

# CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,  
President / CEO

## Join Us for our Annual Meeting

One of my favorite events is coming up April 20th, when Taylor Electric Cooperative will host our annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event because it's a great opportunity for us to show just how much we appreciate our members.

We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting, which will take place at our Merkel Headquarters. Like last year, it will be a drive-through meeting. This is a time for our membership to see their cooperative in action and witness a little of the behind-the-scenes here at Taylor EC. Members can register, vote, receive their meal, and a gift all from their vehicles. For those who are unable to attend in person, we also offer a mail-in ballot option. Whether you attend in person or mail-in your vote, we thank you in advance for getting involved because your participation means so much to us.

I enjoy visiting with you and hearing your take on how we can better serve your needs. As CEO, and together with your Board of Directors, we use your feedback to help us set priorities for the co-op as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all Taylor EC members. It is with your input and support we have been able to establish and achieve long terms goals such as fiber internet and improving grid resiliency.

At Taylor EC, members have the unique opportunity to play an impactful role in the betterment of your local communities. Your membership means that we can donate to local volunteer fire departments, help area high school students with college scholarships, and give back to countless, local nonprofits. We're not just an electric utility; we're a co-op. We are built by and for our members and for the communities in which we operate.

Our core purpose and mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power. But, as a co-op we're also motivated by service to our community, rather than profits. We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for our 84th annual meeting on April 20th. We are honored to serve you and we look forward to seeing you soon!



# CEO CORNER



## SAVE THE DATE

### Taylor EC's 84th Annual Meeting APRIL 20

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## Mail-In Ballot Notice

**MEMBERS WHO CANNOT ATTEND** Taylor Electric Cooperative's annual meeting April 20 can cast their ballots through the mail. Each cooperative member is entitled to one vote.

Absentee ballots are available upon request. Call (325) 793-8500 to have a ballot sent to your home or business. You will receive a prepaid envelope for the ballot return. Absentee ballots can be requested beginning March 9 and must be postmarked by 5:30 p.m. April 6 to Taylor EC headquarters. Absentee ballots will be deposited in a secure ballot box, which will be opened by election administrators. ■

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Texas Independence Day**  
Thursday, March 2

**Daylight Saving Time**  
Sunday, March 12  
Set clocks forward one hour.

**St. Patrick's Day**  
Friday, March 17

**National Vietnam War Veterans Day**  
Wednesday, March 29

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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://taylorelectric.com)



Check us out at

[TexasCoopPower.com/taylor](http://TexasCoopPower.com/taylor)



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## Stay Safe During Windy Months

**THE OLD ADAGE**, “In like a lion, out like a lamb,” refers to March starting out stormy and ending calmly—and that includes wind patterns.

“Across most of the country, spring is the windiest time of the year,” according to a South Carolina weather forecaster’s blog. “Wind speeds and wind power tend to be [three to four] times stronger in March and April than in July and August. In the [Dust Bowl] days, most of the dust storms were in late winter and spring. That continues to be the case in the Plains today.”

High winds can blow objects around and present a threat to your safety. Understanding what to do before, during and after high winds can help you weather windstorms more safely. Consider these tips from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### Before Strong Winds

Trim tree branches away from your house. Call Taylor Electric Cooperative about tree branches that are too close to power lines.

Secure loose gutters and shutters.

Find an interior room of your house, such as a closet or bathroom, that you can take shelter in.

If you live in a mobile home, seek out a sturdy building where you can go when it’s windy.

Charge batteries of all essential items such as cellphones, booster packs and weather radios.

Secure any items that could blow away to avoid damage or injury once the wind starts picking up.

### During Strong Winds

Immediately go inside a sturdy structure and move to an interior room or basement.

Take shelter in your car if you are not near a sturdy building. If possible, drive to a nearby sturdy structure.

If no shelter is available, avoid trees and power lines.

If you’re driving and aren’t near a sturdy building, hold the steering wheel with both hands and slow down.

Keep a safe distance away from high-profile vehicles such as trucks, buses and vehicles towing trailers. One strong gust of wind can be enough to flip a trailer onto its side.

### After High Winds

Do not go near downed power lines. Report downed power lines to the police and Taylor EC.

Continue to listen to the local news and NOAA Weather Radio for updates following the storm. ■

# Breaking Down Energy-Saving Claims

**WHEN IT COMES TO** saving energy, it can be confusing to figure out what works and what doesn't. There are many wild claims out there, like adding devices to your meter, that are pure rubbish. But some claims have been repeated so many times that they start to ring true—even though they aren't. Let's set the record straight on a few of those.

**Q: Is it true that turning lights off and on uses more energy than just leaving them on?**

**A:** Not true. Turning off lights definitely reduces energy use. Turn off LED and incandescent bulbs every time you leave the room. The situation is a little different with compact fluorescent bulbs. Turning them off does save energy but can shorten the life of the bulb. The rule of thumb for CFLs is to turn them off any time they won't be used for 15 minutes or more.

**Q: Would replacing my old windows with new, more efficient ones really cut my energy use in half?**

**A:** No. While replacing inefficient windows with new, energy-efficient windows can cut heat loss through windows in half (or more), windows typically account for only about 25%–30% of your home's heating costs. The amount of energy you use for heating and cooling is likely one-third to one-half of your total energy use, so replacing your old windows might only reduce your total energy costs by about 10%.

**Q: My kids claim using the dishwasher is just as efficient as washing dishes by hand. Are they right?**

**A:** Yes—in fact, it's usually more efficient. Properly used dishwashers actually use less water while doing a better job, and they will save you more than 200 hours a year. For maximum savings, make sure your water heater is set to about 120 degrees and use the most efficient settings.

**Q: Should I close the vents in rooms that aren't being used?**

**A:** Most experts advise against this because closing supply registers forces your heater or air conditioner to work harder. If your system supplies too much cold or heat to some rooms and too little to others, talk to a professional about modifying your ductwork.

**Q: Does the age of my home determine how energy efficient it is?**

**A:** Newer homes tend to be more efficient because energy codes have improved, but any home can have hidden energy issues, no matter its age. If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your home, it's best to schedule an energy audit with a pro. ■



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## 5 Hacks To Get Better Performance From Kitchen Appliances

**DID YOU KNOW** the shape of a container affects how evenly food cooks in a microwave? Or that the order you add ingredients to a blender can make the appliance stall?

**Here are five neat facts that could make meal prep easier on you and extend the life of your countertop appliances.**

### 1. Use round dishes in the microwave.

Rectangular containers draw more energy to the corners, so the edges of food microwaved in those dishes can overcook. A microwave will heat food in a round container more evenly. Another hack: Don't salt your food before cooking. Salt attracts the microwave's energy, which can leave the salted top layer of leftovers dry.

### 2. Add liquid ingredients to the blender first.

Then, layer in the smallest ingredients first and work your way up to larger and tougher pieces, like ice. If you put the ice in first, your blender is likely to stall every few seconds.

### 3. Stop storing pots and pans in the oven's warming drawer.

That drawer, as its name suggests, is for keeping food warm while you're cooking the rest of your meal. Nonfood items stored in the warming drawer heat up every time you use the oven, which can ruin the finish and even harm your oven.

### 4. Use your microwave or Wi-Fi but not both at the same time.

Microwave ovens can slow down your internet signal. Save the Zoom calls and movie streaming for a time when you're not heating up food.

### 5. Remove labels from dishes before washing them.

It might seem that washing new glasses and plates in the dishwasher is a quick and easy way to remove price tags and labels, but the glue on those tags can clog the machine's filter and pump. Better to peel the stickers off by hand than to incur a dishwasher repair bill. ■