



## October is Co-op Month

We have a fun month lined up here in October to celebrate *National Co-op Month*. Check out all the fun below!

### CO-OP MONTH TRIVIA

Follow us on Facebook for *Co-op Month Trivia*. Each Wednesday in October, a new question will be posted to win a prize or energy credit.

### READER'S CONTEST

This month we will select **FIVE** *Reader's Contest* winners from this issue (see back page for more info).

*Hey Kids!* Get out your crayons and do your best job coloring this fall coloring page for a chance to win a prize! We are holding a coloring contest for co-op kids, 2-10 years.



DOWNLOAD THE COLORING PAGE AT  
[www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop)

Deadline is October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please drop your completed coloring sheet off at the cooperative or email a photo to [mbrservices@toddwadena.coop](mailto:mbrservices@toddwadena.coop).

## Pancake Breakfast/EV Ride & Drive a Success

Over 400 members attended the *Pancake Breakfast/EV Ride & Drive* event that took place on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Tours of the new headquarters were given to over 120 members.

Members had the opportunity to test drive or ride in an electric vehicle (EV), and talk to Todd-Wadena EV owners! They could also demo the Makita yard tools that were on display. Many kids enjoyed the lineworker activities and bounce house obstacle course.



# Cooperatives Build Community

The cooperative business model has a history of building community from the ground up. Nearly a century ago when utilities chose not to serve rural areas of America, it was farmers and ranchers who banded together to create the electric cooperatives that would power not only their homes and businesses, but also create opportunities for the communities they live in.

That's because while the main product electric co-ops like Todd-Wadena supply is energy, that isn't our sole business purpose. More than just power lines, cooperatives build jobs, trust, and communities. We work to improve the quality of life for the members we serve; donate time, energy, and resources to organizations that help those in need; and take a leadership role in community development projects.

In addition to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to members, electric cooperatives adhere to seven guiding principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusion, and service to the greater good of the community.

For example, Todd-Wadena employees have the option to participate in a Community Ambassador Program where they volunteer for local organizations they are passionate about. We support our local 4H group with a t-shirt contest and supply custom t-shirts for all participants. We have an economic development program with



several options to provide and coordinate loans for small businesses in our community. We also donate to many organizations such as Warming Hearts, community celebrations, healthcare, schools, fire departments, and more.

Members have the opportunity to join us in contributing to the success of our community by participating in Operation Round Up. This voluntary program rounds up your electric bill to the next dollar, with the change collected in a trust fund until it is disbursed to a variety of charitable, educational, community, and youth-related programs and events.

Being a member of TWEC means so much more than getting your electricity. You can be proud to be a part of an organization that cares for and supports our community.



**Daniel Carlisle**  
President/CEO &  
General Counsel

## Board Minutes

**Highlights from the August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, regular board meeting:**

- Chad Felstul, Pemberton Law Firm, led an RUS Loan discussion. The board approved the Resolution Authorizing the Federal Financing Bank Loan.
- Representatives from Great River Energy (GRE) joined the meeting remotely to discuss transmission congestion and the effect it is having on the monthly power cost adjustment (PCA) reflected on the Cooperative's power bill.
- CEO Dan Carlisle provided an update on projects completed by TWEC's security committee. Three sub-committees (Cyber/IT, Building/Grounds, and Personal/Physical) are diligently assessing and improving the Cooperative's security in their respective areas.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the July financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 16 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 10 percent over budget. July's purchased power expense was 15 percent over budget. Tier is 1.24 and Equity is 43.69.
- Member and Energy Services Manager Allison Uselman shared the list of names for the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee. The board approved the committee as presented.
- Operations Manager Todd Miller discussed the numerous storms and outages that affected the Cooperative during the month of August. Miller also shared with the board that he is certified to conduct RESAP testing at other cooperatives.
- Graba-Meech noted the recent Cold Weather Rule (CWR) changes that will go into effect this year. The CWR has extended its timeline from October 1 to April 30; disconnect notices have been extended to a 30-day notice; and the finance department will now report additional information to the Department of Commerce and Energy Assistance Agency.
- The board approved a motion to have all capital credit payments for active members be applied directly to their energy bill.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE report. July financials were again very strong this past month.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel gave a recap from the Energy Issues Summit. Key topics included: IT security, microgrids, data analytics, and cooperative value.

**Daniel Carlisle**  
President/CEO & General Counsel

## The 7 Co-op Principles

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844. These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.

### THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



**NOTICE:** For active members, your capital credits will be applied to your account as an **energy credit** on your December bill.

## What are capital credits?

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit cooperative. Each of its members have a share in the ownership, construction, maintenance, and prosperity of the co-op — through capital credits. Capital credits have two steps, or stages, they can be in.

### STEP 1 ALLOCATION

An allocation is made annually for each member based on the amount of electricity purchased. The allocation is the member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets this money aside to be used as operating capital for improvements and maintenance over a period of years.



When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.



Capital credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's margins during the time they have membership.



At the end of each year, any funds remaining after expenses (margins) are allocated to the member's account based on percentage of electricity purchased.

The allocated funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance until the board of directors retires capital credits.



### STEP 2 RETIREMENT

A retirement is the amount a member receives back as a refund. It is a portion of the total allocation. When capital is no longer needed for operating expenses, it is retired. The amount paid is decided annually by the board of directors based on the financial conditions of the cooperative, and is subject to Rural Utility Services (RUS) and other lending institutions.



When the board elects to retire capital credits, we calculate the amount to pay each member based on historical allocation.

Annually, the board of directors evaluates the financial condition of the cooperative to determine whether to retire capital credits.



Capital credits will be returned to active members in the form of an energy credit. For inactive members, retirements less than \$10 are not issued a check and the allocation remains in the member's capital credit account until the member's refund exceeds \$10.

## Update Your Contact Information for a Chance to Win \$25

At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative we are constantly striving to provide the most reliable electric service possible for our members. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. In the event of planned outages for repairing or replacing equipment, we can provide advance notification to

Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Monthly Usage

Total Electric Charges - Meter 987653 \$2.00

Total This Service \$159.69

Please Return This Stub With Your Payment  
Please indicate any change of phone numbers or e-mail address.  
This information is important when reporting an outage.

Tear Stub Along This Dotted Line ▲

**YOUR NAME**

Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: 123456

\$159.69  
Autopay Amount

Withdrawn on  
09/27/2021

Your payment and any returned items may be processed electronically.

affected members if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by visiting [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop) or by returning the **bottom part of your bill**. If your information is correct, write “no changes” on the

bill stub with your payment or in the comment box on the online form. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.

We are also drawing for **two \$25 energy credits** for everyone who updates their contact information by November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Would you like to receive the *Pine to Prairie* newsletter electronically and ditch the paper copy? Let us know—contact the office or fill out the online form at [www.toddwadena.coop/news-and-events/monthly-newsletter](http://www.toddwadena.coop/news-and-events/monthly-newsletter)

## Let SmartHub Make Your Life Easier!

### Make and Manage Payments

SmartHub allows you to make a payment or schedule a future payment on your account by credit card or bank account.

### Track Your Energy Usage

SmartHub gives you the ability to view your electrical energy usage on a monthly, daily, or hourly interval. You can compare electrical usage, charges, and temperature differences of any two months, side-by-side, to note seasonal or behavioral changes in usage. By using energy markers, you can track your household energy use over dates where changes occurred, such as implementation of a programmable thermostat or when you have guests stay in your home. This is a great tool to help explain energy usage on your bill and assist you in making informed decisions about energy use.



### Enroll in AutoPay

Enroll in automatic bill pay using a bank account or credit card.

### Track Your Payment History

The payment history screen is a quick reference for viewing the amount paid, when it was paid, and by what method.

### Go Paperless

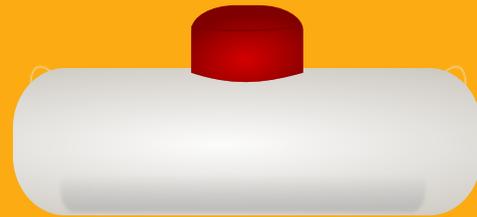
There is no need to save old billing statements. You can now view the actual bill images on your screen.

### Manage Your Notifications

Do you want to know when your bill is available to be paid, if Todd-Wadena received your payment, or if your bill is past due? These are just some of the notifications available to members who want to be notified by email or text message.

## NOTICE: CURRENT DUAL FUEL MEMBERS

If you are a current dual fuel member, **NOW** is the time to make sure your backup heating source is **working properly** and your alternate fuel source is **at an adequate level** (i.e. your propane tank is full). If service is needed, schedule the work to be done soon with your local heating contractor.



### Receive Dual Fuel Load Control Notifications with SmartHub

Members who participate in our **dual fuel load management program**



can receive a notification of control events! To manage or receive notifications from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, you will need a SmartHub account.

**SmartHub:** Sign in (or sign up) at [toddwadena.smarthub.coop](http://toddwadena.smarthub.coop). If you haven't previously added a contact for notifications, you will need to start at the first step, otherwise go to the second step to enable Dual Heat Control notifications.

**1 Add Contacts:** Click *Notifications* in the navigation menu, then select *Manage Contacts*. Add an email contact and/or a phone contact\*. Follow directions and enter verification code where appropriate.

**2 Set Up Notifications:** Click *Notifications* again, and select *Manage Notifications*. Select *Reports*, then choose *Dual Heat Control*. Click *Options* and select the contact(s) you wish to receive load control notifications.

\* To ensure you receive notifications when adding a phone contact, please make sure "No" is selected next to "Place on Do Not Call List".

The heating systems for members enrolled in the dual fuel program will be tested on October 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m. (*times may vary if an actual control event occurs*). Also, winter load control hours for ETS storage heat and ETS water heating started on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Load control hours are now from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

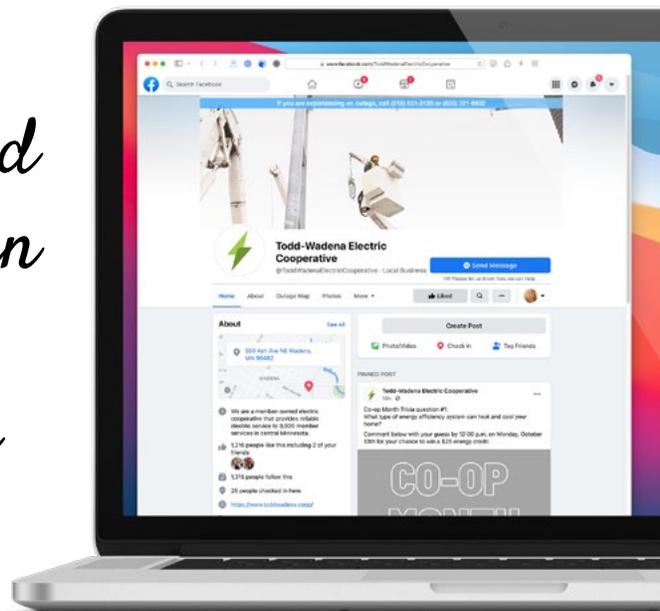
Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



*Like us on Facebook and participate in co-op trivia for a chance to win!!*



## Electric Leaf Blowers Offer Convenience, Cleaner Air

When you need to make quick work of leaves and debris, the benefits of a battery blower become immediately clear. Choosing a battery-powered tool means you've opted for convenience, low maintenance, cleaner air, an easier start, and quieter running noise.

When picking which battery-powered model to go for, you should focus on the aspects of power and battery operation.

■ **Power:** Refers to the cubic feet per minute (CFM) and the miles per hour (MPH) of the air that's being pushed through the nozzle. You want that number to be high if you're looking for a serious blower. Yard blowers that feature both the ability to move debris (MPH) and keep it moving (CFM) are the ones that will perform the job and be comfortable to operate.

■ **Battery operation:** The best battery-powered leaf blowers all use rechargeable batteries. Two numbers listed in the product

descriptions—ampere hours (Ah) and voltage—will help you know its capabilities under perfect conditions. To simplify, the Ah is the amount of amperage/current that the battery can deliver (based on one hour). A higher number means a higher energy charge, which is a good thing. Voltage can be described as the power that pushes the current through the battery. Again, the higher the better. The two measurements working together help you find the watt battery capacity. Think of watts as a battery's fuel tank size indicator: The larger the fuel tank, the higher the energy capacity the battery will have.

Electric leaf blowers are lighter, use less energy, create no emissions, and operate far quieter than gas-powered options. You can forget about filling a gas can and tugging a cord to start. Electric blowers start with the push of a button.

So, what are you waiting for? Cut the cord and leave that gas tank empty!



## Cold Weather Rule

Each year, some members are unable to pay their electric bill during cold weather months. The *Minnesota Cold Weather Rule* was established to protect residential members from electrical service disconnection between October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Cold Weather Rule protection is available if the following conditions exist:**

- The disconnection would affect your main heating source
- You and Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative agree on a payment plan
- You have returned the Cold Weather Rule form to TWEC

\*Cold Weather Rule form can be found at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop).

The Cold Weather Rule does not prevent winter disconnections. If you have a DISCONNECTION NOTICE on your bill between October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, you must act before the disconnect date on the bill.

**TO AVOID DISCONNECTION BETWEEN OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AND APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> YOU MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:**

### 1. Set Up a Payment Plan

If you receive a disconnect notice on your bill, you must call and set up a mutually agreed upon monthly payment plan before the disconnect date on the bill. This payment plan must be kept current to be protected by the Cold Weather Rule and avoid disconnection.

### 2. Return the CWR Form

Complete the Cold Weather Rule form and return it to TWEC before the disconnect date on your bill. You may complete this form online at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop).

## Wherever Energy is Needed, the Grid is There

Whenever you flip a switch, plug in your phone, or open your refrigerator, you're relying on the grid to bring you reliable electricity. Cooperatives like Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative put a lot of time and effort into providing electricity when you need it.

At the most basic level, the electric grid is a set of interconnected wires connecting places where energy is produced to where it is used. Over time, the grid has become smarter, more dynamic, and more interconnected with advancements in technology—along with additional wind and solar energy resources.

Great River Energy, wholesale electric provider to Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, uses the grid to move electrons and information to ensure reliable electric service. This fast transmission of energy and information makes for a quick response time.

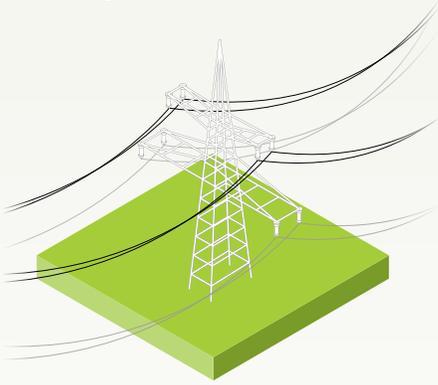
### But how does the grid work?

Electricity from power plants and wind farms travels along high-voltage transmission lines to the places where it can be "stepped down" and used. Specialized transformers reduce the electric energy down to a lower voltage making it suitable for high-volume delivery over short distances.

Power lines belonging to Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative carry electricity to smaller transformers that reduce power to levels appropriate for use at schools, farms, small businesses, and homes.

For homeowners and businesses that have installed solar panels, wind turbines, or other generators, the grid is always there to supply energy when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing.

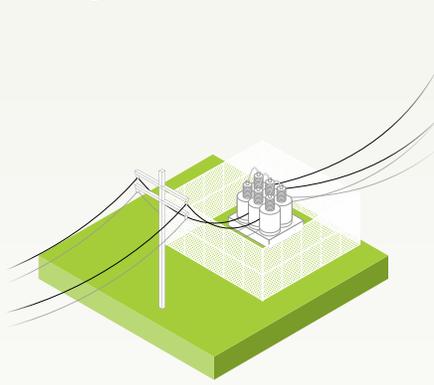
Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative works with Great River Energy to ensure a resilient grid able to meet growing demand and address the complexities of integrating renewable resources.



### HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

Large amounts of power, measured by watts, are delivered by transmission lines. These lines are energized with very high voltage in order to move the power long distances with minimal losses. Insulators on the towers prevent the power from flowing to the towers or the ground.

*Electric cooperatives own and maintain 65,000 miles (6 percent) of the nation's transmission lines.*



### SUBSTATIONS & SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES

Transformers at transmission substations reduce the voltage from transmission levels to sub-transmission levels, typically ranging from 34,500 volts to 115,000 volts. Sub-transmission lines deliver power over shorter distances to distribution substations and large industrial sites. At distribution substations and large industrial sites, transformers reduce the voltage to a lower level, typically 7,200 volts or 14,400 volts.



### DISTRIBUTION LINES

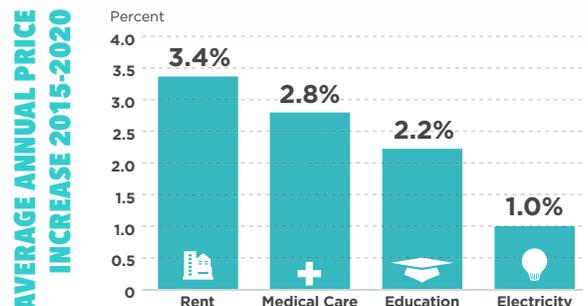
The lines typically seen along rural roads and next to homes are generally single phase distribution line, energized at 7,200 or 14,400 volts. Transformers on the utility poles lower the voltage to between 120 and 480 volts to serve residential homes and small businesses.

*Electric cooperatives own and maintain 2.6 million miles (42 percent) of the nation's distribution lines.*

## Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & Consumer Price Index



# Pine to Prairie News

*A monthly publication for  
members and friends of*



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

[www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop)

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**Email:** [todd-wad@toddwadena.coop](mailto:todd-wad@toddwadena.coop)

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P.O. Box 431  
Wadena, MN 56482

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

Daniel Carlisle, President/CEO &  
General Counsel

## **LOCAL ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS**

**Todd County:**

Troy Bak (320) 760-1017

**Wadena County:**

Adam Sorensen (320) 304-3927

**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](http://www.facebook.com/toddwadanaelectriccooperative)  
[www.instagram.com/twec.coop](http://www.instagram.com/twec.coop)

## **Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative**

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

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**PAID**  
DPC

## **READER'S CONTEST**

*To celebrate National Cooperative Month, we are  
choosing FIVE Reader's Contest winners this month!*

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 **[mbrservices@toddwadena.coop](mailto:mbrservices@toddwadena.coop)** with the subject line "Reader's Contest". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address. Entries must be received by October 25<sup>th</sup>.

1. Celebrate Co-op Month by participating in Co-op Month \_\_\_\_\_ on Facebook.
2. Capital credits will be applied to your account as an energy \_\_\_\_\_ on your December bill.
3. Please take a moment to confirm or update your \_\_\_\_\_ information on your bill.

**Name:**

**Your TWEC Account Number:**

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**Charles & Betty Lapinoja of Sebeka won our September Reader's Contest.**

