

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY

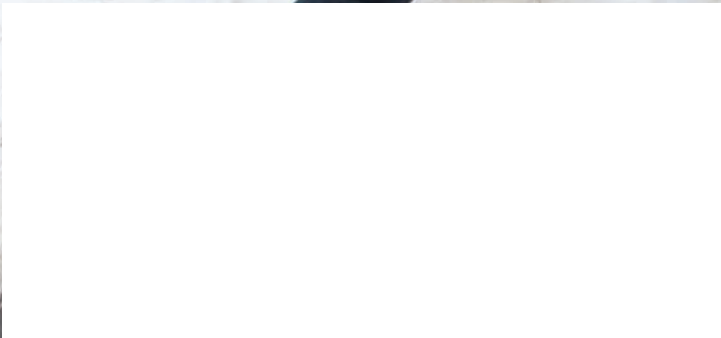
Cooperative

August 2020 NEWS




## LICENSE TO LIVE

Electric co-ops partner to make safety video



TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Kenneth Ceaglske,  
President/CEO

## ELECTRICITY BRINGS EVERYDAY VALUE



Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker

to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cell phone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a

tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4% (from 2014–2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care was increased 3% during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4%.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value. In fact, Taylor Electric Cooperative members experienced 99% reliability in 2019. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I'm very proud of our track record. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions, and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

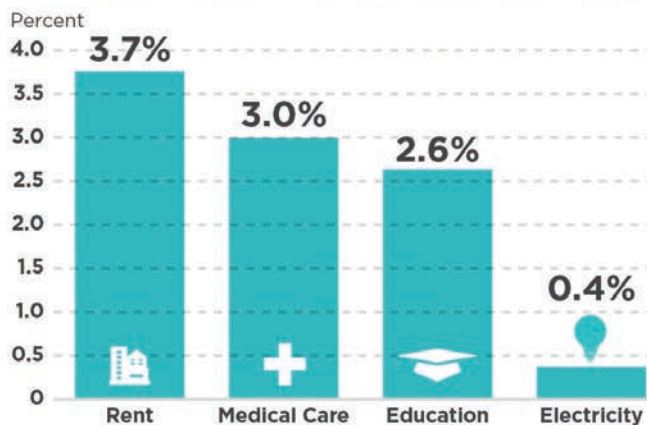
Taylor Electric Cooperative provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save you energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Taylor Electric Cooperative is your electric co-op, and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.

### ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

When you look at price increases of common expenses over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index





## ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES: DO THEY REALLY SAVE YOU MONEY?

If you are in the market for a new appliance, you might wonder if buying an ENERGY STAR-certified version will make a difference in your energy bills.

The **short answer is yes**, when you compare its estimated energy costs to its less efficient counterpart.

In fact, there are really two costs to consider before buying an appliance: the cost itself and the projected monthly energy costs.

The energy-conscious appliances donning the square-shaped Energy Star logo use 10 to 15 percent less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov. For example, Energy Star clothes washers use about 40 percent less energy than conventional clothes washers while also reducing water bills.

And the **longer answer is yes**, if you consider the appliance's lifespan.

Energy Star appliances and other products used throughout your home can save you a collective \$750 over their lifespan, according to Energy.gov. (Besides appliances, there are other Energy Star-certified products, such as lighting and electronics).

While selecting energy-saving designated appliances could have a slightly higher price tag, they don't always. Compare prices and don't assume they cost substantially more than less efficient models.

The biggest bang for your energy-savings buck might be your refrigerator, especially if it is 15 years old or older. By replacing your old fridge with a new Energy Star-certified model, you can save more than \$200 over a 12-year lifespan.

**Tip:** EnergyStar.gov offers a "Flip Your Fridge" calculator to estimate savings depending on the size and age of your largest kitchen appliance.

**Bottom line?** The typical U.S. family spends around \$2,200 a year on home utility bills. Switching to ENERGY STAR products can help lower these costs over time.



**ACCORDING TO ENERGESTAR.GOV, IF EVERY APPLIANCE PURCHASED IN THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR EARNED THE ENERGY STAR, AMERICANS WOULD:**

- ★ Prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions from 225,000 cars.
- ★ Save more than 1.3 billion kWh/year of electricity.
- ★ Save \$425 million in annual energy costs.
- ★ Save more than 28 billion gallons of water per year.\*

\*Includes ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer, dishwasher, and refrigerator. Dollars savings reflect savings generated from the reduction of energy and water usage.



# 84<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING A BIG SUCCESS!

Taylor Electric Cooperative members braved the warm temperatures to witness the first ever drive-in style annual meeting held on Tuesday, June 30, at the Centennial Community Center, Stetsonville. In the 83-year history of the cooperative, this was the first of its kind. The unique format was put in place to limit contact and comply with COVID-19 guidelines. One-hundred thirty four members attended. They remained in their vehicles during the meeting, which was broadcast live on WKEB, 99.3 FM radio with the help of John Clausnitzer and Dave Fleegel. Members were treated to a brown-bag picnic-style dinner. Cheese and butter giveaways topped off June Dairy Month, and each registered member received a \$10 bill credit. Board Chairman Dean Tesch and President/CEO Ken Ceaglske lead the condensed version of this year's meeting. Board of directors' incumbents Patricia Waldhart and Chuck Zenner were re-elected to another three-year term, and the cooperative welcomed a newcomer to the board: Don Everhard, Medford. Don will replace Dennis Engel, who retired from the board earlier this year.



MY CO-OP

## The \$100 electric bill credit grand prize winner was Dennis and Diane Niggemann, Medford.

### Other lucky \$20 gift certificate winners included:

- ★ Rich Feldbrugge – \$20 Frickin' A gift certificate
- ★ Richard Dassow – \$20 Broadway Theater gift certificate
- ★ Frank Bohte – \$20 Stoney Acres gift certificate
- ★ John Vogedes – \$20 High View gift certificate
- ★ Jon Doman – \$20 Cattail Tap gift certificate
- ★ David Maurer – \$20 Turtle Club gift certificate

## MEMBER COMMENTS

"This was great! Loved it! You had it so well organized, from the parking, handing out the lunch and goodies and the live broadcast on the radio. Very nice!! I liked it better than inside, especially with the coronavirus. This was fun and something different. Thank you!"

"We commend you for all the work you put into this event. The virus has given everyone a challenge. Thanks, Wonderful!"

"Would like to thank all our linemen and staff for the great, friendly service they provide for the cooperative. Also, for the creative annual meeting, love the prayer and pledge too!"

"Great job and kudos to everyone involved"





## 2016 UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

### Do you know where these people are?

Abel, Judith  
 Adams, Dale  
 Agri Bank  
 Albert Estate, Ed  
 All Season Storage  
 Ardres Schwenke Est  
 AT&T Building Operation  
 Backman, Gordon  
 Benson, John  
 Bergstrom, Todd  
 Bernitt Estate, William Jr  
 Brahmer, Richard F  
 Brandt, William  
 Busch, Rick  
 Carr, Nancy  
 Carr, Shannon  
 Carr, Shawn  
 Central Sand & Gravel  
 Cliver, Christine

Cushing, David  
 Decoster, Tom  
 Degrand, Steve  
 Department of the  
 Air Force  
 Devoty, Amie  
 Devries, David  
 Dunst, Roxann  
 Emens, David  
 Fahrner, Janice  
 FHA  
 Floyd Estate, Carol J  
 Fortner, Gayle B  
 Frazier, Jerry  
 Fredrickson, Eugene  
 Furseth, Andrew  
 Grauman, Michael  
 Gruhlke Estate, Dorothy  
 Gustum, Kirk

Hammon, John and  
 Karla  
 Hanson, Bruce  
 Hanson, Nancy  
 Harper, Duane  
 Hauser, Scott  
 Hein, Dawn  
 Herbig, Joseph  
 Hessefort, Barbara M  
 Hutman, Keith  
 Jardine, Neil  
 Joles, Judy  
 Kaulfuss, Arch and Fay  
 Kenny, Tom  
 Konig, Michael  
 Kopper, Tammy  
 Kreb, Keith  
 Krueger, Lori  
 Lammar, Mark

Lucey, James  
 Lukaszewicz, Anna  
 Mackie, Helen  
 Marquardt, Nancy  
 Marsh, Fred  
 Marvin, Brian  
 Maslanka, Mary  
 Mey-Kosbab, Cindy  
 Milbauer, Jim  
 Miller, Randall  
 Mims, William  
 Mueller, Gerald  
 Paczkowski, Edward  
 Palmer, Ray  
 Parson, Mark  
 Paulson, Sara  
 Pautz Estate, Arlyn  
 Peneau, Leon  
 Peterson, Carol  
 Piater Estate, Arlene  
 Pozorski, David  
 Puckett, Steve  
 Quiring, Brent  
 Rasmussen, Catherine

Rasner, Walter  
 Ricker, Harvey  
 Rohloff, Steve  
 Roush, Richard  
 Rust, Charles and Ruth  
 Rydberg, Douglas  
 Scheuneman, James  
 Schuetz Estate, Charles  
 Seubert, Mary  
 Sherburne Ginseng  
 Smith, Jackie  
 Sossong, James  
 Spreen, Bryan  
 Steffen Estate, Richard  
 Swarey, Enos  
 Thieme, Kim  
 Thomas, Everett  
 Thomas, Frank  
 Timm, Kelley  
 Verdone, Todd  
 Weinke, Sheryl  
 Williams, Linda  
 Windle, Geraldine  
 Zolper, Thomas



## WORKING ON YOUR "HONEY-DO" LIST?

Be aware of overhead power lines when using long tools & ladders.



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### Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor



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