

Taylor Report

May 2016

123's
ABC's

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

The Basics of Electricity

Each year, electrical failures are the cause of 43,900 home fires in the United States, resulting in 438 deaths, 1,430 injuries and \$1.47 billion in property damage. And fire is not the only concern. Every year nearly 400 people are electrocuted, while thousands more experience nonfatal electrical shock and burn injuries.

Electricity plays an essential role in how your home operates. Whether watching TV, powering heating and cooling systems, or charging a cell phone, we rely on our home's electrical system to provide us with power when and where we need it.

By understanding the basics of how electricity is distributed around your home, you can keep this important system properly maintained and in safe working condition.

Electricity enters your home through a service head from a series of outdoor power lines or an underground connection. A typical service head consists of two 120-volt wires and one neutral wire that deliver power to lights and appliances around the home.

The 120-volt circuits use one phase of the electrical service to power standard home appliances. However, certain



larger appliances such as water heaters, electric ranges, or clothes dryers require a 240-volt circuit, which is created using both 120-volt wires and the ground wire.

The electric meter is mounted outdoors where electricity enters your home. This device is used to measure the amount of electricity that is consumed in your home. The meter is monitored by your electric utility company and is protected by law—tampering with it is both extremely dangerous and illegal.

The electrical service panel is the central distribution point for delivering electricity to switches, outlets, and appliances throughout the house. Located near the electric meter, the service panel is

equipped with breakers or fuses that shut off power to the circuits if an electrical system failure occurs.

Grounding is the method used to connect an electrical system to the earth with a wire. Grounding adds critical protection against electric shock and electrocution by using a grounding rod to provide a third path for conducting electricity in the event of a short circuit or an overload. Grounding will help protect the person working on the system, the system itself, and any appliances and equipment that are connected to the system.

You are my sunshine...

Ahhhh, summer!! The blue skies, gentle breeze and warm summer sun shining on your face. Great, right? But did you know that same sun can save you money on your electric bill? That's right, but only if you take part in The **Bright Horizons Community Solar Garden**. The 100.8 kilowatt solar array located at Taylor Electric's headquarters. Units of solar can be purchased for \$930 or 1/2 unit for \$465. Any member of the cooperative may participate by signing a Solar Subscription Agreement and making a \$300.00 payment. The bill can be paid in full, or monthly payments can be made through 12/31/16.

Bright Horizons is interconnected with the grid, so all the energy produced here goes directly onto the cooperative's distribution lines. That means all power produced by the solar array is being used right here in our community.

Hurry, when they are gone, this offer may not come again.

Call us today at 715-678-2411 for more information!

MAY ELECTRIC BILLS WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK

The electric bill you receive from Taylor Electric Cooperative the first week of June, for electric service for the month of May 2016, will have a new look. As mentioned in last month's *Taylor Report* announcement of the May 1, 2016 rate increase, the Board of Directors asked that we "unbundle" the rates to show you what our wholesale cost of power is. Unbundling the rates changes how your bill looks, but our costs will be more transparent, and you will know exactly what our internal costs are as well as our wholesale power costs.

The new bills will break out the costs to show what our "local" costs are versus what the "wholesale power costs" are. This will make the bill look something like the following:

Meter Reading Details			Meter 38356009			Detail of Charges			
Current Reading	04/25/16	71640	LOCAL FIXED CHARGE			35.10			A)
Previous Reading	04/01/16	70440	LOCAL ENERGY CHARGE	1200 KWH @	.03510	42.12			B)
		1200	WHOLESALE ENERGY CHG	1200 KWH @	.07890	94.68			C)
Usage	Mtr Multiplier	Total Usage	WHOLESALE SUMMER DIFF	1200 KWH @	.01000	12.00			D)
1200	x 1 =	1200	WHOLESALE PCA	1200 KWH @	.02000	24.00			E)
			DISTRIBUTION RIDER	1200 KWH @	.03000	36.00			F)
			PUBLIC BENEFIT FEE			1.38			G)
			WISCONSIN STATE TAX			9.49			
			TAYLOR COUNTY TAX			0.95			
			Total This Service			256.02			

	KWH Used	Days Srvd	Kwh/Day	Cost/Day
This Month	1200	24	50	\$7.09
Last Month	4810	31	155	\$18.32
Last Year	4020	30	134	\$16.00

Monthly Usage

The rates on the sample above are the rates approved for the Standard Farm & Residential Single-Phase Rate, except that the "Wholesale Summer Differential", "Wholesale PCA", and "Distribution Rider" will be \$0.00 (zero) for the month of May 2016 (the "Wholesale Summer Differential" will appear on electric bills for the months of June thru August at 1½¢ per kWh for most rates). An explanation of the various parts of the rates follows:

- A. **Local Fixed Charge** includes all of the expenses relating to the facilities directly connected to your home or business, such as wires, meters, and also the accounting, billing, collection, and customer programs.
- B. **Local Energy Charge** includes costs associated with building and maintaining all of the poles, power lines, and utility equipment to serve all of the members. These are not customer specific, but related to providing the facilities needed to be able to serve all members collectively. It also includes a "margin" which provides cash for refunding capital credits to members.
- C. **Wholesale Energy Charge** reflects what we get charged per kilowatt-hour (kWh), including demand, substations, transmission, etc., from our power supplier.
- D. **Wholesale Summer Differential***** reflects the higher cost of wholesale power from our power supplier during the 3 summer months of June through August only (1½¢ per kWh for most rate classifications).
- E. **Wholesale PCA (Power Cost Adjustment)***** will be used to pass on to our members, the additional charges or credits for wholesale power that we receive from our power provider.
- F. **Local Distribution Rider***** may be used from time to time as authorized by the Board, so that the Co-op will meet its financial goals, including to refund capital credits on an annual basis, and to provide financial assurance to our lender(s) that we are meeting our loan requirements.
- G. **Public Benefit Fee** is a state-mandated program that is used for conservation and low income assistance.

***NOTE: These 3 charges (or credits) will only appear on your bill when they are something other than \$0.00 (zero).

BOARD REPORT—APRIL 2016

- Approved March disbursements totaling \$804,091.44 accepted 11 new member applications.
 - Reviewed financial results through March 31, 2016 with year-to-date margins of \$57,134. Ten outages occurred in March. There have been a total of 11 outages for the year thus far, and 0.75 hours per member of outage time.
 - Approved a \$5,000 Safety First Farm Rewiring grant for a member. The grant funds will come from the Safety First funds administered by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).
 - An uncashed check from 2015 in the amount of \$8.45 was deemed forfeited with the funds to be sent to Federated Youth Foundation for scholarship and charitable uses.
 - Two early retirements of capital credits to estates were approved at a net present value of \$880.19.
 - Mike Bunney, Area Vice-President, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), Taylor Electric's lender, joined the board meeting to discuss Taylor's 10-year financial forecast, projected future revenue requirements, equity management plan, and Strategic Financial Policy.
 - Director Tesch reported on the Dairyland Power board meeting: coal inventories were near maximum levels and the need to burn some inventory or risk penalties for not taking coal under contracts; March Margins of \$3.1 Million were \$1.5 Million more than budgeted; YTD Margins are \$12.2 Million; received the 2015 audit report; heard a report of the Rules and Resolutions Committee in advance of the June 8th Dairyland Annual Meeting; discussed new committee structure; and, continued a series of director training and development.
 - There was discussion about sending a resolution to Dairyland to offer a bylaw amendment to install term limits for directors serving on its board.
 - Director Tesch was elected as Taylor's board representative to the Dairyland Power Cooperative board of directors for the 2016-2017 year. Director Zenner was elected as the alternate.
 - The Board was advised of the status of 5 accounts that were disconnected on April 18th at the end of the winter moratorium, all of which remain disconnected.
 - The President & CEO report included: review of member complaints; solar update, including results of a random survey taken at the Medford Home & Business Expo in March indicating increasing interest in solar; and, a report on activities of the Taylor County Association of Co-ops including support of the "Co-ops in Our Schools" program, October
- Co-op Month activities, 2016 dues for the 8 TCAC member co-ops, and re-election of officers.
 - Director Waldhart reported on the April safety meeting which included: proper testing and use of grounds; protection and first aid for bites from insects, spiders, dogs, etc.; proper use of job briefings or tailgate sessions to identify and notify employees of job hazards; and, review of hazard communications including "May Day" emergency calls.
 - Directors reviewed the list of 2016 high school senior scholarship applicants, and made selections for awarding seven \$200 director scholarships which are paid by donation of one meeting per diem payment by each director.
 - The Board heard a report from Directors Waldhart and Tesch on the special WECA member meeting, where a decision was made to separate the WECA organization from the Cooperative Network association.
 - Directors Engel and Hallgren reported on attending a WECA Skill Builder education seminar on "Board Operations and Process" which discussed fundamentals of board of directors operations.
 - Board members reviewed and commented on their scoring for the Board Evaluation in the areas of 1-How well has the Board done its job?, 2- How well has the Board conducted itself, 3- the Board's relationship with the President & CEO, 4- My Performance as an Individual Board Member, and, 5- Feedback to the Chair of the Board.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Use small electric pans, toaster ovens or convection ovens for small meals rather than your stove or oven. A toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Source: energy.gov

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

*Are you looking for a fun adventure this summer?
Could you use \$500 for college?*

53rd Annual Youth Leadership Congress July 13-15, 2016 "Explore your Leadership Potential"

If you answered yes to both of those questions, then you should attend the Youth Leadership Congress at UW-River Falls from July 13-15, 2016.

The annual WECA Youth Leadership Congress is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

Take the opportunity to...

- 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 own leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with professionals in the industry.
- Be entertained and challenged by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and address topics that are important and relevant in your life.

This is a by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Who should apply?

Sophomore and junior high school students whose parents are members of Taylor Electric.

What does it cost?

All registration costs are covered by the generous support of Taylor Electric Cooperative, other area electric cooperatives and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

Also, by attending the YLC, you are automatically considered for a scholarship from Taylor Electric to help pay for college!! If you are interested in attending, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by June 1, 2016.



**Y
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C**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Grade next year: Sophomore _____ Junior _____