

## Your Home: Top 3 Energy-Wasting Mistakes



Homeowners across the country are concerned about the cost of energy and their impact on the environment. Unfortunately, everyday habits can get in the way of living a greener, more energy-

efficient lifestyle. Fixr.com surveyed 14 home sustainability experts, and they identified three of the most common energy-wasting mistakes homeowners make and what you can do about them.

### 1. Leaving lights and devices on when you don't need them

This should be a no-brainer, but it's an easy habit to fall into — leaving lights on in empty rooms or leaving the TV on when no one is watching. Start by making a concerted effort to shut things off when you're not using them and unplug devices that don't need to be on. Here are some low-cost upgrades that can help:

- Install smart bulbs, which allow you to control lights remotely using a smartphone app or voice assistant.
- Use occupancy or motion sensors to automatically turn lights off and on in areas with varying occupancies, such as closets, work rooms or the garage.

### 2. Using too much water

Careless water habits not only waste water but the energy used to heat that water, too. Simple conservation measures include taking shorter showers, scraping dishes instead of rinsing them and waiting until you have a full load before running the dishwasher or clothes washer.

Water-saving upgrading opportunities include:

- Installing WaterSense®-labeled low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators
- Upgrading to ENERGY STAR®-certified clothes washers and dishwashers, which use less energy and water than standard models

### 3. Leaving devices plugged in all the time

Many electronic devices continue to use even when they're turned off. This is known as phantom or standby power, and it can really cost you over time. Unplug

chargers when they're not charging anything, as well as devices that are rarely used or don't need to be powered constantly. Plug multiple devices into a power strip to make powering them off easy. A low-cost upgrade is an advanced power strip or smart plug. These handy devices automatically cut power to devices when no one is using them.

Another common homeowner mistake, according to the experts surveyed, is failing to have an energy audit. A qualified auditor will inspect your home, run a series of tests and provide you with a customized set of cost-saving recommendations. A home energy audit is one of the best ways to improve the efficiency and comfort of your home. You can find inspectors on [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com).

Source: <https://www.touchstoneenergy.com/your-home-top-3-energy-wasting-mistakes>

## New Voting Option for Annual Meeting

Results are in from the Nominating Committee! Four candidates have expressed interest in running for the three open seats on Taylor Electric's board. They include incumbents, Chuck Zenner and Don Everhard, as well as Sara Matyka and Paul Woods. If you have interest in running for the board and missed the deadline for the Nominating Committee process, you can still make it on the ballot by completing a petition signed by not less than 25 coop members delivered to the coop by April 27, 2023.

Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at the Centennial Center in Stetsonville. A new option for this year will be an absentee ballot system. More details to follow in future publications as well as in the Annual Report.

## Visit us at the Medford Home and Business Expo

Simek Rec Center  
1037 W Broadway Ave  
Medford, WI 54451

Friday-Mar. 24 - 4pm - 8pm  
Saturday-Mar. 25 - 10am - 4pm  
Sunday-Mar. 26 - 10am - 3pm



## Board Report – January 2023

- Approved December disbursements totaling \$469,508. 12 new member applications, and December 2022 construction in the amount of \$78,068.
- Reviewed financial results for December with \$591,787 Operating Margins and \$864,504 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 53 outages in December, with an average YTD outage time per meter of 1.7875 hours the storms in December added about 1.1 hours to the total.
- Four applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of \$7,747 to be paid out at the net present value of \$3,268.
- 38 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the January 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$18,631.
- Other topics covered included upcoming power cost adjustments, DPC generation issues, solar panel pricing, two policies, and upcoming local and national meetings.

## SPRING FORWARD

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour.



With Daylight Savings Time beginning on March 12th, on-peak times will also change to 5:00 PM—8:00 PM.

## Hey High School Seniors!



Don't forget scholarship applications are due by April 6, 2023. Forms are available through most area high school counselors, online at [www.taylorelectric.org](http://www.taylorelectric.org) or just give us a call and we'll send you a form. Let us help pay for your college education.

*NOTE: The funds for these scholarships are derived from unclaimed capital credit refunds. Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that unclaimed refunds may be used for educational and charitable purposes. Otherwise, they become unclaimed property and must be paid to the State of Wisconsin as such.*

## TRIMMED TREES = BETTER SERVICE



When you see us trimming trees near power lines, know that we are doing so because:

- **Tree and foliage overgrowth** can interfere with power distribution.
- **Power lines** can give off a spark or arc that may land on a nearby branch and ignite.
- The lights in your house may flicker when tree branches brush power lines during **high winds**.
- **Stormy weather** can cause nearby limbs to break off and land on power lines.
- Unobstructed power lines make it easier and **safer** for lineworkers to maintain equipment or restore power.

 Safe  
Electricity.org

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

