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# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

June 2016

## *Dairy State of Mind*



TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy Partner





# RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2016

We recently reported to you about the decision of the board to increase electric rates effective May 1, 2016 (this will begin with electric bills due in June 2016).

The previous notice also indicated that your electric bill will have a somewhat different look, with some different descriptions. The board of directors has asked that we “unbundle” the rates to show you what our wholesale cost of power is. Unbundling the rates will change 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.

Your former electric bills looked something like this:

Facility Charge .....	\$ 33.00
Energy Charge (1200 kWh @ 11.12¢).....	\$ 133.44
PCA (1200 kWh @ 0.0¢) .....	\$ 0.00
Taxes .....	\$ 9.15
Public Benefits Fee.....	\$ 1.38
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 176.97</b>

The new bills will break out these costs even more to show exactly what our costs are versus what our power costs are. This will make the bill look something like the following:

Local Fixed Charge (\$1.17 per day x 30 days) .....	\$ 35.10
Local Energy Charge (1200 kWh @ 3.51¢).....	\$ 42.12
Wholesale Energy Charge (1200 kWh @ 7.89¢) .....	\$ 94.68
Wholesale Summer Differential (0 kWh @ 1.5¢) .....	\$ 0.00
Wholesale PCA (1200 kWh @ 0.0¢).....	\$ 0.00
Local Distribution Rider (1200 kWh @ 0.00¢).....	\$ 0.00
Taxes .....	\$ 9.45
Public Benefits Fee.....	\$ 1.38
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 182.73</b>

## Explanation of new charge descriptions:

**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.

**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.

**Wholesale Energy Charge** reflects what we get charged per kilowatt-hour (kWh), including demand, substations, transmission, etc., from our power supplier.

**Wholesale Summer Differential\*\*\*** reflects the higher cost of wholesale power during the three summer months of **June through August only** (1½¢ per kWh for most rate classifications).

**Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)\*\*\*** will be used to pass on to our members the additional charges or credits for wholesale power that we receive from our power provider.

**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.

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



# TOP 10 TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY

Below are some tips that no good energy saver should live without. Make yourself a tip jar and put these 10 inside.

## Top 10 Tips:

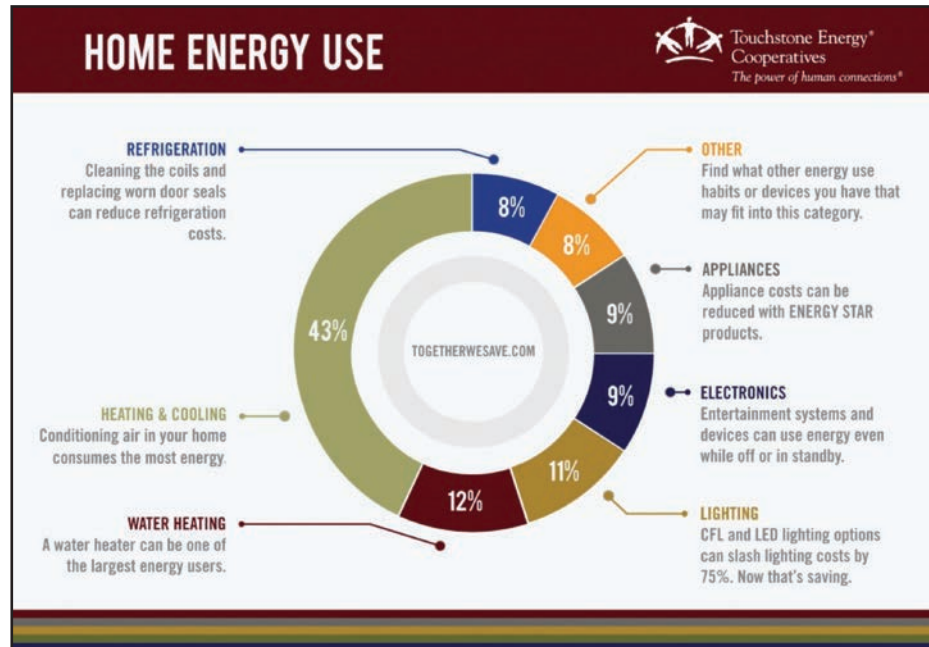
1. Plug electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers, and TVs into power strips to turn off during vacations or long periods without use.
2. Replace any light bulb, especially ones that burn more than one hour per day, with a light-emitting diode (led) bulb.
3. Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out in summer.
4. Outside your home, caulk around all penetrations including telephone, electrical, cable, gas, water spigots, dryer vents, etc.
5. Set water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees F.
6. Use air-dry cycle instead of heat-dry cycle to dry dishes.
7. Keep your garage door down. A warmer garage in the winter and

cooler garage in the summer will save energy.

8. Change HVAC filters monthly.
9. Make sure the dryer vent hose is not kinked or clogged.

10. Ensure gaskets around doors seal tightly.

Use the home energy use chart below to see other areas where you can save.



Co-op Connections® Card

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Earn cash back on all your online shopping!

Use your Co-op Connections Cash Back Mall Shopping Assistant and start earning cash back today.

**GET THE SHOPPING ASSISTANT NOW →**

Walmart Save money. Live better. petco BEST BUY KOHL'S expect great things macy's

grills & outdoor cooking

summer grilling designed with style.

in patio-ing.

# YOU HAVE THE POWER WITH PREPAID METERING

By Tom Tate

Prepaid metering is as simple as it sounds: Consumers pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. A terrific analogy for prepaid metering is putting gas in your car. Say you only have \$30 for the week to pay for gasoline. You drive down to the station, pump in \$30 and drive off. As you drive during the week, what happens? You monitor the gauge and make sure each

**A terrific analogy for prepaid metering is putting gas in your car.**

trip is necessary. If you drive too much, you burn up your \$30 before the week is out. Literally. By checking the gauge throughout the week, you became more prudent with your gas use and make informed decisions on when and how much to use.

Now let's transfer that analogy to your account with Taylor Electric Cooperative. With normal metering, you get a bill after you have used the electricity. Sometimes it comes as a shock. "How could I possibly have used so much electricity?" Prepaid metering is designed to ease—and hopefully eliminate—that shock. Let's take a look at how it works.

The components of a prepaid metering system aren't too different from regular metering. Two extra pieces are required: a way to turn off the power when all your money is used and a way for Taylor Electric to tell you how much

you have left in your account. Think of this as your "electricity tank gauge." On the cooperative's side, we handle the extra software and processes.

Now let's see it in action. You have the prepaid metering equipment installed. Prepaid users will receive electricity use notifications through emails and text messages, so in order to qualify for prepaid metering, you must have these options.

Now you decide how often you want to buy electricity. Monthly? Weekly? Then you budget for a certain amount of power and pay the co-op. Payment options are easy: Log into Smarthub at [www.taylorlectric.org](http://www.taylorlectric.org) for instant payments or call our toll-free payment center at 855-874-5353. You can also stop by the office and make a payment. Bingo—your electricity tank is full.

During the time period you have paid for (let's say a week for this example), you receive regular feedback on how much you have left in your tank.

As you approach "empty," you add more money to your account and are then set for the next period. If you run out, the power goes off just like your

car stops when it runs out of gas. To complete the analogy, let's look at what you have been doing during the week.

You become quite aware of how you are using electricity. You turn things off more often. You may change the setting on your thermostat so you don't cool or heat your home as much. You might cook outside to avoid using the oven or make sure your dishwasher is really full before running it. Industry studies show that consumers who participate in prepaid metering plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity than their counterparts.

Prepaid metering teaches the value of electricity, shows you what uses watts in your home, provides absolute control over how much you pay, and helps you reduce your energy use. It is a tremendous way to power your life. Contact Taylor Electric at 715-678-2411 to learn more about prepaid metering.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

MY CO-OP

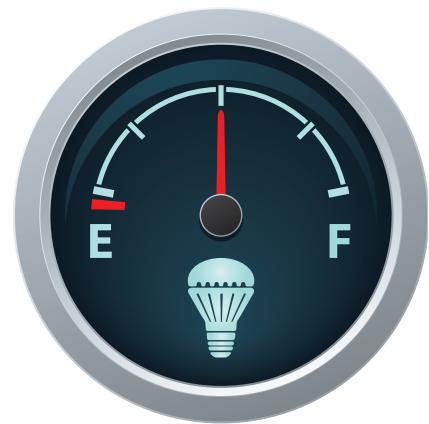
## The power is in your hands with... Prepaid Metering

By paying for electricity as you go, you can monitor energy use and know when you need to conserve. A few benefits of participating in prepaid metering are:

- Teaches the value of electricity
- Helps consumers understand what uses watts in their home
- Provides absolute control over how much money is spent on electricity
- Helps reduce energy use



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES





# 32nd Annual TOWN & COUNTRY DAIRY BREAKFAST

**Sunday, June 12, 2016**

**6:30 a.m. to noon**

Taylor County Fairgrounds, Medford  
Corner of Hwy. 64 and 13

**TICKETS: \$5**

**Kids 5 and under eat FREE**

MENU: Egg & ham omelets, sausages, cheese,  
fresh-baked buttermilk biscuits, honey, juice,  
coffee, milk, & ice cream



### *New This Year*

Taylor County Dairy Promotion  
Committee will be sponsoring a

## **BUTTER PROMOTION**

Bring a recipe using butter to the  
dairy breakfast and receive  
1 pound of butter free!  
*(one per family)*



**Mr. Concertina  
6:30–9 a.m.**

**Red Higgins &  
Yankee Train  
9 a.m.–12 p.m.**

## **REGISTER FOR PRIZES!**

Ag machinery and educational displays

SPONSORED BY TOWN & COUNTRY DAIRY BREAKFAST COMMITTEE

### **Michael Schaefer, President/CEO**

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451  
715-678-2411 • 800-862-2407  
email: [taylrec@taylorelectric.org](mailto:taylrec@taylorelectric.org)  
website: [www.taylorelectric.org](http://www.taylorelectric.org)

### **Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor**

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