



Pine to Prairie News



HQ Construction Progress

Construction is progressing well on the new headquarters building. Foundation work is complete and the exterior walls are up. The trusses are being placed, with the roof following. We are getting closer to the building being sealed up from the elements! The project timeline is on schedule and on budget.



Call Before You Dig

If you are planning a digging project it is your responsibility to notify *Gopher State One Call* (GSOC) at least 48 hours in advance of digging, excluding weekends and holidays.

GSOC is the one-call notification system that informs Minnesota underground facility operators like Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative of intended excavation. GSOC transmits the information about the area in question to TWEC and other utilities with underground facilities. TWEC will locate its underground electrical wire up to the electric meter.



You are responsible for locating any underground private utilities (all wires that are after meter to your home or other buildings on your property). Private utilities include, but are not limited to, underground electric service to outbuildings, electric fence, sprinkler systems, septic system, etc. — you will need to make arrangements with a private utility locator to mark these.

Call 811! It's the law!

JULY 1ST

JUNE 1ST

Serving You During COVID-19

Cooperatives are based upon principles – seven, to be exact. The seventh principle is Concern for Community. Today, this is as important as ever as our community deals with the economic impact of COVID-19. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is working diligently to continue to maintain safe, reliable electric service and to keep rates low. Here are a few ways your cooperative is serving you during this challenging time:



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO

TWEC Member Services and Finance Department employees have continued to work, albeit remotely for a period of time, to serve our members with quality service. They are processing billing statements and payments in a timely manner and providing our member services offerings. TWEC's Operations Department is out in the field daily to quickly act to restore power and provide operational support for construction work plans, new services, and routine maintenance of our distribution plant.

TWEC suspended disconnects and penalty fees for over three months to help our members who are struggling to pay their electric bills. Our Finance Department is working hard to contact members and find a way to resolve arrearages for each member's individual situation.

We offer several energy saving programs to help members save money each month. By opting into our dual fuel, interruptible air conditioning, or water heating programs, you can reduce the amount of energy you use. In addition to energy efficiency, these programs offer savings on your energy rate that will save you money on your electric bill.

Residential rebate programs are available with the purchase of new higher efficiency appliances, such as refrigerators, dryers, air source heat pumps, or electric heating systems, which also results in savings on a monthly basis.

We did work very closely with fuel assistance agencies to ensure those who needed help paying their bills were able to receive funds that the state set aside for this purpose. Please visit our website to find the appropriate agency for your county.

Rest assured that we will continue to serve our members during this difficult time and into the future. Our lineworkers are out in the field daily, and our staff is available to help members. It is our pleasure to continue to provide you with excellent service in all circumstances.

This is **The Cooperative Difference**. Todd-Wadena is owned by those we serve – our members. The Cooperative's Board and staff focus on the local needs of our members and our communities. Our number one goal is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO

Board Minutes

Highlights from the May 28th, 2020, regular board meeting:

- TWEC's 2021 Annual Meeting date has been set for April 20th, 2021.
- Kristine Spadgenske nominated Kristine Hendrickson as her delegate for the Community Trust Board (Operation Round Up). The nomination was approved.
- An update was provided on the headquarters building progress. The underground work is almost complete and a level 3 generator has been purchased.
- CEO Dan Carlisle discussed the cooperative's continued approach during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- "Cooperative Policies: 100 – Board Policies and 200 – Finance and Accounting Policies" were reviewed and approved by the board, with changes.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the April financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 1.7 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 0.4 percent under budget. April's purchased power expense was 1.2 percent over budget. Tier is 2.33 and Equity is 43.88. Financial projections based upon COVID-19 scenarios were also shared.
- The capital credit allocation for fiscal year 2019 was approved.
- Member Services Manager Allison Uselman shared updates on the receiver change out affidavit fees and Home Serve.
- The Economic Alliance has been working diligently on supporting the area during the pandemic. A team has been developed between the Alliance, the Staples Economic Development Association, and the Todd County Economic Development Association.
- Board Member Mike Thorson presented the Great River Energy (GRE) report. GRE's Board of Directors voted in favor of closing Coal Creek Station.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel updated the board on legislative matters, confirmed the affidavit receiver change out fee change, and discussed the Eco Act. He also shared information on the solar rooftop options for Xcel customers, local business Hub 71 installing electric vehicle chargers, and reminded directors to continue the Know B4 trainings.

Concern for Community By Marie Katterhagen

Cooperatives are based on seven guiding principles. The seventh principle is *Concern for Community*, defined as contributing to the sustainable development of our community. At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC), this is evident at many levels. A primary example is *Operation Round Up*, where members choose to have their electric bills rounded up to the nearest dollar and the money is distributed by a Trust Board to support local community projects and organizations. TWEC is also active with its own Economic Development program, in addition to supporting other local programs to help give opportunity for development in our territory.

Concern for Community comes in all forms of volunteering and helping our neighbors near and far.



The operating room will have three to four surgeries happening at the same time.

Personally, last January I completed my ninth surgical mission trip to the mountainous regions of Guatemala to provide medical care to indigenous people who have no access to medical care.

It takes two days to travel to the abandoned facility where we set up our surgical area, with three to four surgeries going on in one room. All the tables, sterilizers, instruments, and beds are trucked up with us. People are lined up on the roads for days hoping for a chance to get themselves or their families needed medical care and greet us as we arrive!

During our five days at the facility, we touch the lives of close to 2,000 medically through surgery, dental, and medical clinic teams. The dental and medical teams also go out into the villages and set up clinics. We complete approximately 130+ surgeries during this time. It is humbling to assist with routine cases, taken for granted in the U.S., that are lifesaving procedures

in Guatemala. Patients sit in a “waiting room” in the hallway knowing they may be there from morning to night waiting their turn, yet they don’t complain and only show gratitude. It is heart wrenching to watch them enter the operating room and pray to their God and over our hands; and then put their trust in foreigners. We are blessed to live in a country where there is easy access to medical care.

We also have a stove team that installs self-contained wood stoves with chimneys. These replace the open pit fires many Guatemalans have in their homes. They help reduce burns, especially to the children. The stoves also reduce carbon exposure in the homes, which helps improve life expectancy. In Guatemala, it is common to spend much of the day gathering wood. Approximately 120 stoves are installed each trip, reducing the amount of wood needed by 60 percent. Our stove teams are the proudest when they can say they created carbon-free homes and a smoke-free village in our world.

As a member of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, the seventh cooperative principle applies to all of us. Concern for Community is evident in how our TWEC directors and staff are actively involved in the betterment of our community. Opportunities to serve are everywhere and the rewards are endless. I would encourage you to always be open to the opportunities in front of you.

For more information on Guatemala, visit www.helpsintl.org.



A typical home in Guatemala.

From now through July 31st, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members can enjoy 50% off select LED bulbs at the EnergyWise Minnesota online store!

Happening Now!
50% OFF
 Standard LED Bulbs



Shop now at: www.energywisemnstore.com

Choosing the Right Bulb

LIGHT BULB OUTPUT: How Much Light Do You Need?

The brightness of traditional incandescent bulbs has always been identified by its wattage. However, the **Watt** is a measure of power consumption and not brightness. The term that provides a true measure of the light output of a bulb is the **Lumen**. The higher the lumen number, the brighter the light. The table to the right will help you compare lumen output of standard wattage incandescent bulbs to halogen, CFL, and LED bulbs.

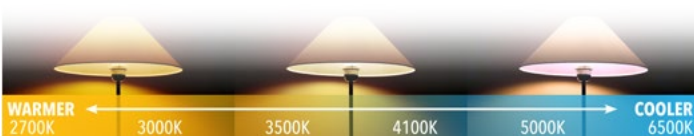
LUMENS	450	800	1100	1600
Standard Incandescents	40W	60W	75W	100W
New Halogen Incandescents	29W	43W	53W	72W
CFLs	9W	14W	19W	23W
LEDs	4-8W	8-13W	11-15W	16-20W

LIGHT APPEARANCE: What Color of Light Do You Want?

Incandescent lighting is usually described on its packaging as soft-white or warm-white. The **Kelvin (K)** scale rating is a more accurate measure that identifies the light appearance or light color a bulb provides. Incandescent bulbs produce light at 2700K and LED bulbs can produce light of the same warm, inviting color.

Be sure to check the **Lighting Facts** label for a Light Appearance rating of 2700K if you want to keep the look of your current incandescent lighting. LED bulbs with higher Kelvin ratings provide a cooler, or more similar to daylight, appearance. Some people prefer a cooler appearance for task lighting or in rooms like kitchens and offices.

With most LED bulbs having a **Color Rendering Index (CRI)** above 80, they also can do an excellent job of portraying the true color of objects in a room.



LIGHTING FACTS: Read the Label to Get the Bulb You Need

Brightness: It is very important to make sure the lumen rating of a bulb provides the brightness you need. In this example, 800 lumens is the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb.

Estimated Yearly Energy Cost: LED bulbs have the lowest operating cost and will save you money and energy for years.

Energy Star: This logo means the bulb meets Energy Star's requirements for efficiency, expected life, and quality.

Life: A long life ensures that a high-efficiency LED bulb will pay for itself over time.

Light Appearance: 2700K will provide the warm hue and appearance most people are familiar with. Bulbs that produce a cooler or whiter light will have a higher rating—usually 3500K and over.

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	800 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$1.14
<small>Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use</small>	
Life	22.8 years
<small>Based on 3 hrs/day</small>	
Light Appearance	2700 K
<small>Warm ← → Cool</small>	
Energy Used	9.5 watts

A/C Tune-up Rebate

Todd-Wadena offers a \$25 rebate for air conditioner and air source heat pump (ASHP) tune-ups! See if you qualify for this opportunity to keep your equipment running at top level!



- 1) Hire a local contractor (members qualify for a tune-up rebate every 2 years).
- 2) After completing the tune-up, have your contractor fill out the contractor portion of the coupon below.
- 3) Complete the member portion of the coupon.
- 4) Return the coupon to Todd-Wadena, along with a copy of the contractor invoice.

Member Information

Member name: _____
 Account number: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Contact phone number: _____
 Account number: _____

I certify that the items for which I am claiming a rebate are qualifying items and are installed at the address listed above and that this address represents a valid Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative account.

Member signature: _____

Mail to: Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative
 ATTN: Mary Williams
 P.O. Box 431
 Wadena, MN 56482

Contractor Information (to be filled out by HVAC tech)

Equipment brand: _____
 Model number: _____
 Serial number: _____
 Approximate age of unit (years): _____
 SEER rating: _____

I certify that I have completed the following on this unit:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean condenser coil | <input type="checkbox"/> Test all controls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check coolant level | <input type="checkbox"/> Check furnace filter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check coolant pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Check belt, if needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blow out drain lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Lube motor, if needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visually inspect entire system | <input type="checkbox"/> Educate homeowner on system operation |

Contractor signature: _____

Contractor company: _____



Last Chance for Air Source Heat Pump Rebates!

Promotion runs through
 July 31st, 2020.

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
Delivered fuels	\$300	\$450*
Electric heat	\$500	\$750*
*Minimum HSPF ≥ 9.0		

- Rebates only apply to new systems purchased and QI installed (visit www.toddwadena.coop to find a QI installer in your area)
- ASHP must be Energy Star Rated
- All rebate paperwork must be submitted by July 31st, 2020

- Must be Energy Star Rated
- For new systems purchased and installed during rebate time frame
- All rebate paperwork must be submitted by July 31st, 2020

Now Offering Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heating Program!

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative’s new ETS water heating program lowers energy costs by heating water during off-peak hours (10 p.m. – 6 a.m.), when electric costs are the lowest. The program includes the super-efficient Marathon brand water heater and stores enough hot water during the off-peak period to provide hot water from storage to use during the 16-hour on-peak portion of the day. The ETS water heating program is recommended for smaller households.

When enrolling in the program, members receive an 85-gallon Marathon water heater, valued at over \$1,100, for just \$330*. A larger, 105-gallon Marathon water heater is available for \$420*. Members who have a large capacity 80 gallon or more tank or a two-tank system also qualify for the program. A separate meter is required for the ETS water heating program. TWEC provides the socket, and members need to contact their electrician to wire.

Members enrolled in the ETS water heating program will also receive a special storage heat rate of 4.3¢/kWh for water heating and a \$2 monthly meter fee is added to the bill as long as the member is enrolled in the program. Members must remain on ETS water heating program or peak shaved water heating program.

* New program enrollment only.

Marathon Water Heater Features

- Innovative shape and design
- Tough molded outer shell resists dents and scratches
- Seamless, blow-molded polybutylene tank that’s impervious to rust and corrosion
- Envirofoam insulation free of ozone-depleting CFCs and HCFCs, so it saves the planet and saves energy



How does ETS compare to Peak Shave?

	ETS Water Heating	Peak Shave Water Heating
Control Hours	Controlled daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.	When cost of electricity is at its highest—usually 3-4 hours a couple times a month
Savings	Low rate of 4.3¢/kWh for water heating	\$8/mo rebate after on program for five years (three years if switching from gas)
Marathon Water Heater Cost	\$330 for 85-Gallon (\$1,100 value) \$420 for 105-Gallon	

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter “home energy yardstick” in the search box to get started!



Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Local Projects Receive Grants

Giving back to the community we serve is a core cooperative principle. The Operation Round Up program from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is a great way for the co-op and its members to give back.



Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative’s Community Trust Board recently met and awarded eight Operation Round Up grants to local non-profit organizations, totaling \$11,700.

Organization	Amount
MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership Inc	\$1,000
Menahga Bird Busters	\$1,000
Staples All Veterans & Community Park Association	\$2,500
Staples Motley Beyond Poverty	\$1,000
Staples-Motley ISD #2170	\$1,000
Todd County Council on Aging	\$1,000
Todd County Sheriff’s Office K9 Program	\$2,500
Verndale Area Food Shelf	\$1,700
Total	\$11,700

Funds for the Operation Round Up program come from participating Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members who allow their monthly electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the change allocated to a Community Trust Fund. The average donation is less than 50 cents a month, yet together, members raise and donate approximately \$29,000 annually to community service projects in the area.

Since the program’s inception in 2002, Todd-Wadena members have raised and donated more than \$541,000 for more than 710 local community projects.

Todd-Wadena’s Operation Round Up grant applications are reviewed and recipients selected three times a year by a seven-member volunteer Community Trust Board. **The next application deadline is September 15th.**

Local, nonprofit community groups may apply for Operation Round Up grants by calling the office at (800) 321-8932 or by downloading an application from our website at www.toddwadena.coop.

CO-OP STRONG

DRIVE THROUGH LUNCH ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 2020

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Lakes College
1830 Airport Road, Staples (south parking lot)

*Drive through the south parking lot at the Central Lakes College (CLC) campus in Staples for a free lunch! We will be serving pulled pork, chips, and water in an insulated lunch bag. The event is put on by **Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative** and **West Central Telephone Association**.*

WE APPRECIATE OUR MEMBERS!

Phone Scam Alert

A Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative member reported receiving a call from a person claiming to represent TWEC or their power company. The caller threatened to pull the member’s meter unless the member made an immediate payment on their account. **THIS IS A SCAM.** If you receive one of these calls, hang up and contact us at (800) 321-8932 or (218) 631-3120 to verify your account status and report the scam.



Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for
members and friends of



TODD-WADENA
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.toddwadena.coop

Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm
Monday - Friday

Telephone: (218) 631-3120 or
(800) 321-8932

Email: todd-wad@toddwadena.coop

Address: 550 Ash Avenue NE
P.O. Box 431
Wadena, MN 56482

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Miles Kuschel, Chair
Tom Brichacek, Vice Chair
Marie Katterhagen, Secretary
Dale Adams, Treasurer
Michael Thorson, Director
Gene Kern, Director
Kristine Spadgenske, Director

Daniel Carlisle, President/CEO

LOCAL ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Todd County:

Troy Bak (320) 760-1017

Wadena County:

Gary Zacharias (218) 631-1392

District 5 (Todd County):

Mark Hunter (320) 616-5574

District 6 (Wadena County):

Sheldon Monson (218) 689-3260


If your electric power goes out:

First, make sure the problem is not on your side. (*Members may be billed for service calls if the problem is caused by their own equipment.*) Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and by the meter pole. (*Call us for help, if necessary.*)

Second, check with your neighbors to see if they have power. Then call Todd-Wadena to report the problem. Give your name and account number. Then report any tree branches, twisted wires, broken poles, and whether or not your neighbors are also out of power.

Before digging call:

Gopher State One-Call
811 or (800) 252-1166

Find us on  

www.facebook.com/toddwadanaelectriccooperative
www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

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July Reader's Contest

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 25TH, 2020.

For your chance to be entered in a drawing to win a **\$10 credit** on your bill, correctly answer the questions and include with your TWEC bill. Mail to TWEC, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482. Or email the answers to kvandeventer@toddwadena.coop with the subject line "Reader's Contest". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address.

1. TWEC and WCTA will be hosting a drive-through lunch on August 14th in _____.
2. The term that provides a true measure of the light output of a bulb is the _____.
3. If you are planning a digging project it is your responsibility to notify _____ *State One Call*.

Name:

Your TWEC Service Address:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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**Congratulations to Eugene Grack
of Browerville, the June reader's
contest winner.**

