



Meet the Candidates

On September 8th, 2022, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) will host a **Meet the Candidates** event for all eligible voters at the Lions Community Center in Verndale. A social hour with light refreshments will start at 6:30 p.m., and at 7 p.m. the candidate forum will begin.



Issues involving *rural access to broadband, rate regulation of cooperatives, protection of our assigned service territory rights, renewable energy, strengthening our rural economies*, and a host of other related issues can all be influenced by our elected officials. TWEC believes its membership and all eligible voters deserve to be informed about the views their candidates have on these important issues.

Democratic member control, educating members, and concern for community are three of the cooperative principles and reasons why TWEC is hosting this forum for voters. TWEC members are encouraged to attend, as are all eligible voters in the area. All candidates from Minnesota House Districts 5A, 5B, 9B, 10A, 12B, Senate Districts 5,9,10, and 12, Governor, State Senate, Attorney General,

State Auditor, and Secretary of State candidates will be invited to this event.


Each candidate will be given a few minutes to explain his or her reasons for running for office and his or her legislative priorities. In addition, attendees will be invited to write questions that will be forwarded for the candidates' responses. While the cooperative's primary interest involves energy issues, all matters of legislation will be open for discussion.

MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENT

Thursday, September 8 th	Social Hour – 6:30 p.m. Forum Begins – 7 p.m.	Lions Community Center 109 1 st Ave. SE, Verndale
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2022 MEMBER APPRECIATION *Pancake Supper* AND EV RIDE & DRIVE



	Date	Tuesday, August 23rd
	Time	4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
	Location	TWEC Headquarters

Join us for our *Pancake Supper and EV Ride & Drive* on Tuesday, August 23rd from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative headquarters. We hope to see you there!

Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride and Drive

We will have EVs on display, as well as EV owners who can answer questions.

Members will have an opportunity to take an EV out for a test drive!



Democratic Process

The democratic process is at the heart of everything cooperatives do, and it all starts with member participation in electing your board of directors each year at our annual meeting. We call that “grassroots” efforts because you are advocating for change at the local level, at the “root” of the organization.

Cooperatives are also involved in grassroots efforts at the state and federal levels to advocate on behalf of our membership. These efforts go further than lobbying elected officials at the state and federal levels; it is also about developing relationships. Relationships with state and federal legislators and their staff are key when dealing with the legislative process.

There are many organizations that TWEC works with and relies on to support these efforts.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE)

ACRE is the federal Political Action Committee (PAC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Founded in 1966 by the approximately 1,000 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives of NRECA, ACRE supports candidates for the U.S. House and Senate — those in office now and running for office — who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their members. The goal of ACRE is to maximize your voice as you hold elected officials accountable and promote the importance of electric cooperatives across the nation.

Rural Electric Political Action Committee (REPAC)

REPAC is the state level equivalent of ACRE that helps Minnesota cooperative members combine their resources to support candidates who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their member.

Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Legislative Center

MREA's Legislative Center provides information and actively engages with law and policy makers at the state and federal level regarding the legislative issues Minnesota rural electric cooperatives are facing.

TWEC takes an active role in the political process to protect both the cooperative and our members from harmful legislation and regulations, as well as to fight for the interests and promote the value of rural America.

Some important topics that affect cooperatives include RUS financing and rural development, rural broadband access, energy policy, regulatory and environmental rules, energy infrastructure, and land use—just to name a few.

There are a variety of topics that come before the state and federal legislators that directly affect our cooperative and our members. Engaging and educating our members to make decisions about who represents us in office is not only important but vital to our success. This is also a form of grassroots efforts, to educate and engage our members. This is why TWEC is hosting a **Meet the Candidates** event on **September 8th**. State and federal candidates will be invited to speak to all eligible voters about topics that affect us. I encourage you all to attend and learn about what each candidate stands for. Then take that knowledge to the voting booth.



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO &
General Counsel

Board Minutes

Highlights from the June 23rd, 2022, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle discussed the two major storms that impacted the service territory in May. He conducted an After-Action Review with the Operations Department and shared some of the new processes that will be implemented in the future.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. May financials are showing a positive margin. Board Member Kristine Spadgenske attended the June GRE meeting.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the May financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 0.6 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 1.6 percent over budget. May's purchased power expense was 19 percent under budget. Tier is 1.33 and Equity is 41.57.
- Carlisle explained GRE's load shed plan to the board.
- The board appointed the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee as presented: Gerald Anderson, Wally Wiese, Erich Heppner, Jerome Miller, Ray Gildow, Samantha Krause, Gary Stracek, Annette Adamietz, Heather Gilbreath, and Ray Avelsgard.
- Operations Manager Todd Miller mentioned how the team is working with local officials to see if the recent storm damage will qualify for FEMA dollars. He anticipates TWEC should receive some state funding.
- Guest speaker Joe Sworski, contracted arborist, joined the meeting. TWEC hires Sworski to assist with its vegetation management program. He gave a short introduction of his education and job duties and then went into further detail on TWEC's program.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided a legislative update. The federal government is increasing the Energy and Environmental Spending bill over \$10 billion dollars.
- Board Member Tom Brichacek reported that \$10,879 was awarded to local groups at the most recent Operation Round Up meeting.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

**Note: we do not endorse or recommend any candidates for election.*

Vegetation Management Helps Keep the Lights On



Year to date, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) has had 143 outages caused by trees. These have affected nearly 3,000 members, with over 4,200 hours of power off. “When we have storms like we’ve had this season with strong maintained winds, there’s not a whole lot that can be done to prevent outages from happening. However, TWEC does have a proactive vegetation management program that prevents a lot of outages that could happen with lesser winds,” explains TWEC contracted Arborist Joe Sworski.

He continues, “Over the course of the year, we look for dead and damaged limbs and try to clear those hazards before the winds pick up, the snow falls, or our region experiences other inclement weather. By taking care of issues before outages occur, we make the system more reliable.”

To accomplish this task, Todd-Wadena contracts with Carr’s Tree Service to execute the cooperative’s vegetation management plan. This involves tree pruning, brush removal, mowing, and spraying.

Members can do their part to help prevent outages by allowing crews to trim trees when necessary to protect power lines. Trees are the number one cause of the outages during storms; maintaining a right-of-way on each side of the pole line will help prevent outages for you and your neighbors. If you notice a tree

threatening a line, please call Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and report the issue.

Sworski also mentions that one of the most helpful things members can do is to plan ahead before planting any trees or shrubs near power lines on their property. “Remember to look up and notice where the power lines are at,” he cautions. “Make sure to only plant the appropriately-sized trees around lines.”

Todd-Wadena thanks our members for partnering with us in our vegetation management efforts. By keeping the cooperative’s lines free of trees and vegetation, you are helping reduce the likelihood of outages and are supporting a safer environment for our lineworkers.

TWEC’s Tree Trimming Policy

Primary lines (other than those in yards) will be maintained a minimum of 20 feet horizontal clearance on each side of the pole line from the ground up. Overhead primary lines located in members’ yards are maintained 10 feet minimum horizontal right-of-way on each side of the pole line. On three-phase power lines located in members’ yards, the right-of-way must be maintained 10 feet from outside lines and 10 feet below the neutral line. Outside of the right-of-way we also look for “danger trees”—dead or leaning trees that will touch the line if they fall, causing an outage or blinking lights.



Now Available: AC Load Control Notifications

SmartHub: Sign in (or create an account) at <https://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 AC Control notifications.

1

Add Contacts (if needed):

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 *AC 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”.

Electric Vehicles in Minnesota

Currently there are roughly 26,000 electric vehicles (EVs) on the road in MN. Minnesota (MnDot and Governor Walz administration) has a goal for 20% of vehicles on the road to be electric by 2030—an estimated 777,307 EVs. While our service territory as a whole can accommodate hundreds of EVs at this time, each individual distribution substation and circuit has its own unique set of limitations. As the number of EV services increase; and as we progress through our four-year construction work plan, TWEC's engineer continually evaluates the available capacity and load limitations of our system to identify areas in need of upgrades to maintain reliability.

Incentivizing demand-reduction measures such as off-peak charging is a step we can take to decrease the effects of EV charging. Off-peak hours occur overnight when demand and cost for electricity is at its lowest, while on-peak hours occur when demand is at its highest. By enrolling in TWEC's EV storage rate, not only will you receive a \$500 rebate on a

EV Charging Corridors

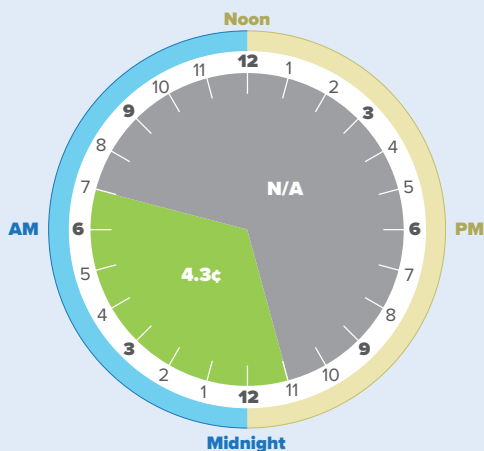
Drive your EV with confidence throughout the state of Minnesota. Whether you are heading to Duluth, Rochester, the metro area, or over to Fargo, there are places to conveniently charge your vehicle—and more coming soon. This map depicts existing charging corridors in **blue** and **pink**. **Green** corridors are in progress and will be installed by 2024.

charger install, and save on charging costs with a lower electric rate, you will be doing your part to help us keep our system balanced. This will improve the resiliency of the grid because EVs won't be charging at times when the grid could potentially be stressed.

TWEC Electric Vehicle Rates

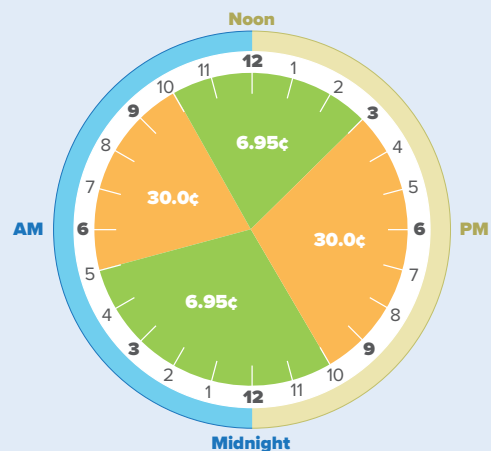
TWEC has two different rates available to members. Our **storage rate** is a very low cost per kWh, but charging can only take place in a limited window. While our **time-of-use rate** allows charging at any time, certain times of day are more expensive than others.

STORAGE RATE



EV charging available only between 11PM-7AM at a rate of 4.3¢/kWh

TIME-OF-USE RATE



EV charging anytime, but the rate is higher during on-peak times. 10PM-5AM and 10AM-3PM is 6.95¢/kWh 5AM-10AM and 3PM-10PM is 30¢/kWh

Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates



\$500

Rebate is to be used towards installation of electric vehicle charger. Must enroll in an electric vehicle rate.

COST COMPARISON

Electric VS Gasoline

Tesla Model 3



126 MPGe*

28.9 kWh/100 mi

Average cost per mile:
\$0.011 at \$0.043/kWh**

Annual Fuel Cost:
\$186.44

Ford Focus



31 MPG

3.2 gallons/100 mi

Average cost per mile:
\$0.129 at \$4/gallon gas

Annual Fuel Cost:
\$1,935.48

The average person drives
15,000 miles in a year.

Ford Lightning



76 MPGe*

49 kWh/100 mi

Average cost per mile:
\$0.021 at \$0.043/kWh**

Annual Fuel Cost:
\$316.05

Ford F-150



20 MPG

5 gallons/100 mi

Average cost per mile:
\$0.20 at \$4/gallon gas

Annual Fuel Cost:
\$3,000.00

Annual fuel cost is based off an average of 15,000 miles a year.

*Miles per gallon equivalent.

** TWEC's Storage Rate is \$0.043/kWh.

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

Busting EV Myths

✗ THEY ARE EXPENSIVE

- ✓ You may qualify for a \$7,500 tax credit.
- ✓ Because there are fewer moving parts, the average maintenance savings over the life of an EV is an estimated \$4,600.
- ✓ The estimated fuel savings for the Ford gasoline *F-150* vs the electric *Lightning* could be over \$2,600 in a single year.

✗ THEY CAN'T DRIVE FAR ENOUGH

- ✓ The range of the *Ford F-150 Lightning* is 230 to 320 miles and the *Tesla 3* is 272 to 358 miles.
- ✓ The average commute for Wadena County is 21 minutes, and in Todd County it is 24 minutes according to indexmundi.com.
- ✓ A road trip may take more planning, but as you can see on the corridor map on the previous page, there are a lot of routes with access to chargers!

✗ THE GRID CAN'T HANDLE EVS

- ✓ According to insideevs.com, the U.S. grid has enough capacity to support roughly 24 million EVs without needing to add new powerplants.
- ✓ There are currently 2.32 million EVs on the road in the U.S., giving plenty of room to grow.
- ✓ Adoption won't happen overnight; utilities are planning and preparing now for the transition.

✗ THEY CAN'T HANDLE THE WINTER

- ✓ Driving EVs in the winter is possible. In Norway, where winter temperatures get as cold as -60°F, over *two-thirds of new vehicles sold are electric.*
- ✓ EVs are actually more reliable than conventional vehicles at starting in the cold. Most gas-powered vehicles use a 12-volt lead-acid battery to start the car. The battery has to turn over an engine, working to get pistons pumping oil that has turned viscous in the cold. But starting an EV uses much less power, as the battery simply needs to start a few electronics.
- ✓ According to *Autocar's* EV tests, models with a heat pump had an average winter range loss of only 25% of their estimated range (those without a heat pump lost an average of around 34%). For an EV with a heat pump with a range of 300 miles, driving in the winter would reduce its range to approximately 225 miles. Even after an average daily commute in our area, you would still have a range left of **nearly 200 miles**—during the winter!



Submit Your Photos for our 2023 Calendar

We are looking for photo submissions for the cooperative's 2023 calendar. Submit your digital photos (up to 5 per member) to mbrservices@toddwadana.coop by September 16th, 2022. Be sure to send the photographer's name, TWEC service address, and phone number with the photo.

We are looking for scenic photos (wildlife or landscape) that represent the four seasons of Minnesota. From the entries received, we'll select 13 photos — one for each month of the year plus one for the cover. Members whose photos are included in the calendar will receive a \$20 credit on their TWEC account.*

**Must have an active TWEC account to participate.*

Contest Rules

1. Submit your digital photos (up to 5 per member) to mbrservices@toddwadana.coop by September 16th, 2022. Be sure to send the photographer's name, name on the TWEC account, TWEC service address, and phone number with the photo.
2. Photos must depict a Minnesota scene (wildlife or landscape) with a horizontal view. Representations of all four seasons are needed. Color photos are preferred. Extra consideration will be given to photos within the TWEC service area.
3. IMPORTANT: Photos must be high quality (300 dpi or higher) for an 8 x 10 inch landscape production.
4. Winning photos may be used in future cooperative publications.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back. Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: www.energy.gov



2021 Capital Credit Allocation

Look for your 2021 capital credit allocation in this month's bills. Capital credit earnings are the members' share of the net margins of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.

- TWEC reinvests that money in the cooperative for operating capital, necessary reserves, storm damages, construction, and many other general expenses.
- In the long-term, those credits are stored, representing your investment in the co-op, and are eventually paid back to members.
- The decision to refund capital credits rests solely on your board of directors, is dependent on the financial conditions of the cooperative, and is subject to Rural Utility Services (RUS) and other lending institutions' regulations.

Please notify us with any changes to your address and contact information so you can continue to receive your refunds.

Go Paperless & Get Five!

Enroll in paperless via SmartHub and receive a one-time **credit of \$5.00** to your TWEC account!

New paperless enrollment only. Offer ends December 31st, 2022.

Set Up AutoPay & Get Five!

Save a trip to the mailbox and enroll in AutoPay. You'll receive a one-time **\$5.00 credit** to your TWEC account.

New AutoPay enrollment only. Offer ends October 7th, 2022.

(and a chance for \$50!)

NOTE: We are also doing a drawing for a \$50 energy credit in October for ALL members who are enrolled in AutoPay.

Identifying Scam Callers

1 Utility phone scams typically involve callers who claim to represent a utility company and attempt to trick people into paying them money by threatening to turn off their service. **We will never demand immediate payment over the phone.** We will never personally take your credit card info; we will either transfer you to a secure payment line, encourage you to pay via SmartHub, or ask you to come in to the office.

If you are contacted by phone, hang up immediately and call Todd-Wadena at **(218) 631-3120** or **(800) 321-8932** to verify your account status. **DO NOT** use the phone number given to you.

2 Never give out social security numbers, credit card, or banking information to anyone who calls, no matter who they claim to represent. Todd-Wadena does not ask current members for this type of information. Todd-Wadena will never instruct members to purchase a prepaid credit card to pay a past due amount.

3 If your account is past due, Todd-Wadena will send a *Disconnection Notice* on your bill before taking further action. If you believe you were targeted for a scam, report it to police immediately.



WE WILL

Always try to make payment arrangements for past due accounts. If no contact is made, or if contact is made but no payment agreement is reached, service may be disconnected.

Drive a TWEC vehicle, wear company clothing, and carry Todd-Wadena identification.

Allow you to verify our identity. Ask to see a Todd-Wadena photo ID and have the person wait outside while you call us at **(218) 631-3120** or **(800) 321-8932** to verify your account status.



If you're ever unsure of who is contacting you, hang up and call Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative directly at **(218) 631-3120** or toll-free at **(800) 321-8932**.

You can also visit our lobby during business hours. We are open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in summer (*rest of the year is 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*).

WE WON'T

Demand immediate payment by prepaid credit or debit cards.

Call claiming you have overpaid your utility bill, and ask you to provide personal bank account information or a credit card number to facilitate a refund.

Call asking for social security numbers, credit card, or banking information to avoid disconnection.

Disconnect your service outside of our office hours.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission Statement // To be a trusted partner providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy options to our members.

Vision Statement // To improve the quality of life for our members and embrace beneficial opportunities in a changing industry.

Values // Service • Safety • Fiscal Responsibility • Integrity • Communicate & Educate • Commitment to Community

Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for
members and friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

www.toddwadena.coop

Office Hours: 7:00am - 3:30pm
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 &
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/toddwadenelectriccooperative
www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

Printed on recycled paper.

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage

PAID
DPC

Office Hours Change on Labor Day

Our office hours will return to **8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**,
Monday through Friday, starting on Labor Day.

August Reader's Contest

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 with the subject line "*Reader's Contest*". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address. Entries must be received by August 25th.

Anthony Tassoni Jr. of Menahga was the winner of our July Reader's Contest.

1. *Meet the Candidates* will be hosted on September 8th at the Lions Community Center in _____.
2. Primary lines (other than those in yards) will be maintained a minimum of _____ feet horizontal clearance on each side of the pole line from the ground up.
3. Take a spin in an _____ vehicle during our member appreciation *Pancake Supper* and *EV Ride & Drive* on August 23rd.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

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