

Taylor Report

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451 • 715-678-2411 • www.taylorelectric.org



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Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

By Abby Berry

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.

Board Report – February 2020

- Approved January disbursements totaling \$543,046.96, 10 new member applications, and December 2019 construction in the amount of \$9,147.04.
- Reviewed financial results for the month of January, with \$5,101 Operating Margins and \$7,155 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 3 outages in January, with average YTD outage time per member of .0041 hours.
- Three applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of \$3,541.27 to be paid out at the net present value of \$1,724.90.
- 32 delinquent Accounts were processed for collection following the February 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$13,120.96. Twenty-three of these accounts have remote disconnect capability.
- The board approved the upgrades to the Stetsonville Sub for approximately \$950,000.
- Board per diems were reviewed and adjusted from \$200 to \$250. The last adjustment in per diems was in 2014.
- CEO Ceagske gave an update on the Taylor County Broadband Committee meeting held during February; upcoming hiring of two linemen; projects with local businesses, upcoming company projects, reported on results from the nominating committee and member concerns and thank you notes.

- **WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR?** Stop by the office and pick up a petition form to become eligible. The form requires 25 signatures from cop members and is due by March 26th.
- **HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:** Scholarship applications are due by April 7, 2020. Forms are available at www.taylorelectric.org, applicable schools or at the office.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

LOOK OUT

FOR POWER SOURCES

10'



Do not get within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line.

Be aware of power lines when working on the roof.



Do not trim branches or limbs near power lines.

Be careful when carrying long or tall objects such as ladders or poles.



Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.



Do not dig near padmount transformers or other utility equipment.

Safe Electricity.org

- The winter moratorium ends April 15th. All past due balances must be paid in full prior to this date to avoid disconnection of service.
- The office will be closed on Good Friday, April 10th. Have a safe and blessed Easter.

