



MESSAGE  
FROM  
PRESIDENT/  
CEO

**RYAN  
BARTLETT**

# Grid Investments Payoff Down the Line

AS YOUR LOCAL power provider, Taylor Electric Cooperative's mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, warm home and business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid—through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades and the integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently. Much of the

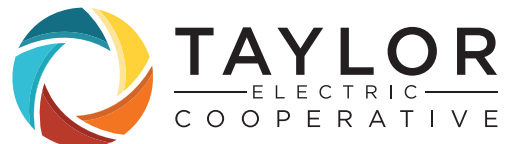


energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community. The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members expect. Strategic upgrades are essential to ensure we can meet these needs today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new tools and technologies are improving our processes. Smart meters and advanced monitoring systems allow us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages and provide real-time data that helps us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently.

Implementing innovative technologies is not just a convenience—it's a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape. While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it. Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life—from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our community means preparing for the future—not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we're building the foundation for a brighter and more resilient tomorrow.





**SAVE THE DATE**

**Taylor EC's 87th Annual Meeting**

April 16, 2026

**VOTE BY MAIL**



## Mail-In Ballot Notice

**MEMBERS WHO CANNOT** attend Taylor Electric Cooperative's annual meeting April 16 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's return. Absentee ballots can be requested beginning March 2 and must be postmarked by 5:30 p.m. April 2 to Taylor EC headquarters. Absentee ballots will be deposited in a secure ballot box, which will be opened by election administrators.

## 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

Kathryn Rainey, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 3

David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2

Craig Bessent, Zone 1

Garland Carter, Zone 2

Richard Petree, At-Large

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 near the entrance of the building.

**Abilene** office next to the first door on the left.

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](http://taylorelectric.com)



Check us out at

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



# SEVERE WEATHER: ARE YOU READY?

**Lightning strikes kill more Americans than tornadoes or hurricanes.**

**Don't take chances with this deadly force of nature.**

## **Follow these safety tips during stormy weather:**

Go inside a building and stay away from windows and doors.

Avoid electric appliances and metal plumbing and stay off the phone.

Do not seek shelter under a tree—they are easy targets.

Move to low ground and avoid open fields.

Whether at a beach or in a swimming pool, get out of the water immediately.

Do not touch metal objects, such as golf clubs or bicycles.

Inside a car is relatively safe, but do not touch interior metal.

If your hair stands on end, you may be a target. Crouch low on the balls of your feet and keep your knees and hands off the ground.

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



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## Do I Really Need To Call?

**IF YOU PLAN** to dig, yes! Don't make a judgment call; make an 811 call. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a phone call—even small projects.

### **I'm only planting a small flower bed or bush.**

Many utilities are buried just a few inches below ground. You can easily hit a line when digging for simple gardening projects, like planting flowers or small shrubs. Make the call to 811 anytime you're putting a shovel in the ground to help keep yourself and your community safe.

### **I'm just installing a mailbox.**

Buried utility lines are everywhere. Installing mailboxes and fences are examples of projects that absolutely require a call to 811 to know what's below before digging. Hitting a line can knock out service to your home and neighborhood or result in fines, damage and serious injury.

### **I'm digging in a spot that was previously marked.**

Erosion and root system growth can alter the depth and location of buried lines, or your utility companies might have completed work on their lines since the last time you dug—so you must call 811 before you dig—each and every time.

### **I hired a contractor or landscaper to do the digging project.**

Be sure to check with your contractor or landscaper to make sure the call to 811 is made before digging begins—whether you make the call or your contractor does. Never let digging begin without calling 811. It's not worth the risk.

### **I'm only digging in a small area and don't want my entire yard marked.**

If you're planning to dig only in a small portion of your yard, you can outline the area with white paint or white flags available at home improvement stores to ensure that only the utilities in that part of your yard are located and marked. Let your 811 operator know about your plans, and they will help ensure the proper area is marked by utility locators. ■



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Daylight Saving Time Begins**  
Sunday, March 8  
Set clocks forward 1 hour.

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

**First Day of Spring**  
Friday, March 20

**National Ag Day**  
Tuesday, March 24

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

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