

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

Reflect and Honor During Military Appreciation Month

While enjoying Memorial Day festivities this month, I hope you will join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. I am especially humbled by those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy freedom.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and in the words of John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."

At Taylor Electric Cooperative, we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks, and we are proud to serve veterans and their families within our community. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we care about the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families through our work with Dyess Airforce Base and the Military Affairs committee. Visit taylorelectric.com/vets-power-us/ to learn more.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Taylor EC is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. As part of our national association of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13% of U.S. consumers,

there are countless programs that our family of electric co-ops has initiated.

The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. Electric cooperatives across the country work closely with military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but the month also holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Armed Forces Day.

Taylor EC is proud to be part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran—not just this month but every month.



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Save Electricity This Summer

WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRICITY, the less you use, the more you'll save. Here are some easy ways to cut down your use of electricity this summer.

Move lamps, the TV and all other heat-emitting electric appliances away from your thermostat. The heat can make the thermostat work harder to make the house cooler than it needs to be.

If you're still using incandescent lightbulbs, switch to LEDs. The newer bulbs emit almost no heat and use less electricity.

Set the air conditioning at 78 degrees. If you usually run it at 72 degrees, you can save on your cooling bill by letting the house stay a little warmer.

Plant trees outside windows on the sunny side of your house. The shade can save you money by blocking heat from the sun.

When you turn on your AC, turn on your ceiling fans too. Running them together will make your house feel 4 degrees cooler—so you can raise the thermostat by 4 degrees. Turn fans off when you leave a room.

Lower the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees. That will save you money, and it's safer than a higher setting.

Give your oven and stovetop a break on hot days. Use the microwave oven, a toaster oven or an outdoor grill instead, and you'll cut your energy use while avoiding extra heat in the house.

Early summertime is no time to coop yourself up indoors with your computer. Turn it off and enjoy the great outdoors. But don't leave the computer on when you walk away; unplug it or turn off the power strip it's plugged into.

Still don't have a programmable thermostat? It's time to get one. Choose a model that can automatically turn the AC up when you're not home and crank it back down before you return. ■

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

226 County Road 287, Merkel, TX 79536

P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536

Phone (325) 793-8500

Web taylorelectric.com

President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

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Check us out at
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3 Cutting-Edge Technologies To Save Energy at Home

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO traditional technologies are helping homeowners realize energy savings. Let's look at three promising products on the market today that keep power bills lower.

Refrigerators are essential for any modern home, and they typically use a good deal of energy to properly cool food. Reducing the amount of energy your fridge uses lowers your home energy consumption. One emerging technology that can save energy is magnetic refrigeration.

Most fridges use a traditional compressor to cool perishables, but magnetic refrigeration uses a magnetic field to cool food. This is possible through the magnetocaloric effect, which causes certain materials to cool down when a magnetic field is removed, creating a more efficient refrigerator that uses about 30% less energy than traditional fridges. Researchers and universities are working to improve this technology and bring more magnetic refrigerators into homes.

Choosing the right roofing material can make a huge impact on how much heat your home absorbs. Certain types of roofing reflect more sunlight than others, which can help to keep your home cooler—reducing your need for air conditioning. These “cool roofs” are designed to absorb less heat and reflect more sunrays than traditional roofs.

Cool roofs are lighter in color and use reflective paint, highly reflective tiles or a reflective sheet covering to achieve their effect. There are several types of cool roofs commercially available, and choosing the right type depends on your roof. Although cool roofs can block heat from entering your home, the overall heat savings you can achieve from roofing depends on your insulation, climate and other factors.

A heat pump clothes dryer can help reduce energy use by at least 28% compared to standard dryers. Instead of releasing warm and humid air through a vent outside the home, heat pump dryers work by sending humid air through an evaporator that removes moisture without losing too much heat.

These appliances don't require outside ventilation like standard dryers, which is a major efficiency benefit. And because these dryers use lower temperatures, they're gentler on clothes. Commercial brands like Whirlpool and Samsung sell Energy Star-certified heat pump dryers, and they typically cost \$900–\$1,500 depending on features. ■

Snazzy Peach Cake

- 1 can (15.25 ounces) sliced peaches in light syrup, undrained**
- 1 cup sugar**
- ½ cup peach schnapps (or orange juice)**
- ¼ cup orange juice**
- 1 package (2-layer size) yellow cake mix**
- 1 package (4-serving size) vanilla instant pudding and pie filling**
- 4 eggs**
- 1 cup chopped pecans**
- ⅔ cup vegetable oil**
- 1½ cups sifted powdered sugar**

1. In a bowl, combine undrained peaches, sugar, peach schnapps and orange juice. Cover and let stand at room temperature for 24 hours.

2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 10-cup fluted tube pan. Set aside. Drain peach slices, reserving liquid. Chop peach slices.

3. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, pecans, oil, chopped peaches and ⅓ cup reserved liquid. Stir together until well combined. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 40–45 minutes, or until a wooden toothpick inserted in the cake's center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove from pan. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine powdered sugar and ¼ cup reserved liquid. Drizzle over warm cake. Cool completely.

SERVES 12–16

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

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Celebrate Electrical Safety Month

IT'S MAY, AND Taylor Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is a top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety vigilance.

This year we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity causes more than 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International.

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips to safeguard your home.



In the Kitchen

- ▶ Vacuum your refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- ▶ Ensure all countertop appliances are away from the sink.
- ▶ Appliance cords should be away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- ▶ The area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the Way to Safety

- ▶ The wattage of the lightbulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to fires.
- ▶ Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition—not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- ▶ Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional electrical outlets installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be Prepared

- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- ▶ Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year—or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- ▶ Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route; they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Cinco de Mayo
Thursday, May 5

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 8

Memorial Day
Monday, May 30

Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.