CEO CORNER

Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

Reliable Power for Today and Tomorrow

Our team at Taylor Electric Cooperative is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our community. You may not realize it, but Taylor EC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Taylor EC is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering infrastructure technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps us save money with real-time data and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. Using systematic pole and vegetation inspections, we can accurately monitor and identify potential problems and correct them prior to any large events which allows us to reduce labor and equipment costs while bolstering reliability.

As technological advancements become more accessible, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Texas and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

Rest assured Taylor EC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.

CEO CORNER

Taylor EC's 85th Annual Meeting
APRIL 18

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Nominating Committee To Meet February 20

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S NOMINATING committee will meet at 10 a.m. February 20 to interview and approve nominees 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 85th annual meeting.

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

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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 located near the entrance of the building.
Abilene office next to first door on the left .
Payments credited next business day.

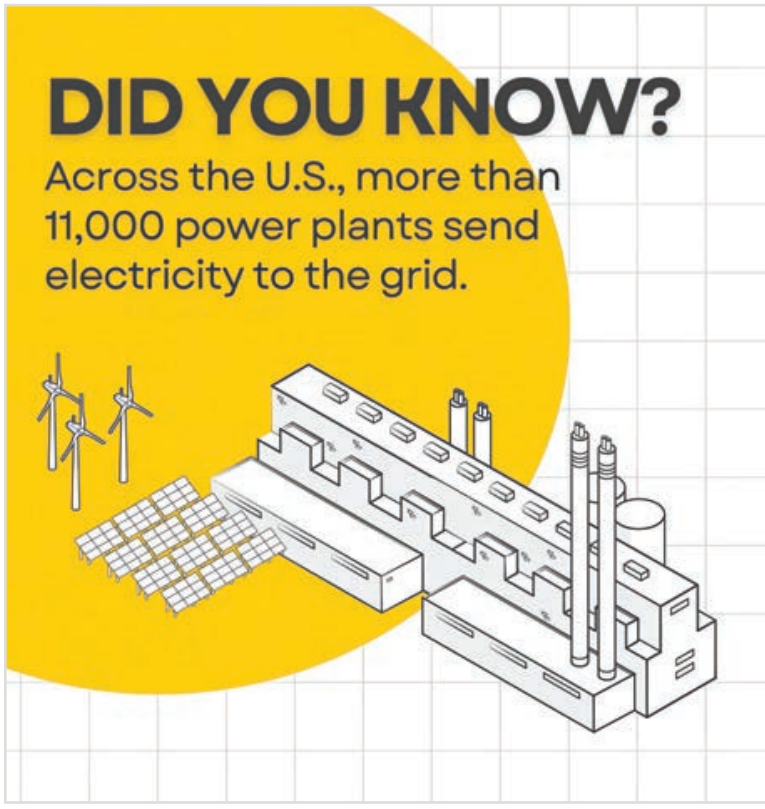
PAY STATIONS
- Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene
- United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene
- Check Express, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Payments credited next business day.

NOTICE
Effective June 1, 2024, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

VISIT US ONLINE
taylorelectric.com

Check us out at TexasCoopPower.com/taylor



ABBY BERRY

A Beginner's Guide to the Electric Grid

ELECTRICITY PLAYS an essential role in everyday life.

It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for power is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that span the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators or regional transmission organizations monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants—factories that produce electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, the sun, wind and nuclear energy. Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Taylor Electric Cooperative receives power from our generation and transmission co-op. We work closely with it to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development, and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system.

High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

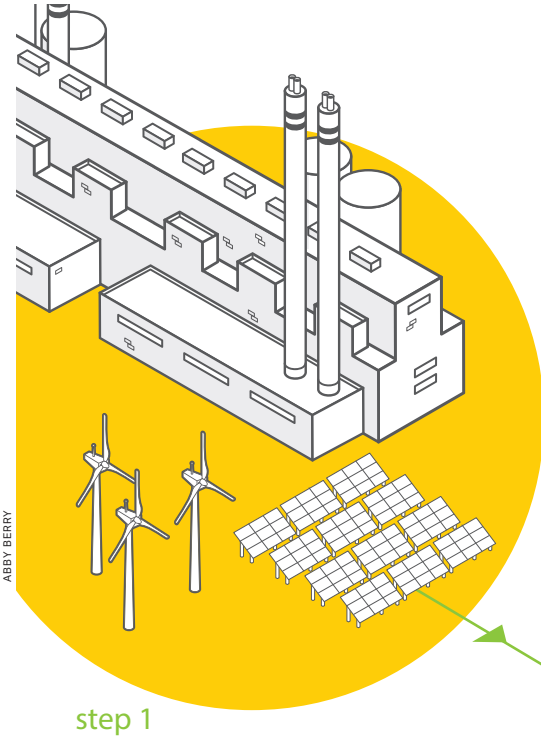
Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you—to power everyday life.

We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider. From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine—and one of our nation's greatest achievements. ■

CRITICAL CONNECTIONS: HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU

The electric grid is considered one of the most complex machines in the world, delivering the electricity we need for everyday life.

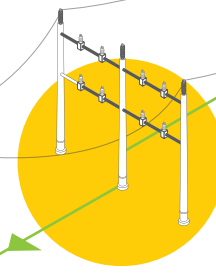


ABBY BERRY

step 1
GENERATION
Power plants generate electricity using a variety of energy sources, like solar, natural gas, nuclear and wind energy.

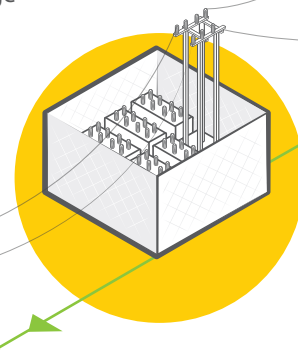
step 2
STEP-UP TRANSFORMER
A step-up transformer increases the voltage to push the electricity over long distances.

step 3
TRANSMISSION LINES
High-voltage electricity travels over long distances through these lines.

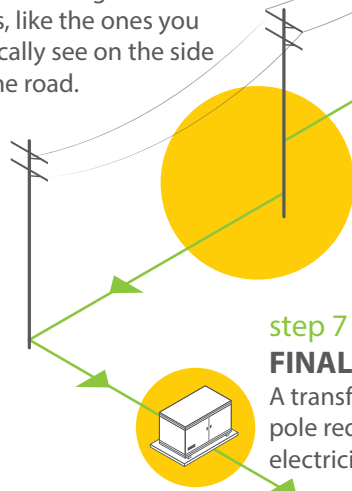


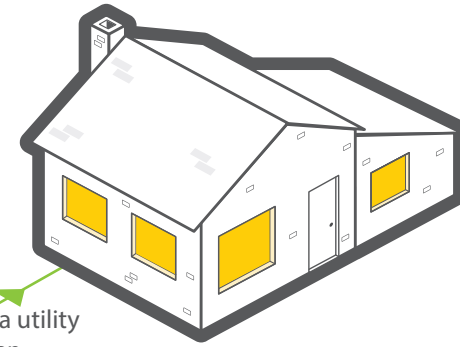
step 4
TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION
Voltage is lowered at a transmission substation so electricity can travel across the local distribution system.

step 5
DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION
These substations lower the voltage again so the electricity is ready to travel on distribution lines.



step 6
DISTRIBUTION LINES
Lower-voltage electricity travels through distribution lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road.





step 7
FINAL STOP
A transformer located on the ground or a utility pole reduces the voltage a final time, then electricity is sent inside your home, school or business.

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative