk lamp
- (4) 9w LEDs (60w equivalent)
- (3) 11w LEDs (75w equivalent)
- (3) 16w LEDs (100w equivalent)
- (1) 3-way LED

Candle 6-pack - **\$5**
4W usage = 40W output

Globe 6-pack - **\$5**
4W usage = 40W output

R20 6-pack - **\$5**
7W usage = 50W output

BR30 6-pack - **\$5**
8W usage = 65W output

PAR38 3-pack - **\$10**
10W usage = 90W output

High Lumen 33w LED - **\$11**
33W usage = 300W output

BR40 6-pack - **\$10**
9.5W usage = 65W output

There is more product available on your event website. However, if you are not able to visit the website; you may call in to order at **888-925-7009**. Mention you are calling for the Focus on Energy Taylor Electric pop-up event.



Use this link to take advantage of these deals from October 4th–25th
techniartpopup.com/focusonenergy_taylor

CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS MAILED

Economic participation is a benefit of co-op membership

What sets Taylor Electric Cooperative apart from investor-owned utilities? One of the main things is that each cooperative member is an owner of the business.

And, with being an owner comes the responsibility of operating the business, which is done through attendance at the annual meeting and electing fellow members to the board of directors, who in turn set policies and hire a CEO. The CEO then employs the staff to carry out those policies.

Each member-owner also has a responsibility to invest in the business. There is no stock to sell on Wall Street to provide financial backing for the business. Through member investments, the cooperative builds an equity reserve, which for Taylor Electric Cooperative is currently about 44 percent of the total assets of the co-op. This equity reserve is required by lenders who then share the risk by making loans to the co-op to finance power line construction and

rebuilding projects that are needed to keep the electricity flowing.

Since there are no Wall Street stockholders, there are no dividends or monies paid to outside investors. When each year's finances are audited and closed out,

Taylor Electric Cooperative has returned more than \$8.1 million to its member-owners.

the remaining profit or margins are allocated to the members based on the amount each member paid for electricity during the year. After a period of time, the allocations, or capital credits, are paid back to the members.

Taylor Electric Cooperative has returned more than \$8.1 million to its member-owners. This amount represents approximately 46 percent of all of the margins earned by the cooperative since its inception (better than 90 percent of all U.S. cooperatives).

The bylaws of Taylor Electric Cooperative delegate authority to the board of directors to determine the amount and method of capital credit retirement. With a need for large amounts of cash to invest in new power lines, as well as to replace and repair existing lines, it becomes a tough job to balance the right mix of member investment and borrowing from outside lenders. The decision directly affects the annual retirement of capital credits to past and present co-op members.

This year, the board of directors decided that capital credits of approximately \$303,000 should be returned to members of the cooperative. This amount is being refunded to those members who received electric service from Taylor

Electric Cooperative in 1997, with Dairyland credits for 1993 and 1994.

The directors believe there's a need to continue to refund capital credits, but they also realize the need to maintain a strong, viable financial position to meet the future needs of the members and the requirements of our lenders.

Capital credit refund checks were mailed in September.

The patronage of each cooperative member is greatly appreciated.

NOTE: Joint capital credit checks require both signatures when signing. Also, when using the capital credit check for paying your electric bill, please be sure to sign the back of the check.

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$18 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.3 billion in 2019 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation





ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES

TVS

VIDEO GAME CONSOLES

COMPUTERS

SURROUND SOUND SYSTEMS

PRINTERS

STANDBY COFFEE MAKER

CELL PHONE AND TABLET CHARGERS

SATELLITE/CABLE BOXES

MICROWAVES

Safe Electricity.org LEARN MORE:

Daylight Saving Ends

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 7. Make sure you set your clocks back one hour, and take this opportunity to change the batteries in your smoke detector.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov



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