

# CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,  
President / CEO

## We're Here to Serve You

**W**e've all heard the phrase above countless times. The words may sound generic, but to us—your local electric cooperative—they mean everything.

Taylor Electric Cooperative was created to serve our community. More than 80 years ago, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good of the community. In our case, it was the only way to bring electricity to an area where there was none. In doing so, the co-op helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread woven throughout our history.

Today we continue to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, the current energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting—to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy adviser means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, check out our website for our Behind the Power page that offers tips and ideas to increase the efficiency of your home.

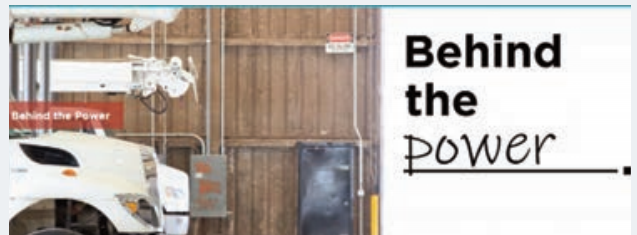
If you're considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisers are happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons for your specific

situation. Investing in solar power is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings.

Unlike a solar power company that has one objective—to sell their products and services—we look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home.

Many members also are considering electric vehicles. Taylor EC provides information to members about EV charging and electrical requirements so you can make informed decisions. We can provide a candid assessment of residential and business charging requirements for all types of EVs, and we offer ways to save on EV charging. No matter what our members drive, we want to help you achieve energy savings.

So the next time you hear your co-op use the phrase “we're here to serve you,” we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained in who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found new ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.



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## Take Control of Your August Energy Bills

HERE ARE FIVE EASY ways to minimize your energy use during one of the hottest months in Texas.

**Sun block.** Half of the heat that enters your home comes in through the windows. Invest in a thick shade or window film to block out the summer sun. Save on your cooling bill by shading west-facing windows, which absorb the most afternoon sun. For the hottest parts of your house, consider installing an awning or planting trees in front of the window to provide shade.

**Quick change.** A filter for your air conditioning system is inexpensive but can save you much more if you change it every month during the summer. Dirty AC filters hinder airflow and make the system work harder. That means a higher bill.

**One degree.** For every degree that you turn your thermostat up during AC season, you'll save a noticeable amount on your cooling costs. Try setting your thermostat at 78 degrees and turning on a ceiling fan to help circulate the air in occupied rooms.

**Wind chill.** Fans don't cool the air, but they make the air feel cooler by moving it around the room and against your skin, which creates a sort of wind chill effect. When a fan is spinning, you can move your thermostat 3–4 degrees higher without affecting your comfort.

**Cool touch.** Replace every incandescent lightbulb in your house with an LED version. The replacements cost more than incandescents at first but use less energy. They pay for themselves and then some over their lifetimes. Plus, they emit far less heat than incandescent bulbs, so they don't add heat to your home's air or make the AC work harder. ■

## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

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### President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### Board of Directors

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Leland Robinson, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 1

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Garland Carter, Zone 2

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## 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 located near the entrance of the building.

**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.

#### NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2023, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

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



Check us out at

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



## Save a Life: Avoid Distractions While Driving

THAT “DING” FROM your phone can be hard to resist. The alert of a call, text or notification produces a strong physiological reaction in most people.

Even when you’re driving down the highway.

We know we shouldn’t sneak a peek, but we’ve all made an exception. Just this once, right?

Why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and—in many places—illegal? Call it pride. According to American Automobile Association research, most people believe they’re better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, it’s a good time to remember the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take your attention off driving, which can make you miss critical events, objects and cues—potentially leading to a crash.

One of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,500 deaths annually, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting, talking on the phone, adjusting a navigation or entertainment system, eating and drinking, reading, grooming, and interacting with passengers. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five sec-

onds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

New technology in vehicles is causing us to become more distracted behind the wheel than ever before. Fifty-three percent of drivers believe if manufacturers put “infotainment” dashboards and hands-free technology in vehicles, they must be safe. Many drivers believe they’re making the safe choice by using a hands-free device. But in fact, these technologies still distract our brains—and continue to distract us long after we’ve used them.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. If you see co-op crews conducting work near the roadside, move over when possible, slow down and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Taylor Electric Cooperative, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with the young drivers in your life. They’re new to the roadways and may be especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: That text can wait, and waiting just might save a life. ■

## Post-Pandemic: Are You Still Using More Electricity?

**DURING THE PANDEMIC**, electricity use soared in many households as more parents worked from home and children attended their classes virtually. Even though the national emergency has been lifted, people are still spending more time at home than before.

When folks are home all day, they crank up the heat in the winter and lower the air conditioning in the summer instead of giving their HVAC systems an hourslong break when everyone is out of the house.

If you're still working at home and spending evenings indoors, consider adopting some energy-saving habits that will help lower your energy use.

The main goal: Waste less energy. Here are five tips:

**Unplug appliances when you're not using them.** Pull the plug on the TV in the spare bedroom that you rarely use. Detach your desktop computer once you're finished working for the day or use a power strip to shut down your entire workstation all at once. This prevents the constant drain of electricity through devices when they're not in use.

**Turn off the lights.** If any of your lamps or overhead fixtures still have incandescent bulbs in them, switch them to LEDs. Even then, turn them off whenever you leave a room, and teach your children to do the same.

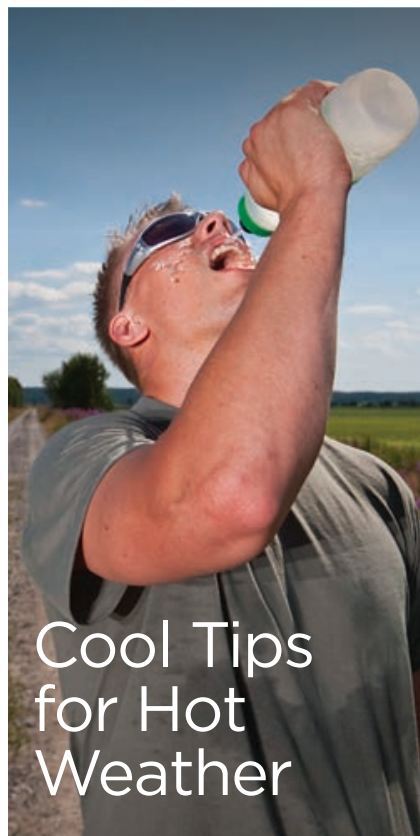
**An extra freezer or refrigerator** in the garage that's empty or nearly empty is one of the biggest energy-wasters in any home. Extra fridges are typically castoff, out-of-date models that use much more electricity than the modern version in your kitchen. Plus, they're often placed in uninsulated areas of your home, like the garage, where they have to work harder to stay cool.

**Don't run a half-full dishwasher.** Run it every other day if that's how long it takes to fill it.

**Trade in your thermostat for a programmable one.** That way, you won't have to remember to turn up the thermostat a few degrees before you leave. ■



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## Cool Tips for Hot Weather

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**It's another hot Texas summer—time to enjoy all the outdoors has to offer. While in the heat, pay attention to your body so you can enjoy each day. Follow these tips to keep your cool:**

**Take frequent** cooling-off breaks in the shade or air conditioning.

**Drink plenty** of water before starting any outdoor activity and during the day, and avoid caffeine and alcohol.

**Wear** lightweight, loosefitting, light-colored clothes.

**Kids, cars and heat** make a deadly combination. Never leave a child—or pet—in a vehicle, even for just a few minutes.

**If someone** exhibits symptoms of a heatstroke, act rapidly: Remove excess clothing and lower the person's temperature with wet sheets or a cool bath. Get them to the nearest hospital.

**Taylor EC encourages you to always practice safety.**