

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

It's a Matter of (Co-op) Principles

All cooperatives, including Taylor Electric Cooperative, adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good.

October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time and provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Taylor EC was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. A group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

Key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well-suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Taylor EC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board members also live locally on co-op lines, and they have

been elected by neighbors just like you.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Taylor EC. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities.

Because we are guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members.

Taylor EC is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And that, by the way, sums up the seventh co-op principle, Concern for Community.



CEO CORNER



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Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out

SEVERE WINDS, LIGHTNING and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out any season of the year. We understand power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your fridge is stocked with perishable foods.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to take food safety measures to avoid illness.

Here are a few outage-related safety tips to keep in mind.

Before an Outage

It's always a good idea to keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars in your emergency kit.

If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice—just in case the outage spans several hours.

During an Outage

If an outage occurs, don't open the fridge or freezer unless absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours and a full freezer for about 48 hours. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

After an Outage

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, discard the items. If any foods have an unusual color, odor or texture, they should be thrown away.

Although most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40-plus degrees: properly wrapped hard cheese and butter or margarine; condiments like ketchup, mustard and relish; and peanut butter.

After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming and remember: When in doubt, throw it out. ■

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Leland Robinson, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 1

David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2

Garland Carter, Zone 2

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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.

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Weatherize Your Home for Winter

OCTOBER 30 MARKS Weatherization Day, a perfect time for a reminder about the many benefits of weatherizing your home as many Texans prepare for colder temperatures in the upcoming months.

Keep in mind a few tips from the Department of Energy for how to get the most out of weatherizing your residence, enhancing the comfort of your home and saving on your energy bills.

Assess your home's current energy use with a home energy assessment. A home energy audit is one of the best ways to gain a full understanding of the current status of your home, including how much energy it uses, where the inefficiencies may be and what areas to prioritize. Consider working with a professional or energy adviser from Taylor Electric Cooperative to provide a thorough analysis.

Consider ways to air seal your home as a cost-effective strategy to reduce air conditioning costs. As outside temperatures cool, gaps around doors and windows allow your home's heated air to escape. Caulking and weatherstripping are two ways to reduce the amount of air that leaks in or out of your home.

Identify the right ventilation plan for your residence. Ventilation is a critical part of making sure your home is as energy efficient as possible. Good ventilation controls moisture and reduces air leakage. Three ventilation options to consider, according to the DOE, are:

Natural ventilation, where air naturally leaks in and out of small cracks and holes in the home.

Spot ventilation, which provides ventilation by removing indoor air pollution and moisture through exhaust fans.

Whole-house ventilation, which provides uniform ventilation throughout the home using fans and a duct system to supply fresh air.

Check your eligibility for assistance from the DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program, which has provided weatherization services to low-income households since its inception in 1976. The program reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes. Visit the WAP page on [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov) for more information. ■

Prepare Kids for School Year Savings

EVEN IF THE DAYS of remote school are a semester or two behind you and the kids are leaving the house every morning as usual, your energy bills could still take a hit now that classes are in full swing.

That's because people are usually busier in the fall than they are during the summer.

Students are using the computer and printer more for homework assignments. Shorter days mean the lights go on earlier in the evening, and if your family wakes up earlier than the sun comes up, the lights go on again.

Plan for these changes to daily routines and energy use by teaching your children how to conserve electricity and create less waste overall. A few tips:

Teach your children how to put the computer into sleep mode when they're finished using it, even if they plan on returning later. Electronics in sleep mode use about 80% less electricity than when operating at full power.

In the market for new computer equipment this year? Computers with an Energy Star rating use 70% less electricity overall, while monitors bearing the label draw 90% less.

Desk lamps and other concentrated task lighting create a productive work environment without wasting excess light. If your desk lamps are older, replace their halogen or incandescent bulbs with LEDs, which fit most fixtures and produce less heat while using less electricity.

Bicycling or walking to school two days a week can save gas and give kids much-needed exercise now that summer days of play are over. If the commute is too far, organize a car pool with parents in your neighborhood to earn yourself a couple of mornings off.

Do a thorough inventory of school supplies to reduce waste before heading to the store. Supplies often come in bulk packages that won't run out before the end of the school year.

Buy reusable sandwich bags and use lunch boxes instead of brown bags to save money and reduce everyday packaging waste. ■



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Halloween Safety by the Letter

EVERYONE LOVES A good scare on Halloween but not when it comes to child safety. These tips will help make the festivities fun and safe.

Swords and costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.

Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

Fasten reflective tape to costumes or carry glow sticks to be easily seen.

Examine treats before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.

Always test makeup first and remove it promptly after coming home.

Look both ways before crossing the street. Use crosswalks wherever possible.

Lenses in the eyes or decorative masks can hinder vision or cause injury.

Only walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic.

Wear well-fitted costumes and shoes to avoid tripping and falling.

Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Don't eat homemade treats made by strangers.

Enter homes or accept rides only from those you know, never strangers.

Never walk near lit candles. Wear flame-resistant costumes. ■