

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

January 2017

## A Winter Take *on the Lake*



TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner





# The Benefits of *Community Solar*

Have you ever walked out of your house on a sunny day and thought, “I wish I could harness the sun’s energy to power my home?” Okay, maybe you haven’t. But I’m sure you have noticed solar panels on top of homes in your community, and maybe you have even seen a solar farm here or there. If you have considered solar as a part of your home’s energy mix—but have been dissuaded by high costs or maintenance requirements—we are happy to tell you that solar energy is

**To make purchasing a solar unit even easier, the board of directors has authorized us to offer a six-month, no-interest payment plan.**

more accessible than you might think! Taylor Electric’s Bright Horizons solar garden, located at our office on Highway 13, is comprised of 274 saleable units, and each unit costs \$930. You may pay the total price in full or pay down a \$300 deposit. To make purchasing a solar unit even easier, the board of directors has authorized us to offer a six-month, no-interest payment plan. Just sign up for the number of participation units you would like to buy, pay the \$300 per unit deposit, and we will invoice you for the balance. Make six monthly payments and no interest will be charged. You can even purchase half of a unit at \$465.

This is the most affordable, easy way you can participate in solar. You will not need to worry about whether the panels are functioning properly or having unsightly panels placed on

your roof or in your front yard. The worry is all on us. Your monthly credits will appear on your electric bills.

Community solar programs harness natural energy from the sun and often cost less than installing a solar system at your home or business.

So what exactly is a solar array? The community solar model is easy to understand. Bright Horizons solar array is a group of solar panels in the field next to the cooperative’s office. You purchase a share of the energy produced, often in the form of one or more solar panels. The energy is distributed to the power grid, and solar-farm members receive credits that lower their electric bills.

Participating in a community solar program also eliminates maintenance costs and concerns that can be a hassle for those who own and maintain their own residential solar system. With Bright Horizons, we take care of installation, maintenance, and insurance fees, making it easy for members to participate.

To learn more about Bright Horizons, contact Taylor Electric Cooperative at 715-678-2411.





# ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD MARCH 25, 2017

## Time for Director Elections

Taylor Electric Cooperative's 81st annual meeting will be held at the Medford Area Senior High School in Medford on Saturday, March 25, 2017. One of the most important duties of the members at this meeting will be to elect members to fill two seats on the board of directors.

The Bylaw provision for nominating a member to serve on the board is as follows:

*(Article V) Section 3. Nomination and Election of Directors. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint a nominating committee in time to allow the committee to meet at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the annual meeting of the members, at which directors are to be elected. The nominating committee shall consist of three members. The committee chairman shall*

*present the committee's nominations at the annual meeting.*

*Nominations may also be made by petition signed by not less than 25 members delivered to the Cooperative's headquarters not less than 7 days prior to the annual meeting. Election shall be by majority vote for each director position. In the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for a position, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from nomination on each successive ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.*

The board has appointed the following to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2017 annual meeting:

- Bill Elsner (715-678-2276)
- Juleen Hallgren (715-748-6915)
- Frank Bohte Jr. (715-678-2217)

Please contact any of these Nominating Committee members if you are interested in being nominated for a seat on the board.

At the 2017 annual meeting, there will be elections for two board seats; the seats currently held by Patricia Waldhart and Chuck Zenner. (Members are eligible to serve up to five three-year terms.) Both Patricia and Chuck are eligible for re-election.

To be on the ballot for election to the board, a member needs to be nominated by the Nominating Committee, or be nominated by petition, which involves getting signatures of not less than 25 members and delivering that nomination petition to the co-op not less than seven days prior to the annual meeting (by March 17, 2017, for the upcoming annual meeting.)

## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE READY TO WORK WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

As the nation prepares to welcome a new Congress and Administration, America's electric cooperatives are ready to welcome back old friends and introduce ourselves to newcomers.

The co-ops' message to elected officials, both old and new, Republican and Democrat, will be the same: We all need to work together to protect consumer access to safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. We have reason to believe this message will be well-received. After all, co-ops speak for more than 42 million electric consumers nationwide, a sizeable constituency by any measure.

Moreover, whatever you thought of the 2016 campaign, one message came through loud and clear: Many, many people don't believe their concerns are being heard. For member-owned cooperatives, listening to people is at the heart of our business model. And we carry our members' concerns to public officials every day.

As co-ops reach out to engage with elected officials, they will build on the strength of Co-ops Vote, the grassroots initiative to reverse declining voter turnout in rural areas. Co-ops Vote did more than register voters. This initiative sent a strong message to the country's elected officials that rural electric consumers matter.

And co-ops will be reinforcing this message with a request that policymakers keep the needs of consumers front and center. Needs such as funding for infrastructure—especially transmission lines and access to natural gas. Increasing the efficiency of the electric system. Determining the future of hy-

dropower and nuclear energy. Elected officials will be making decisions affecting every aspect of the electric system.

Advocating for these issues is nothing new. In fact, we've been doing it for years. And we're ready to continue the fight on your behalf.

The time is now to reach out to all elected officials, new and returning. Here at Taylor Electric, we will be reaching out to local, state, and federal officials. In initial conversations we will be explaining the unique member-owned, not-for-profit

**Listening to people is at the heart of our business model!**

co-op business model. And we will be reminding longtime politicians of our co-op's commitment to its members.

In Washington, D.C., our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, will be conducting similar introductions, speaking with key agencies and departments within the new Administration. It is likely many of these new policymakers will know little or nothing of the co-op model.

Forging an energy future that serves rural consumers, and protecting access to safe, reliable, and affordable electric power will be a bipartisan effort. Electric co-ops are optimistic. As we work with our elected leaders, we hope to renew a spirit of cooperation in the nation's Capital and in statehouses across the country.

After all, cooperation is what co-ops do best!



# TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INCENTIVES

Effective January 1, 2017 – Incentives subject to change without notice

2017 Incentive

## ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

Clothes Washer	\$25 per unit
Clothes Dryer	\$25 per unit
Clothes Dryer – Heat Pump – <i>all heat pump clothes dryers qualify</i>	\$50 per unit
Refrigerator $\geq$ 10 cubic feet	\$25 per unit
Dishwasher	\$25 per unit
Dehumidifier	\$25 per unit
Refrigerator/Freezer/Window A/C Recycling ( <i>signed certification required – must be working</i> )	\$25 per unit

## CONSERVATION

Low-Flow Shower Head ( <i>2.5 gal. per min. or less – capped at 50% of cost</i> )	\$5 per unit
Low-Flow Faucet Aerator ( <i>1.5 gal. per min. or less – capped at 50% of cost</i> )	\$1 per unit
Electric vehicle charging station ( <i>must be controlled as defined by the co-op</i> )	\$100 per unit

## AUDITS & ASSESSMENTS

Compressed Air Audit	half cost of audit, \$500 max.
Audit Recommended Improvements	50% of cost measures implemented, \$500 max.
Touchstone Energy Home Program—new home, must meet one of four requirements	\$500 each

## ELECTRIC WATER HEATER\*\*\*

Commercial and Residential—75-99 gallon ( <i>Energy Factor .90+, Residential</i> )	\$125 per unit
Commercial and Residential—100 gallon+ ( <i>Energy Factor .85+, Residential</i> )	\$200 per unit
Solar storage, w/electric auxillary tank	\$300 per unit
Heat pump water heater ( <i>Integrated (all-in-one) units, Energy Factor 2.0 or greater</i> )	\$300 per unit

## LIGHTING

CFL bulb (residential & non-residential)-capped at 50% of cost	Not to exceed	\$1 per bulb
LED fixture – capped at 50% of cost		\$1 per fixture per 400 lumens
LED Exit signs – capped at 50% of cost	" " "	\$5 per sign
LED bulb (residential & non-residential)-capped at 50% of cost	" " "	\$2 per bulb
Occupancy Sensors – capped at 50% of cost	" " "	\$5 each
T-5 Fixtures – capped at 50% of cost	" " "	\$6 lamps/fixture
T-8 Fixtures (Retrofit only) – capped at 50% of cost	" " "	\$4 lamps/fixture

## A/C & HEATING\*\*\*\*

Central A/C & Ductless MiniSplit ( <i>14+ SEER or EER 11.5+</i> )	\$40 per ton
Central A/C & Ductless MiniSplit ( <i>15+ SEER or EER 12.5+</i> )	\$60 per ton
Central A/C & Ductless MiniSplit ( <i>16+ SEER or EER 13.5+</i> )	\$80 per ton
Commercial A/C & PTACS ( <i>Less than 20 ton: EER 11.5+</i> <i>20 to less than 60 ton: EER 10.5+, Greater than or equal to 60 ton: EER 10+</i> )	\$40 per ton
Air-Source & MiniSplit Heat Pump ( <i>14+ SEER, 8.2+ HSPF, or EER 11.5+</i> )	\$150 per ton
Commercial Heat Pumps & PTHPs ( <i>Less than 20 ton: EER 11.5+</i> <i>20 to less than 60 ton: EER 10.5+, Greater than or equal to 60 ton: EER 10+</i> )	\$150 per ton
Geothermal Heat Pump	\$300 per ton
New Furnace w/ECM Blower Motor-Variable speed motor ( <i>not multi-speed</i> <i>"or" AFUE <math>\geq</math> 95% &amp; Eae <math>\leq</math> 670 kwh/year</i> )	\$35 per unit
Wi-Fi Thermostat	\$25 per unit
Dual Fuel ( <i>8 KW min. – new installations</i> )	TEC only – \$100 bill credit
ETS units	TEC only – \$30 per KW
Electric hydronic or slab	TEC only – \$20 per KW

## AGRICULTURAL & C&I

Commercial Vending Machine Controls	\$25 each
Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-cooler	\$500 per unit
Dairy Heat Recovery w/Electric Backup	\$300 per unit
Low/zero Energy Livestock Waterer ( <i>500 watts or less, insulated tank</i> )	\$50 per unit
Scroll Refrigeration Compressor ( <i>max. \$1,000</i> )	\$30 per HP
Variable Frequency Drive ( <i>max. \$1,000/drive, min. 1 HP</i> )	\$30 per HP
Ag Fan – Exhaust, less than 36" ( <i>18 cfm/Watt or more</i> )	\$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Exhaust, greater than 36" ( <i>21 cfm/Watt or more</i> )	\$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Circulation, less than 36" ( <i>18 ft. lbs./kW or more</i> )	\$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Circulation, greater than 36" ( <i>21 ft. lbs./kW or more</i> )	\$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Hi Volume Lo Speed (at least 12 ft. dia. w/1+ HP & var. speed controller)	\$1 per inch diameter

\*\*\*Water heater rebates require installation of co-op's Load Management (LM) control.  
 \*\*\*\*A/C and heat pumps require LM only when separately metered for off-peak rates.  
 \*\*\*\*\*Dual Fuel, ETS, & hydronic or slab systems require LM control to qualify for incentive. (timeclock control when under the time of day rate is acceptable.)

Maximum rebate = \$20,000 per member account per year.  
 Most rebates must be applied for within 6 months of purchase.

Plus, call FOCUS ON ENERGY 800-762-7077



## SMART TIPS FOR USING SPACE HEATERS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS

Many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth in the winter. Safe Electricity reminds those who use space heaters and electric blankets to keep safety considerations in mind and use these devices with caution. According to the Office of Compliance Safety and Health, fires from space heaters and electric blankets cause, on average, 2,800 fires and an annual financial loss of \$3.2 million in the United States.

When buying a space heater or electric blanket, check for approved safety certification marks to verify that the product has been tested for safety. Look for a space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including an automatic shut-off. Be very cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. They may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms.

### Give me some *space*...



*Space heaters need space. Papers, clothing, blankets, and other flammables should be kept at least 3 feet away.*

Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater or blanket. Safe Electricity shares the following tips for using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Review and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using an extension cord.
- Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.
- Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.
- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface—NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Be aware of pets and children near heating appliances. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
- Keep space heaters and electric blankets away from water. If they become wet, do not turn them on to dry.
- Regularly examine cords to make sure there is no cracking or fraying. Do not use damaged appliances. Also inspect your electric blanket to ensure that it is not worn or damaged. It should not have any charred or dark areas. Replace old or damaged blankets.
- Store your electric blanket in a manner that avoids creasing. If it cannot be stored flat, loosely fold or roll the blanket in a cool, dry closet.

To learn more on how to avoid electrical hazards, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

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