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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative*

July 2018

NEWS

Idyllic ISLE

**Washington Island's
*wonders await***



TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



WHAT IS GRID RESILIENCE?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid, resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in Wisconsin, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things—it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology, and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats, and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation—such as wind, solar, coal, and hydro—to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the

power lines, substations, or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections, and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that is damaged, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong—or as resilient—as it can be.

Living in Wisconsin, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter the summer storm season. Whether we're at the mercy of tornadoes or blizzards, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out! (Photo courtesy of Brian Barger, Mid-Ohio Energy Cooperative)



SUMMER ENERGY SAVINGS

Simple and inexpensive actions can help you save energy and money during the warm summer months. Here are some energy-saving steps that will cost you nothing more than a little effort, but can make a big difference in your summer energy costs:

- Even on very warm summer days, the nights can cool down to a comfortable level. Take advantage of these evenings by turning off your cooling system and opening your windows while you're sleeping. When you wake in the morning, shut the windows and blinds to capture the cool air.
- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.
- Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower the thermostat setting to 78°F only when you are at home and need cooling. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature. But avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.
- If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort. But remember to turn off the ceiling fan when you leave the room. Fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind-chill effect.
- When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove the heat and humidity from your home. Your laundry room might also benefit from spot ventilation. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside (not just to the attic).
- Don't heat your home with appliances. On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave oven, or grill outside.
- Inefficient lighting can also heat your home unnecessarily. Only about 10 to 15 percent of the electricity incandescent lights consume results in light—the rest is turned into heat. If you have any incandescent lights left in your home, switch them with energy-saving options like CFLs or LEDs instead.
- Minimize activities that generate a lot of heat, such as running a computer, burning open flames, running a dishwasher, and using hot devices such as curling irons or hair dryers. Even stereos and televisions will add some heat to your home. (Source: energy.gov)



**Taylor Electric Cooperative's office
will be closed Wednesday, July 4, for
Independence Day.**



Do The
**SUMMER
SHIFT**

- Run the dishwasher before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Open your dishwasher after the rinse cycle is complete to let dishes air dry.



HAVE A SAFE AND FUN FOURTH OF JULY

The number of Americans planning to use backyard fireworks this Fourth of July is expected to hit an all-time high. In preparation for holiday celebrations, The National Council on Fireworks Safety (NCFS) encourages consumers to review all safety tips before purchasing and using fireworks.

“Every year, safety is our first priority as families begin to plan their Fourth of July festivities. While fireworks are the most iconic and festive way to celebrate our country’s independence, there can be dangers if fireworks are used improperly,” said Nancy Blogin, president of the National Council on Fireworks Safety. “Consumers should purchase fireworks from a reputable company or fireworks stand, check local and state laws for fireworks use in your city, and check all instructions on fireworks packaging before use.”

The fireworks industry has made great progress in improving firework quality and reducing injuries; however, there is still work to be done as the vast majority of fireworks-related injuries in the United States each year result from the misuse of fireworks.

“We have seen an increase in injuries among youth that have used fireworks in

videos unsafely to impress their friends or to get a laugh,” Blogin says. “We want parents to help us put a stop to using fireworks in viral videos by encouraging safety and by explaining that the improper use of fireworks can produce serious injuries or even death. If you see something that is unsafe, say something or report it to your local fire or police department.”

NCFS encourages consumers to follow the following safety tips before engaging in fireworks celebrations this Fourth of July:

- Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
- A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save alcohol for after the show.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
- Do not hold a fireworks item in your hand.
- Use fireworks outdoors in a clear

area, away from buildings and vehicles.

- Never relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water before you discard it.
 - After purchasing fireworks, always store them in a cool, dry place.
 - When using fireworks always have a connected hose, bucket of water, or other water source nearby.
 - Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers.
 - Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
 - Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trashcan away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.
 - Ensure all pets and animals are away from fireworks noise.
 - With the rise in stress-related disorders affecting American service men and women, pay special consideration to individuals who may be sensitive to loud noises in proximity to your fireworks show.
- For more information, visit <http://www.fireworkssafety.org>.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

EXPLAINING THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

IN TWO MINUTES (OR LESS!)



Did you know...

- Electric co-ops are community-focused organizations that deliver safe, reliable, and affordable energy to their consumer-members.
- Our electric co-op is unique because we belong to the communities we serve. The co-op is led by its members, which gives us a unique understanding of the needs of our local communities. In fact, many of our leaders and employees live right here in the community and are members of the co-op—just like you!
- Because we answer to local members (that's you!) rather than far-away shareholders, we're more nimble and able to respond quickly to the changing needs of our community. We even share any excess revenue with our members because we're not-for-profit.
- Even though we're locally owned and operated, we cooperate with other electric cooperatives across the country to develop new technologies, invest in equipment and infrastructure that benefits multiple co-ops in a region, and assist with major outages. This type of collaboration allows us to address complex challenges while remaining true to our local roots.
- Our electric co-op was built by the community, belongs to the community, and continues to be led by the community—that's the cooperative difference!

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