

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

A Gift From Those Who Got Us Here

The original member-owners of Taylor Electric Cooperative gave us a gift that lives on every time you elect members to the board of directors, earn capital credits or light up your Christmas tree.

The rural Texans who worked together to build your electric cooperative are the reason you can turn on the lights, watch your favorite holiday movies and cook a Christmas feast.

During the holiday season, remember the determined folks who helped bring electricity to the rural communities and farms that the big electricity companies refused to serve. Our urban neighbors were enjoying the quality of life that electricity delivers decades earlier because the density of big cities made it economically viable to build distribution lines between close-together residents.

Some 80 years ago, our area, with its spread-out farms and ranches, got left behind until our co-op's founders secured the funds to build electric lines over miles and miles of Texas countryside.

Perhaps your grandparents or your neighbors' relatives collected membership fees as they got things started and shared those stories. Or maybe you heard tales of families' first Christmases with electricity. Imagine opening presents under a shining lightbulb for the first time rather than a candle or lamp, or having a refrigerator to keep Christmas dinner fixings fresh.

Those folks sacrificed so their fam-

ilies could enjoy lighting, heat and the convenience of appliances—just like those who lived in the cities. They laid the foundation for the at-your-fingertips electric, phone and internet service that you enjoy today.

The holiday season, with its warmth and bounty, is a great time to appreciate our co-op's founding stories and the gift of modern conveniences that electricity brings to our lives.

When you take your Christmas dinner out of the oven this season or when you switch on your electric heat to make the house cozy over the holiday, remember those who lived without the convenience of electricity—and that they wanted it so badly they took matters into their own hands.

They passed that gift on to the next generations of co-op owners so we can enjoy it this Christmas and all year long.



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Happy Holidays

From Taylor Electric Cooperative

Our offices will be closed
Thursday–Friday, December 23–24.



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Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

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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





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THURSDAY
21
APRIL

LYSENKOALEXANDER | ISTOCK.COM

SAVE THE DATE

Taylor Electric Cooperative's 83rd Annual Meeting

April 21, 2022

Your Home's 5 Biggest Energy Hogs

A HOME'S HUNGRIEST energy consumers are the appliances left running all day or for days at a time. Here's a look at the top five electricity eaters and some tips on how to stave off their appetites:

The No. 1 home energy hog is the **heating system**. Ways to control your heater's energy consumption include using a programmable thermostat, upgrading to a more efficient unit, sealing ducts and replacing filters.

Next up is the **cooling system**. You can improve the efficiency of your air conditioner by having a technician service it every year, using a programmable thermostat and ensuring adequate attic insulation.

Third is the **water heater**, which can account for up to 12% of a home's energy bill. Actual energy demand for water heating depends on the model of water heater you have. Yet no matter the type of unit, these habits can help you conserve: taking quick showers, washing clothes in cold water, setting the water temperature to 120 degrees, insulating the storage tank and regularly draining sediment.

Next on the list are **dehumidifiers**, which typically run constantly to discourage mold growth and preserve stored items. To make sure your dehumidifier isn't wasting energy, close off the room where the machine is operating, set it at a reasonable level and consider upgrading to an Energy Star-certified model.

Fifth on the list—but still major power users—are **refrigerators** and **freezers**. Fridges generally are the top-consuming kitchen appliance, especially those that are a few decades old. Regardless of model, you can save energy by setting the temperature to 36–38 degrees for the refrigerator and zero to 5 degrees for the freezer, discarding freezer ice thicker than a quarter inch, checking seals, and cooling hot food before putting it inside. ■



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Notice of Deadline for a Place on the Election Ballot

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that applications for a place on the Board of Directors for Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc., regular election ballot may be filed during the following time:

Filing Dates and Times

Start Date: January 1, 2022

End Date: February 1, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.



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Let Your Home Be Bright—and Safe

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS brighten Christmas, but the National Fire Protection Association reports that holiday lights and other light-up decor are involved in an average of 160 house fires each year, causing millions of dollars in property damage. And 12% of home candle fires occur in December—1.5 times the monthly average.

Reduce the risk at your house this holiday season by keeping these important considerations in mind.

Lights

Unlike incandescent bulbs, which release most of their energy as heat, LEDs are cool to the touch—which also means they're more energy efficient. LEDs are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, and are much more durable.

When hanging lights outdoors, use a wooden or fiberglass ladder and keep well away from power lines.

Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed. An outlet timer can make this a cinch.

Never drape anything over a lightbulb or lampshade.

Avoid using candles. Consider using battery-operated candles in place of traditional flames.

If you need to use a candle, never leave it unattended. Keep burning candles within sight, and extinguish all candles before you leave the room or go to bed.

Place lighted candles well away from combustible material and areas where they might be knocked over. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.

Trees

When purchasing a live Christmas tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Cut 1–2 inches from the base of the trunk immediately before placing the tree in a stand and filling with water. This ensures water absorption.

Because heated rooms quickly dry out live trees, refill the stand daily.

When purchasing an artificial tree, make sure to check that it's fire resistant.

Don't use electric ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings.

Place your tree at least 3 feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.

When trimming a tree, only use noncombustible or flame-resistant materials. ■