

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

A Team to Drive Change

Every organization has a driving force which compels them toward continuous improvement. For some organizations it is shareholder profits. For others, it may be social impacts or political influence. For Taylor Electric Cooperative, our motivation comes from our Board of Directors who work to improve the lives of our membership. This elected group of seven individuals represent the membership and provides guidance and direction at Taylor Electric.

For those new to the co-op, our Board of Directors is comprised of seven individual

Guide and propel Taylor Electric into the future

members from our three cooperative zones. Each zone has two board members with an additional at-large board member, who serve a staggered three-year term. Board members attend years of training and receive certifications to further their cooperative knowledge as part of their duty. These representatives of the cooperative commit to spend several hours a month and many days a year ensuring that our cooperative continually seeks to improve the lives of our membership. As a collective, their mission is to not only ensure the best interest of our members but also to guide and propel Taylor Electric into the future.

Since the inception of Taylor Electric, the Board of Directors have worked to ready our co-op for the future. They have approved the direction to invest in technology, to improve our electric system and minimize outages. Years ago, they recognized the need to convert the co-op to smart meters, which increases efficiency and response times. Recently, the Board of Directors approved direction to enter into a pilot project to bring fiber to each member's home. Because of this direction, there

are over 4,500 members who have access to affordable, high-speed fiber internet. We are adding members every day to our network and recently just eclipsed 2,300 fiber subscribers! The Board and Senior Leadership thank you for putting your trust in us, we will not let you down.

The drive to further our cooperative services will not end with fiber internet. In the coming months we will be announcing additional services and programs designed to further improve our members' lives. We continue to research emerging technologies, seek insight from other cooperatives, and explore new procedures to improve productivity, reliability, and functionality.

Our Board of Directors is a team of forward-thinking individuals focused on improving the co-op. I am honored and humbled to serve such a dedicated board who works to improve the quality of life for our membership. If you happen to see one of our board members, please take a moment to thank them for their time and dedication to our cooperative. Our future looks bright and we are glad you are part of it!



CEO CORNER



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Taylor Electric
Cooperative
Annual Meeting**

April 22, 2021

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**Taylor Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

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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

For information and
to report outages,
please call us.

**Outage
Hotline**

LOCAL

(325) 793-8500

POWER TIP

Don't block the supply and
return air vents in your home
with furniture or by closing them
off. Blocking the vents makes
your heater work harder.

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fire with water. Water conducts
electricity and could fuel the fire
instead. Use a Class C fire extin-
guisher to stop electrical fires.

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HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

ONLINE

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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

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Nominating Committee To Meet February 16

Taylor Electric Cooperative's Nominating Committee will meet February 16 at 10 a.m. to select candidates for the board of directors ballot.

Committee members, who each represent a 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 82nd annual meeting, April 22.

Taylor EC Nominating Committee

Zone 1—Taylor County

Craig Bessent, Chairman, (325) 692-5937

Colleen Richards, (325) 829-7228

Zone 2—Callahan, Eastland, Jones and Shackelford counties

Tom Edd Johnson, (806) 928-8872

Ashley Thompson, (325) 529-6643

Dee Vinson, (325) 668-6096

Zone 3—Coke, Fisher and Nolan counties

Terry Locklar, (325) 320-6349

Jesse Mulanax, (325) 235-4278

Mary Ussery, (325) 798-3645





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5 Ways To Stay Cozy This Winter

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE! If you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.

2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.

3. When the sun is shining, harness the sunlight's natural warmth. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in. You'll feel the difference.

4. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by increasing your home's humidity, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.

5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate! ■

Storms Leave Behind Hazards

AFTER A STORM DELIVERS snow, ice, wind, freezing temperatures and power outages, do you know what to do?

Many hazards can remain after the storm departs. In addition to power outages, dangers can include downed lines, fallen tree limbs and other hazards obscured by snow.

Here are some steps to take to keep everyone safe as recovery begins:

- ▶ If your power is out, let your co-op know as soon as you're able.
- ▶ Check on neighbors and loved ones to make sure they're safe and warm.
- ▶ If you're using a secondary heat source such as a propane or kerosene heater or a fireplace, make sure you follow the manufacturer's safety instructions and take precautions against fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. Portable generators should be used only outdoors, well away from doors, windows and standing water.
- ▶ Stay indoors if possible, and use caution when venturing outside. Remember, downed power lines could be hidden under tree limbs or snow, and there is no way to tell if a line is energized. If you see downed power lines, stay away and keep others away. Notify your co-op as soon as possible. ■



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Get the Most Life Out of Lightbulbs

DOES IT SEEM LIKE your lightbulbs are not lasting as long as they should? After all, CFLs and LEDs are supposed to last longer than incandescent bulbs, right?

Not always.

Many conditions affect the life span of a lightbulb, and some situations can cause lightbulbs to burn out prematurely.

Here are nine ways to get the most life out of your bulbs.

1. Ensure that your voltage is at the right level. Residential voltage is typically 125 volts. Anything higher can cause your lightbulbs to burn brighter and die sooner.

2. Reduce vibrations in light fixtures. Ceiling fans with lights can become off balance, causing them to shake and put strain on the delicate filaments in incandescent lightbulbs. Fixing the imbalance should improve the life of the lights.

3. Make sure lightbulbs are tight in their sockets and that wire connections are well fitted to the fixture. Loose connections can cause lights to flicker and eventually burn out.

4. Consider a change of bulb. CFLs claim to have long life spans but will burn out more quickly if they are switched on and off frequently. Switching to an LED is optimal.

5. Check the socket tab. There are metal tabs at the bottoms of light sockets that deliver electrical current to lightbulbs. If a tab is tamped down, a good connection might not be possible anymore. To fix it, unplug the light fixture or turn off the power and bend the tab upward again with a utensil

such as a wooden popsicle stick.

6. Make sure it's not a short circuit. If a light goes out suddenly but not because of a burned-out bulb, there could be a short circuit in the wiring. A short occurs when electricity flows outside the wiring path, causing excess current. The sudden flow of current can make the breaker trip. The fix is to check for bad wiring or defective parts on the fixture.

7. Use the right bulb. Check the fixture for instructions on what wattage bulb to use. Especially with incandescent lights, it can be easy to insert a bulb with higher wattage than the fixture requires, generating excess heat that can wear a bulb out faster—and possibly start a fire.

8. Don't let fixtures overheat. When it comes to recessed lights, check the manufacturer's directions to determine whether insulation can be used above them. Using attic insulation can cause some recessed lights to overheat. This not only wears out the bulb but could also start a fire.

9. Verify that dimmers are right for the job. Older dimmer switches were designed to work with incandescent lightbulbs and may not function with LEDs or CFLs. If the bulbs on a dimmer switch burn out quickly, consider upgrading the rheostat to a modern design that accommodates newer bulbs. ■

Invest in Safety for Your Home Gym

IF YOU INVESTED IN A HOME GYM over the past year as a way to keep up with your workouts despite the COVID-19 pandemic or more recently to try to fulfill your New Year's resolutions, keep safety in mind.

Frequently inspect workout equipment. Look for signs of wear, such as cracks or chips in surfaces and fraying or tears in cables. Make sure that all clips and other safety features are in good working shape. If anything looks out of order, call a technician or consult the equipment's user manual for repair advice.

Carefully arrange equipment to avoid tripping hazards. Allow adequate space around machines to permit ease of movement, and avoid stringing wires or extension cords across walkways.

Keep your workout area tidy. Put free weights away on a rack instead of placing them on the floor, where they could become a tripping hazard. Be mindful of where you place water bottles and towels as well.

Use workout equipment as the manufacturer intended. Although it might be tempting to toss away the manual, it's a good idea to read the directions to understand proper function and safety precautions. Keep the manuals for reference.

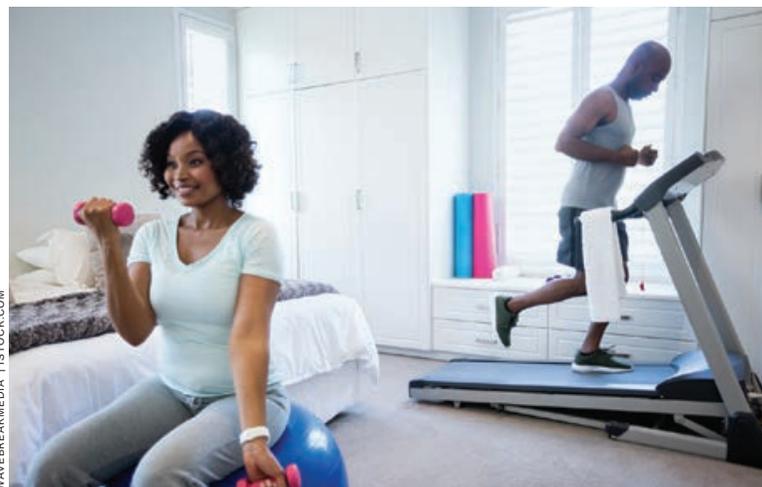
Clean equipment regularly. Sweat and dirt can build up on equipment, so take the time to clean and disinfect your home gym. The time spent cleaning is a good time to do your equipment inspection, too.

Have sufficient lighting to illuminate your workout area. This will help you identify risks, including equipment damage, buildup of dirt or tripping hazards.

Remember to pace yourself during your home workout routine. Don't overexert yourself and follow good practices for warming up and cooling down.

Wear appropriate workout attire just as you would in a public gym. Clothes made of breathable materials help prevent overheating. Shoes with proper structure and cushioning offer support. Weightlifting belts and gloves can help prevent injuries.

Keep children away from workout equipment, including powered devices and free weights. Make sure they know that the machines and equipment in your home gym are not toys and pose dangers to those not trained in their use. ■



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Fresh Peach Loaf

CAKE

- 2 cups flour
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups peaches, mashed
- ⅓ cup peach juice, reserved from mashed peaches

TOPPING

- ¼ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour a tube pan or a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.
2. **CAKE** Combine all cake ingredients in a large mixing bowl and beat thoroughly to combine. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.
3. **TOPPING** In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar and chopped pecans. Sprinkle the topping onto the cake.
4. Bake about 40 minutes, until the cake is springy to the touch and a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).