

# Taylor Report

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## GET SMART ABOUT HOME LIGHTING

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Smart lighting is energy efficient. Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Smart lighting provides convenience and control. Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting. Bright, warm, purple, green—whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. This enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to



play nicely with smart bulbs. If you want to control your smart bulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping!

A group of Wisconsin teens recently took a trip to Washington, D.C. as part of their involvement with Youth Leadership Congress, a program sponsored by Taylor Electric, along with other WI electric cooperatives and Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).

Theo Robisch, son of Matthew and Sara Robisch, Rib Lake, attended the tour and learned about the cooperative model, met with members of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation, visited national monuments, museums, and memorial sites, and met young people representing electric co-ops from other states.

Theo, back row-2nd from right, and his group are pictured here at Mount Vernon - Landmark of George Washington.





## Don't just pack your bags... Prepare your home for vacation too!

Your bags are packed and you're ready to leave your humdrum routine for a much-needed vacation. As you pack for your destination,

remember your home needs a little prep, too.

Along with the usual tasks such as having your mail stopped, there are other steps you can take to help deter burglars and even save you a little green. With the money you save, you might have a little extra for umbrella-garnished drinks or destination t-shirts.

Before you leave, here are some ways to save money on your energy bill:

- Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low or vacation mode. For an electric version, turn it down or off at the circuit breaker panel.
- Do not completely turn off your air conditioning during vacation so that the air in your house continues to circulate.
- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power. Also, do not leave chargers plugged into an outlet. (This tip is important when you're home as well. Do not leave chargers plugged in when they're not in use since they can overheat. Unplug charging devices after electronics are fully charged.)
- Make sure your sump pump is working.

Take these electrical and plumbing precautions:

- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks. Or, consider shutting off the main water valve, which cuts off water to the house but still allows water supply to an outdoor sprinkler system.

Here are some ways to keep your home look lived in and ward off burglars:

- If you have a smart home, it's easy to regulate lights in your home remotely. Turn various lights on and off intermittently or have them timed to do so.
- If you do not have smart lighting, put various lights on timers.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally while you are gone.
- Use motion detectors on outside lights.
- Before you leave, check all windows and doors to make sure they are locked.

And finally, remember to clean out your fridge before leaving so that you don't come home to moldy leftovers.

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



### Board Report – May 2023

- Approved April disbursements totaling \$360,045. 10 new member applications, and April 2023 construction in the amount of \$112,955.
- Reviewed financial results for April with \$155,313 Operating Margins and \$167,183 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 11 outages in April, with an average YTD outage time per meter of .0857 hours.
- One application for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates was approved with total capital credits of \$1,193 to be paid out at the net present value of \$425.
- 29 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the May 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$10,440.
- Other topics covered included the Board self-evaluation, upcoming Annual Meeting, WECA district meetings, board per diem amount, Taylor County Fair donation, and DPC activities including generator performance, and safety.

### \*Do the Summer Shift\*

When each member conserves electricity, we all win. Shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., Monday-Friday this summer. A small shift reaps savings for you and our entire cooperative family.

- Turn off or unplug all non-essential lights, televisions, electronics and other appliances.
- Cook food in a microwave instead of using a stovetop or oven.
- Adjust the thermostat up or down, depending on the season.
- Shift high electricity use activities, such as laundry, vacuuming and running the dishwasher until after 7:00 PM.
- Delay electric vehicle charging until after the control event has expired.

