

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

Feast of Blessings

Later this month, folks will sit down at dinner tables with family and friends for their annual Thanksgiving Day feast (followed by the traditional post-dinner nap and football games).

But Thanksgiving isn't just about full bellies and full kitchens. It's also a time we set aside for reflecting, counting our blessings and enjoying the company of our loved ones.

Speaking for myself, the blessings are many, including the fact that I am privileged to work for an electric cooperative.

As President/CEO at Taylor Electric Cooperative, I am thankful for members like you who support the mission of this cooperative: not just the provision of reliable electricity at a reasonable rate—no small task in itself—but also to be a strong presence in sustaining the communities we serve. Your participation in co-op meetings, elections and activities enables Taylor EC to be a vital community partner, one that can be counted on to support volunteer fire departments, food banks, scholarships and other mainstays of a healthy community.

I am thankful for our directors, those civic-minded members who give of their time and talents to represent your interests as we set policies and plan for our future. With each passing year, as financial and regulatory challenges mount, your board members must stay abreast of the factors that influence the efficient and cost-effective delivery of electricity to your home.

I am thankful for Taylor EC's employees, who day in and day out demonstrate dedication and professionalism in performing their duties. Electric cooperatives seem to attract and retain people who commit to making their living in an environment where service comes first.

And last—but certainly not least—I am thankful for my understanding family, who sometimes has to share me with my job. They know that in a crisis, the phone may ring in the middle of the night, calling me away to work. And that sometimes my duties include time away on business. With their support and love, my job and my life are much easier.

I hope that this Thanksgiving, you also have plenty for which to give thanks. May you and your loved ones have a happy, healthy and blessed holiday.



CEO CORNER



LILKIN | ISTOCK.COM

Conserve Energy as the Weather Cools

IT'S TEMPTING TO turn the heat on as soon as the weather starts to cool in the fall. But holding off for a few weeks until you really need to rely on heat can keep your energy bills low.

If you must turn the heat on:

Set it no higher than 68 degrees. This will make your indoor air comfortable without wasting energy.

Put on another layer. Try putting on a sweater and slippers if you're feeling cold. Adding another layer of clothing might keep you cozy enough to delay turning up the thermostat.

Move furniture and drapes away from warm air registers and baseboard heaters so they don't block the heat from circulating. The freer the airflow, the lower you can set your thermostat.

Close the flue damper of your wood-burning fireplace. In fact, consider fitting an electric fireplace into it so you can enjoy a light show without sending heated air up the chimney.

Have a heating, ventilating and air conditioning professional inspect your heating system before it gets too cold outside. Regular maintenance can prevent an expensive, inconvenient problem later in the winter—when it would be uncomfortable to go even a day without a working heater.

Seal indoor openings on external walls, such as around the areas where the cable and phone lines come into the house and around penetrations for water pipes and sewer lines. Caulking those openings can keep your heated air in and the cool air out.

Add or repair weatherstripping. The spaces around doors and windows can allow cold air to sneak in, so before it gets too cold out, inspect your weatherstripping to make sure it's blocking air movement. If it's missing or worn out, replace it. ■

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

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

Phone (325) 793-8500

Web taylorelectric.com

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

Kathryn Rainey, Zone 3

Gay Simmons, Zone 3

24/7

**Outage
Hotline**

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL
(325) 793-8500

HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

ONLINE

taylorelectric.com

TAYLOR ELECTRIC APP

Available on your Apple or Android device.

BY PHONE

(325) 793-8500

Payments credited immediately.

IN PERSON

Hours Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Merkel 226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

Abilene 7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Payments credited immediately.

DROP BOX

Merkel office at front gate.

Abilene office next to first door on the left.

Payments credited next business day.

PAY STATIONS

- Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene
- United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene
- Check Express, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Payments credited next business day.

VISIT US ONLINE

taylorelectric.com



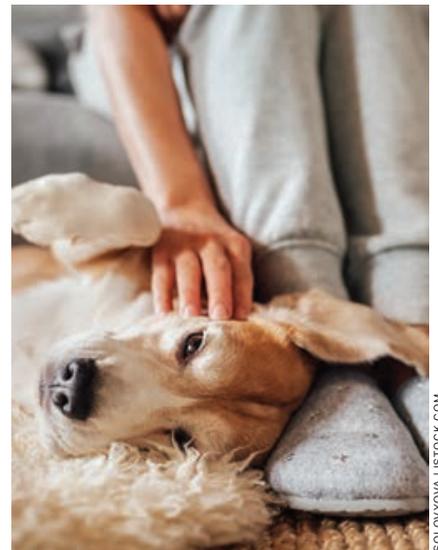
Weatherproof To Stay Warm

WEATHERPROOFING IS an inexpensive way to save money on energy bills during the winter.

Even the tiniest cracks around windows, doors, light fixtures, electrical outlets and air ducts can let your home's comfy heated air escape to the outdoors. That can add up to substantial heat loss.

Here's how to avoid leaks by weatherproofing your house:

- ▶ Caulk throughout the house wherever walls meet floors or door frames and between the outside of window frames and siding. Choose caulk designed for the surface you're caulking, and use a high-quality caulk, which will last longer.
- ▶ Apply weatherstripping to all exterior doors and windows. Weatherstripping is a thin piece of material that seals the gap between where the door or window meets the jamb. Self-sticking foam pieces are quick and easy to apply.
- ▶ Replace worn door sweeps on exterior doors to help prevent heat loss under the door.
- ▶ Seal windows with thin plastic sheets using an insulator kit. Shrinking the plastic film with a hair dryer ensures a smooth and tight seal. ■



SOLOVYOVA | ISTOCK.COM



FILADENDRON | ISTOCK.COM

Add Energy Efficiency to Your Thanksgiving Menu

IT TAKES A LOT of energy to cook all day and to host a house full of company for Thanksgiving. So while you're making your grocery list this holiday season, start a list of ways you and your family can cut down on energy use.

Some ideas:

Lower the thermostat. If you're cooking all day, your kitchen will get really hot. Some of that heat will spill into the rest of the house, so there's no need to keep the thermostat at its usual setting.

Don't turn your oven on until it's full. Cook several dishes at once. If their recommended cooking temps are within 25 degrees of each other in either direction, everything will cook as it should.

Identify dishes that you can cook in the microwave, which heats food faster than the oven and uses about a third of the electricity.

Run your dishwasher only when it's full. Using the dishwasher uses less energy and water than hand-washing.

Cool leftovers on the counter before putting them into the refrigerator. That will keep the fridge from having to work so hard to cool off hot food. But don't leave perishable food out for more than a few hours, after which it begins to spoil.

Use a slow cooker, toaster oven or warming plate to do the same job of cooking some dishes but with less electricity. The average toaster oven can use about half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time.

Make sure your stovetop is in good condition. For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay clean.

Ensure your pots and pans are in good shape. If your pans have warped over time and don't sit flat on the burner, it may be time for some new ones that ensure heat transfers efficiently from the burner to the pan. ■



SKYNE-SHER | ISTOCK.COM

Entertain Safely This Thanksgiving

AS THANKSGIVING APPROACHES, use this checklist to ensure your home is ready for all the festivities of the holiday season.

Fire Safety

- ▶ Test your smoke alarms monthly and make sure your house is protected by an adequate number of working alarms, which should be installed in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- ▶ Keep halls, stairs and doorways properly illuminated and free of clutter and other objects that could hinder an escape during a fire emergency.
- ▶ Plan for older guests or those with mobility issues to sleep on the ground floor.

Decorating Safety

- ▶ Avoid overloading electrical outlets, which can overheat and cause a fire.
- ▶ Do not place extension cords where they could be tripping hazards.
- ▶ Do not run extension cords under rugs or furniture.
- ▶ Keep all decorations at least 3 feet from heat sources, including space heaters and fireplaces.
- ▶ Think of youngsters: Place cords, breakables, candles and other potentially dangerous items out of children's reach.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- ▶ Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outdoor activities and protect those devices from moisture.

Home Heating Safety

- ▶ Have your heating system inspected annually by a licensed, qualified professional.
- ▶ Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- ▶ Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off and unplug heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- ▶ Never leave an open flame—especially in a fireplace—unattended.

Child Safety

- ▶ If you are hosting small children, put away small items that are choking hazards.
- ▶ Use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairways to keep babies and toddlers safe.
- ▶ Move all cleaning products and other dangerous items out of the reach of children and store them in a locked area.
- ▶ Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees to reduce the risk of scalding.
- ▶ Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent electric shocks and burns, or use safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.
- ▶ Never allow children to play with electrical decorations, outlets or cords. ■