

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS


March 2019

## That's Fan-tastic!

COLLECTOR'S ANTIQUE  
APPLIANCES TELL THE STORY  
OF ELECTRIFICATION

Taylor Electric  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday, March 30

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

# You're invited

## to Taylor Electric Cooperative's 83<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting

**Saturday, March 30**  
**Stetsonville Centennial Center, Stetsonville**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**T**aylor Electric Cooperative's 83rd annual meeting will be held at the Stetsonville Centennial Center in Stetsonville on Saturday, March 30, 2019, starting at 9:30 a.m. Come join your friends and neighbors to learn about your cooperative.

One of the most important duties of the members at this meeting will be to elect members to fill three seats on the board of directors. These seats include those currently held by Ray Henrichs, JoAnn Smith, and Dennis Engel. Directors are eligible to serve up to five three-year terms. All three are eligible for re-election; however, Ray Henrichs has decided not to seek re-election due to personal reasons.

The nominating committee met on February 5, 2019, and approved the two incumbents, and one other nomination. There were no other nominations. Please remember that any other member who wishes to be on the 2019 ballot needs to 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 23, 2019, for the upcoming annual meeting).

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC**  
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# THREE EASY DIY PROJECTS TO SAVE ENERGY

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

## Make the Most of Your Water Heater

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.



You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

## Seal Air Leaks with Caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring, and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible, and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush, or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards,

use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

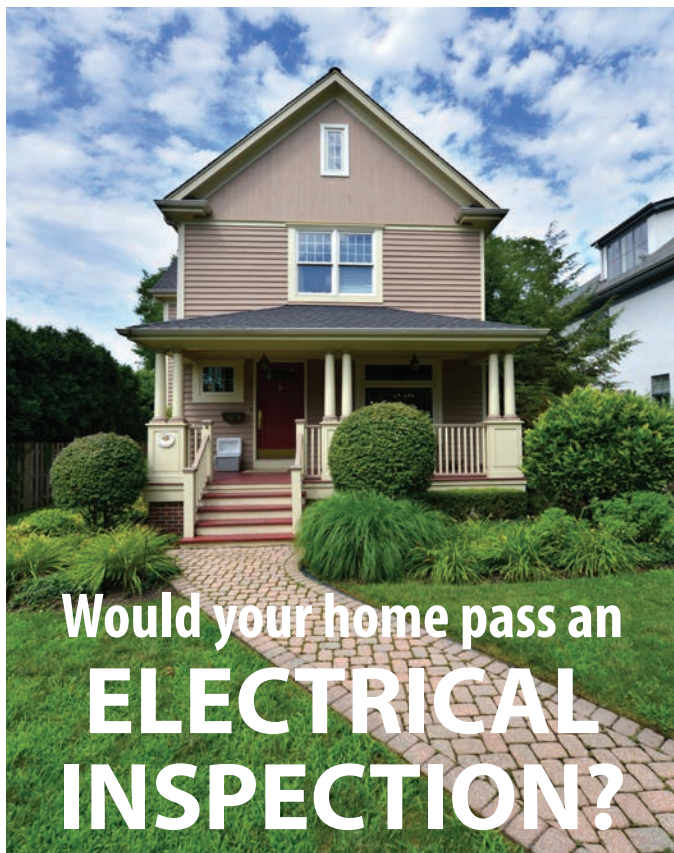
## Weather Strip Exterior Doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction, and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.



## Would your home pass an ELECTRICAL INSPECTION?

If you're getting ready to sell your home or just wondering how sound it is, there are some general guidelines to assess the condition of your home's wiring and electrical bones. Although it varies depending on where you live, most local codes follow the National Electric Code (NEC).

The NEC is an industry-specific, jargon-filled document that outlines required practices for all aspects of residential and commercial electrical installation. Don't worry, you don't have to google it and read it from cover to cover, but know that your local code could vary. Local code always wins out when there are variances, so be sure to check with your qualified electrician or local building department (start with your city or town) for specific code requirements.

Electrical malfunction is dangerous. Fire departments responded to an estimated average of 45,210 reported U.S. home structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction per year from 2010 to 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. The home fires resulted in 420 deaths, 1,370 injuries, and an annual \$1.4 billion in direct property damage.

In general, here are some all-house guidelines that an inspector would look for; remember they may or may not align with your local electrical code but they are NEC-mandated. If your home has any of the following defects, it may not pass an electrical safety inspection:

- Old knob-and-tube, along with BX cable wiring, common in the United States from about 1880 to 1930
- New lights and receptacles installed into old wiring
- Overcrowded wires; i.e. too many wires bundled together producing excess heat

- Spliced wires that were illegally installed (they must be installed by an approved method)
- Broken or missing carbon monoxide detectors or smoke alarms (whether smoke alarms must be hard wired depends on the age of the home and in most cases, whether any home improvement projects required a permit)
- Non-insulated/non-contact-rated recessed lights that touch attic insulation, which is a fire hazard
- Improper overcurrent protection, which means the breaker or fuse is too large for the wire rating
- Improper grounding and bonding of electrical panels and devices

Some other room-specific things to look for include:

### Kitchen

- Does your electric range, cooktop, or oven have a dedicated 240-volt circuit?
- Is the breaker for the range, cooktop, or oven sized correctly?
- Does your island have its own outlet? (The NEC has outlet requirements for kitchen islands, peninsulas, and countertops.)
- Does your microwave, refrigerator, and garbage disposal each have its own circuit?

### Bathroom

- Are outlets GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupters)? GFCIs are designed to protect people from electric shock around water.
- Do your combination fan/lights have their own 20-amp circuit?
- Do the light fixtures in the shower or tub area have a "lens" cover? Are they moisture resistant?

### Other Rooms (living, dining, family, bedrooms)

- Does each room have a wall switch installed beside the entry door?
- Are outlets installed no farther than 12 feet apart?
- Are ceiling fixtures controlled by a wall switch and not just a pull chain?

There are also hallway, staircase, and garage code requirements, as well as those for the electrical service panel and wiring. Check with your qualified electrician or the city or town where you live for specific code requirements in all areas of your home.

### Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI)

Many electrical and homebuilding experts believe that using arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) in these areas of homes has a significant impact on homeowner safety and that they reduce the number of lives lost in home electrical fires.

An AFCI is designed to detect series faults, line to neutral faults, and line to ground faults, effectively stopping a fire before it starts.

For more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## NEW DIGITAL METERS OFFER MORE BENEFITS

Taylor Electric is currently in the process of updating our metering system with new electronic digital meters. Pictured at right is the mechanical meter that is being replaced.

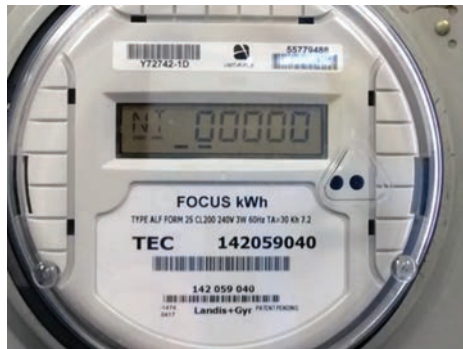
The pictures below represent what your new meter could look like depending on the make and model installed. The advantages with this type of meter is the ability to easily read and track your usage. This new electronic meter will also make it easier to troubleshoot whether an outage needs to be reported



to the cooperative or whether it is something that requires an electrician.

If the meter, as shown below (far left), displays any values on the screen, this means that there is power currently supplied to it from Taylor Electric. In this case, you would need to contact your electrician as the problem is most likely on your side of the meter.

The meters below (center and right) do not display any values and would indicate that you have an outage and need to contact Taylor Electric, 715-678-2411.



Meter with Power



Meters without Power



## We've just made it even easier for you to go green!



With the cost per unit of solar energy produced at Taylor Electric Cooperative's Bright Horizons community solar project now dropped to \$800, and half units available for purchase as well, it's more affordable than ever to participate!

Simply purchase a share of the project and then receive monthly credits for the electricity produced by your share. Taylor Electric Cooperative takes care of all installation, maintenance, and insurance fees. All you have to do is enjoy your monthly energy savings and the satisfaction that you're supporting renewable energy!

To learn more, please visit our website, [www.taylorelectric.org](http://www.taylorelectric.org), or call our office, 715-678-2411.

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