

# Co-ops: Focused on Service, Not Profits



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO RYAN BARTLETT

**NOW, AS ALWAYS, IT'S A GOOD TIME TO BE A MEMBER OF AN ELECTRIC cooperative.**

Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, the members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many Texas electricity customers pay their power bills to companies that answer to far-away stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local

members call the shots for electric co-ops.

Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big dividends for investors. Instead, we keep rates as low as we can while providing high-quality service.

Taylor Electric Cooperative invests money earned in excess of operating costs back into the co-op and eventually returns the excess, known as margins, to members in the form of capital credits.

And unlike the boards of investor-owned utilities who must consider Wall Street profit pressures, your co-op's directors, who are fellow mem-

bers, have only one thing in mind: keeping the lights on while keeping costs down. That is what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change its leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how eight decades ago, rural citizens banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were then.

Co-op leadership shares the concerns that you, the members, have. You can stop by, give us a call or send us an email and be assured that someone here is listening.

As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops have a firsthand understanding of the people they serve. Cooperative management and employees share the same values and have the same community pride as you because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

And that's the cooperative difference.

## COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

### VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

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## Kill a What?

**EVER PRETENDED YOU KNEW WHAT AN** electrician was talking about when he or she told you what needed to be fixed? If so, or if you just want to expand your electrical vocabulary a bit, here's a glossary of common electrical terms:

**Circuit breakers and fuses** are safety devices that automatically cut the flow of electricity when a circuit is overloaded.

In a fuse, an element melts when overloaded, stopping the flow. In a circuit breaker, a switch is tripped when it is overloaded. After the cause of an overload has been corrected, a fuse must be replaced, but a circuit breaker can simply be reset.

**The electric service entrance** normally consists of wires enclosed in conduit, a proper ground, your electric meter base and the main service panel—essentially the entire apparatus necessary to safely bring electricity into your home.

**The main service panel** (aka fuse or breaker box) is a metal box that houses the circuit breakers or fuses. The main service panel serves as the point from which electricity is distributed to branch circuits throughout your home.

**Volts** are a measure of electric force. Volts are the force behind the current, or amps, flowing through a wire. Just as an amp can be compared to the amount of water flowing through a hose, a volt can be compared to the amount of pressure pushing that water.

**Watt** is a unit of power that does work electrically. Mathematically, the watt is the product of amperes multiplied by volts.

**Watt-hour** is the measurement of electrical energy used—measured as 1 watt of electricity used for one hour.

**Kilowatt-hour** is 1,000 watt-hours, abbreviated kWh. On electric bills, this indicates the amount of electric energy used. A 100-watt lamp operated for 10 hours (100 watts x 10 hours) uses 1,000 watt-hours—or 1 kWh.

# SAVE THE DATE!



## TAYLOR EC ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 18  
Abilene Convention Center

### MAIL-IN BALLOT NOTICE

Members who cannot attend Taylor Electric Cooperative's annual meeting April 18 can cast their ballots through the mail. Each cooperative member is entitled to one vote. Absentee ballots are available upon request from the cooperative. Call (325) 793-8500 to have a ballot sent to your home or business. You will receive a prepaid envelope for the ballot return. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by 5 p.m. April 12 to Taylor EC headquarters and will be deposited into a secure ballot box, which will be opened by election administrators.



## Taylor Electric Cooperative

226 County Road 287 • P.O. Box 250  
Merkel, TX 79536

### PRESIDENT/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, Zone 1  
Leland Robinson, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 1  
David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2  
Garland Carter, Zone 2  
Richard Petree, At-Large  
Kathy Rainey, Zone 3  
Gayla Simons, Zone 3

### HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

#### Online

[taylorelectric.com](http://taylorelectric.com)

#### Taylor Electric App

Available on your Apple or Android device

#### By Phone

(325) 793-8500

Visa, Mastercard, checks accepted.  
Payments credited immediately.

#### In Person

##### Main office hours:

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

226 CR 287, off I-20, west of Abilene Wells Lane exit 274 between Tye and Merkel

##### Abilene office hours:

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Visa, Mastercard, checks, cash and money orders accepted.

Payments credited immediately.

#### Drop Box

Main office drop box at front gate: 24/7

Abilene office drop box (next to first door on the left): 24/7

Checks and money orders accepted.

Payments credited next business day.

#### Pay Stations

- **United Supermarket**, 521 S. Access Road, Clyde
- **Food Plaza #4**, 109 S.E. Fifth St., Cross Plains
- **Cash Saver**, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene
- **United Supermarket**, 2160 Pine St., Abilene
- **Check Express**, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Cash, checks, money orders and debit cards accepted.

Payments credited next business day.



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## Power Tip

Reduce drafts by locking all your windows. A tighter seal is formed when the windows are locked.

# Nominating Committee To Meet February 19

*Candidate applications due February 5 at 5 p.m.*

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL MEET** February 19 to elect candidates for the 2019 board of directors ballot.

Committee members, who each represent a respective zone within Taylor EC's service territory, will screen and interview applicants to be placed on the ballot. Voting for the director seats will take place at the 79th annual meeting.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for a seat on the board of directors, an eligibility checklist can be found below, and the application begins on the adjacent page. Additional copies are available at Taylor EC's headquarters.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. February 5. Completed applications can be mailed or faxed to Taylor EC headquarters:

**Taylor Electric Cooperative, Attn: Nominating Committee**  
**P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536**  
**Fax: (325) 793-9680**

## Nominating Committee Members

### Zone 1: Taylor County

Craig Bessent, Chairman, (325) 692-5937  
 Colleen Richards, (325) 692-7122

### Zone 2: Callahan, Jones, Eastland, Shackelford counties

Melvin Bachhofer, (325) 537-2736  
 Tom Edd Johnson, (806) 928-8872  
 Ashley Thompson, (325) 529-6643  
 Dee Vinson, (325) 537-9323

### Zone 3: Coke, Fisher, Nolan counties

Terry Locklar, (325) 320-6349  
 Jesse Mulanax, (325) 235-4278  
 Mary Ussery, (325) 798-3645

# How To Serve as a Taylor EC Director

## Requirements To Serve as a Director:

- ▶ Be a Taylor Electric Cooperative member in good standing for five years.
- ▶ Have no criminal history.

## Process To Serve as a Director:

- ▶ Must complete and return application by February 5 (can be found on Page 21 and requested anytime at Taylor EC's headquarters).
- ▶ The Nominating Committee meets February 19, when it will interview candidates.
- ▶ Directors elected at the 79th annual meeting April 18.

## Duties of a Director:

- ▶ Review and approve work plans and budgets.
- ▶ Review the annual financial audit and management letter.
- ▶ Approve all applications for cooperative membership.
- ▶ Select and appoint legal counsel.
- ▶ Select and appoint auditors.
- ▶ Ensure an adequate and reliable supply of power for the members.
- ▶ Review and approve major contracts,

such as wholesale power contracts, loan agreements and construction contracts.

- ▶ Hire and supervise the president/CEO, who hires cooperative staff.
- ▶ Comply with all board policies and bylaws, including attendance at cooperative meetings, training and certification courses.
- ▶ Conduct membership meetings.
- ▶ Authorize the construction of major facilities necessary for the efficient operation of the cooperative.
- ▶ Protect the cooperative's assets through review, approval and procurement of appropriate insurance coverage and adhere to all regulatory requirements on local, state and federal levels.
- ▶ Review and approve cooperative strategies, ideas and objectives for membership needs.

Directors must expect to spend at least 16–20 days a year conducting cooperative business. This time includes regular board meetings and additional workshops or conventions associated

with state or national affiliations. Directors also must expect and plan for extended overnight travel each year.

Local board policy requires directors to secure certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Certification courses train directors in the fundamentals of the power industry and explain all personal liabilities associated with the position.

Taylor EC directors receive no salary for their work on behalf of the cooperative. They may receive a per diem and mileage payments for their time and service. No other benefits are provided.

The directors have made extensive efforts to reduce expenses for out-of-state travel.

In recent years, the directors have voted to eliminate the payment of expenses for spouses to travel and voted to eliminate health insurance for directors.

For the protection of the cooperative, all nominees are subject to personal and financial background checks.

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION

## Director Candidate Eligibility Application

<b>NAME</b>		<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	
<b>CONTACT NUMBER(S)</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>WORK</b>	<b>FAX</b>
<b>MAILING ADDRESS</b>		<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b> <b>ZIP</b>
<b>RESIDENCE ADDRESS</b>		<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b> <b>ZIP</b>
<b>OCCUPATION</b>		<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
<b>TAYLOR EC ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>		<b>NAME(S) ON ACCOUNT</b>	

Please note that Taylor Electric Cooperative bylaws provide the guidelines for director candidate eligibility. A “Yes” answer to any question 1–5 may indicate a conflict of interest. If you answer “Yes” to any question 1–5 below, please explain below:

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- Are you currently holding an elected public office for which compensation is paid?  YES  NO
- If your membership account is currently held jointly by husband and wife, is your spouse currently a director?  YES  NO
- Have you or a close relative (spouse, brother, sister, son, daughter, mother or father, including any of the above by marriage) been employed by or received compensation for serving the cooperative in the past year?  YES  NO
- In the past year, have you been employed by or had a financial interest in an entity that competes with the cooperative or poses a conflict of interest; or, have you been employed by or shared a material financial interest with another director?  YES  NO
- Does your employer or business sell products or services to the cooperative?  YES  NO
- Do you attend the cooperative’s annual meeting each year and vote in director elections?  YES  NO
- Do you have any experience on other boards or committees such as assemblies, councils, school boards, hospitals, churches, etc., that you think should be considered among your qualifications? If so, please list below.

ORGANIZATION	YEARS SERVED	STILL SERVING?	YOUR CAPACITY
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	_____
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	_____
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	_____
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	_____

continued on reverse

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION** *continued*

**8.** Aside from your membership with Taylor Electric Cooperative, what other cooperative memberships have you held?

COOPERATIVE	YEARS	YOUR CAPACITY
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**9.** A director typically spends about 50 hours each year in cooperative business meetings in Merkel. Additional time may be required for meetings and training away from Merkel. If you become a cooperative director, how difficult will it be for you to find time for the following commitments?

	NO PROBLEM	RARE PROBLEM	REAL PROBLEM
Monthly, half-day to daylong board meeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Board committee meetings, usually two hours or less, with one or two weeks' notice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Two- or three-day state or national meetings or seminars with at least one month's notice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Two- or three-day meetings or seminars anywhere in the United States with at least one month's and usually several months' notice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**10.** Are you willing to attend state and national training courses for directors?  YES  NO

**11.** In your opinion, what are the greatest challenges facing Taylor Electric Cooperative in the future?

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**12.** What is your most important qualification to serve as a Taylor Electric Cooperative director?

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**13.** Why do you want to serve on the Taylor Electric Cooperative Board of Directors?

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**By signing this application, I agree to allow the Taylor Electric Cooperative Board of Directors to check my background and credit history as a part of my qualification to serve on the board of directors.**

**SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

*Please submit a résumé, references or a letter of application if you desire to add more information.*

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS FEBRUARY 5.**

*Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc., Director Candidate Eligibility Checklist Approved 07/16/07*

# How To Purchase the Right Energy-Efficient Appliance

## SAY YOU GO SHOPPING FOR

a new refrigerator, and you're on a budget. The best buy is the fridge with the lowest price, right?

Not necessarily. If you buy the lowest-priced refrigerator, you might end up spending more than if you bought a more expensive one. How? The true cost of owning a home appliance has three components: the initial purchase price, costs of repairs and maintenance, and operation costs.

To figure out how much you'll spend over the lifetime of the appliance, you have to look at all these factors. The appliance with the lowest initial purchase price—or even the one that has the best reliability record—isn't necessarily the one that costs the least to operate over time.

Refrigerators with the same capacity can vary dramatically in the amount of electricity they use. For one popular size and configuration, annual electricity consumption can vary by as much as 400 kilowatt-hours over the course of a year. Some may use as little as 400 kWh per year, and others may use up to 800 kWh. Based on national average electricity prices, that means the annual cost to operate this size and configuration of refrigerator can range from about \$30 to \$70.

A \$40 difference in annual operating costs might not sound like much, but remember that you will enjoy these savings year after year for the life of the appliance. However, you save the difference in purchase price only once. As a result, you may actually save money in the long run by buying the more expensive but more energy-efficient model.

You can learn about the energy efficiency of an appliance by reading the yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label. The Federal

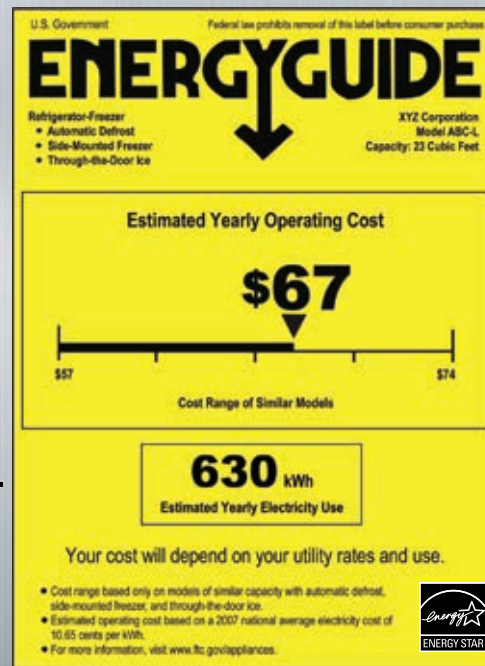
## Understanding the ENERGYGUIDE Label

The ENERGYGUIDE label is a great tool that helps consumers compare the energy use and costs of new appliances. Use the sample below to better understand how to use the information found on the label.

Lists key features of the appliance and the similar models that make up the cost range below.

The cost range helps you compare the energy use of different models by showing you the range of operating costs for models with similar features.

An estimate of how much electricity the appliance uses in a year based on typical use. Multiply this by your local electricity rate on your utility bill to better judge what your actual operating cost might be.



The make, model and size tell you exactly what product this label describes.

What you might pay to run the appliance for one year, based on its electricity use and the national average cost of energy. The cost appears on labels for all models and brands so you can compare energy use.

If you see the ENERGY STAR logo, it means the product is better for the environment because it uses less electricity than standard models.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

Trade Commission's Appliance Labeling Rule requires manufacturers to put these labels on refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, water heaters, furnaces, central and room air conditioners, heat pumps, and pool heaters.

Some appliances also may feature the Energy Star logo, which means that the appliance is significantly more energy efficient than the average model. To compare how updating appliances and making other changes around your home can affect your electric bill, visit [energysavers.gov](http://energysavers.gov).

### To be sure you're buying the right appliance:

- ▶ Read the EnergyGuide label.
- ▶ Compare the energy use of competing models.
- ▶ Estimate the difference in energy costs.
- ▶ Consider both purchase price and estimated energy use when deciding what to buy.