



## TWEC Members Enjoy Pancakes and EVs



Over 400 members and their families attended the annual Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) member appreciation event for pancakes and sausage, prepared by Sebek Lions Club, and the electric vehicle ride & drive on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Co-op's headquarters.

TWEC lineworkers presented electrical safety demonstrations to attendees. TWEC mini members



enjoyed the kids lineworker activities and a bounce house during the event. Members had the opportunity to drive or ride in a Tesla Model 3 of *Rogers Tesla* dealership, Ford F-150 Lightning of *Juettner Ford*, or a Chevy Bolt of *Marthaler Chevrolet*. New this year to the annual event was the opportunity for members to test ride one of



the five electric bikes that were on display from *County Cycle Pitstop* of New York Mills.

“We were thrilled to see so many members at our office for the event and interested in the electric vehicles (EVs) and electric bikes on display. Many members also took one of the EVs or an ebike out for a test ride,” said Allison Uselman, manager of member and energy services.

## 2022 Youth Tour

BY ALLY PAVEK

The 2022 Youth Tour was incredible!! I had a great time on this trip seeing what all of Washington, D.C. has to offer, including meeting lots of new people, having the opportunity to meet with our legislators, as well as learning more about electric cooperatives and how much of an impact they have on us.

We started off the trip in D.C. with a guided walking tour of the Potomac Park monuments. A highlight of the day for me was the reflection pool of the Lincoln Memorial. It was truly breathtaking standing at the top of the stairs looking straight ahead and seeing the Washington  
*(Youth Tour is continued on page 3)*



# Responsible Energy Transition

Our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE) has begun preparing its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which must be filed with the State of Minnesota next spring. I was invited to attend a stakeholder meeting in late August, whereby GRE laid out its plan for transitioning its power resource portfolio further away from carbon-based fuels and more into renewable resources, such as wind. Also in attendance were several environmental groups, including Fresh Energy, CURE, The Clean Grid Alliance, and more.

After outlining the plan, GRE requested input and comments from those in attendance. Although the environmental groups seemed pleased with the general move away from carbon-based fuels, many recognized that GRE is still purchasing a percentage of power from the open market, which may be from carbon-based sources. They urged GRE to stay diligent in their efforts to further reduce carbon from their portfolio.

At the conclusion of the presentation, I was invited to comment on the IRP from a member-cooperative perspective. My comments, summarized below, were intended to be direct and reflect both my views as a very engaged CEO in the industry and the views of the rural members I serve and interact with. My message was conveyed in a civil tone and appeared to be of interest and well received by the meeting attendees.

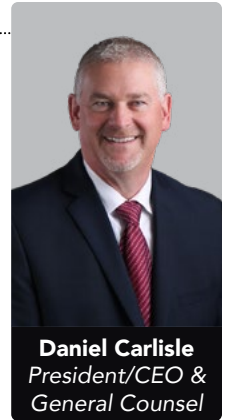
I explained that Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) is a comparatively small member of GRE. We are located in central Minnesota and serve hard-working, mostly blue-collar members, who reside in highly impoverished counties. I described our members as caring most about reliable and affordable electricity. When the irrigators need to run or the cows need to be milked, our members expect that an adequate and reliable supply of electricity will be available. Our

members work hard to provide for their families and generally have favored the reliable, base-load resources we have utilized in the past, i.e. coal.

I shared a certain amount of concern that our membership has expressed about renewable, intermittent resources such as wind and solar possibly being insufficient to meet our needs in the future. I also described the skepticism that has been expressed about our activist environmental groups trying to “save the planet” by handcuffing TWEC members with unreliable renewable resources, while other countries like China and India continue to build coal base-load plants at a record pace. Are we really making a meaningful difference with our carbon reduction efforts? Or are we simply hindering our ability to be competitive?

Having said the above, I shared my belief that the IRP presented by GRE makes significant changes in their power supply portfolio that should reduce our members' risk of carbon-tax exposure and should provide an adequate hedge against future price volatility. I emphasized the future need for reliability and predicted a “rural revolt” if our new portfolio cannot meet the needs of our members. Finally, I reminded the attendees that despite their ardent passion for their cause, there are real citizens behind the scenes who are equally as fervent in their opposition.

GRE has planned its future portfolio and we now must let GRE work its plan. Additional regulations and environmental pressures are not necessary – this fact makes the portfolio transition reflected in GRE's IRP all the more remarkable.



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

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President/CEO & General Counsel



## Board Minutes

### Highlights from the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle will be representing the Member Manager's Group at Great River Energy's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Forum held at the Cambridge Peaking Plant on August 18.
- Carlisle discussed topics from the annual legal seminar, including written contracts with independent contractors, easements, regulatory updates, supply and demand change, as well as labor and employment issues.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. GRE's net margin for the month of June came in ahead of budget. Thorson discussed MISO's transmission buildout projects in Minnesota.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the June financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 7 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 6 percent under budget. June's purchased power expense was 6 percent over budget. Tier is 0.96 and Equity is 41.54.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Uselman discussed the upcoming Pancake Supper and Meet the Candidate Event.
- Operations Manager Todd Miller reported that new services have begun to slow down and the crew continues to work on storm clean up.
- The board reviewed and approved the 401k Self-Directed Funding Resolution. This new option for the investment portfolio will be available to employees beginning September 1, 2022 with no additional cost to TWEC.
- On behalf of Board Chair Miles Kuschel, Vice Chair Tom Brichacek gave the board chair report. He reviewed the primary election delegates for TWEC's territory and encouraged everyone to get out and vote. He then gave a short recap from the MREA District 3 meeting.
- Lignite Energy Council joined the directors for a special award ceremony for Senator Utke. He was awarded their 2022 Energy Champion Award.

## 2022 Youth Tour

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Monument. The rest of the day consisted of Arlington Cemetery where we were able to experience the changing of the guards (another breathtaking moment), a Potomac sightseeing cruise, and the International Spy Museum.

The second day was Capitol Hill Day! We spent most of the day at the Hill having the opportunity to meet with Congress members including: Rep. Angie Craig, Rep. Pete Stauber, Rep. Dean Phillips, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar. They talked with us as a group and answered our questions. This part of the trip was a major highlight! After a long day we ate at the Hard Rock Cafe.

On Friday of the week, our third day of touring, we traveled to Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate. We spent the morning there before heading to the Washington National Cathedral, made a quick stop at the Smithsonian Zoo, and then went to the Holocaust Museum, which was

an eye-opening experience. We ended the day with a Nationals baseball game.

Our last day, I would say, was my favorite day. The morning consisted of the NRECA Youth Tour General Session where we learned just how much of an impact electric cooperatives have on our communities. We listened to one of the best speakers I have ever heard, Mike Schlappi, who gave a motivational speech on overcoming obstacles. We then spent the rest of the day touring the Smithsonian Institutes and ended the day in Old Town Alexandria.

There are so many great things about this trip! I would highly recommend if you have the opportunity to go on Youth Tour to do it! Thank you to everyone who provided me the opportunity to attend Youth Tour. I am so grateful I was given the opportunity to represent Todd Wadena as their delegate.



## DUAL FUEL MEMBERS: PLEASE CHECK YOUR BACK-UP SYSTEM

If you have a **Dual Fuel Heating System**, NOW is the time to be sure your back-up heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply.

- Dual Fuel Heating Systems are usually controlled during periods of high demand (such as frigid winter evenings), but other factors such as generation's system, maintenance, and high market cost can lead to load control as well.
- There can be up to 400 hours of control during the heating season. However, most winters the control has averaged 100 to 120 hours.



### Note: Increased Morning Control

In the past couple of years, we have seen more morning load control for dual fuel and water heating. We expect to see more of that this year as early morning peaks are occurring due to low morning temps. Morning load control events tend to occur between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m.



## Rebates and Low Rates Available with Dual Fuel Heating

### ELECTRIC PLENUM HEATER

Go dual fuel by inserting an electric plenum heater into a new or existing fossil fuel furnace. Air is heated as it flows across electric elements and is distributed through existing duct work. In addition to low electricity rates, Todd-Wadena members receive a \$500 rebate towards the purchase of a plenum heater (**new program enrollment only**). If you are interested in this type of dual fuel system, contact your local heating contractor first to see if a plenum heater would work with your existing fossil fuel furnace.



### REBATES

- \$35/kW (up to 10kW) for installing electric, non-storage, in-floor heating.
- \$50/kW (up to 10 kW) for storage heat such as storage furnaces.
- \$500 for installing a plenum heater. **New program enrollment only/10kW minimum.**
- \$400/ton for installing an Energy Star rated ground source heat pump.
- \$480 to \$630 (*varies by SEER rating*) for installing an air source heat pump. **Rebates available only through QI installer program.**
- \$300 to \$500 for installing a ductless air source heat pump. Must be Energy Star rated.

### RATES

Todd-Wadena offers its members a low dual fuel heating rate of just **5.1¢ per kWh**. It is a requirement of the dual heat program to have a non-electric, automatic back-up heat system that is large enough to heat the whole house (i.e. propane, fuel oil, or natural gas).

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

# 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 will be mailed with all September bills.*

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).

## Prepping for Cold Weather

With fall and winter just around the corner, it's the perfect time to prepare your home for the inevitable colder weather. There are some simple steps you can take now that might prevent surprise repairs during an inconvenient time of the year, and even save you some money on heating costs.



### Check Heating Fuels

Don't wait for the first snow fall to realize you're out of propane, oil, dry firewood, etc. Check your levels now to be sure you're well prepared, and take advantage of pre-season discounts! If you use wood, make sure it is dry, seasoned firewood – using “green” wood increases your risk of a chimney fire.

### Don't Forget About the Attic, Windows, and Doors

Sealing cracks and making sure your attic is properly insulated will not only help save you money in heating costs, it could help reduce your risk of an ice dam. Ice dams form when water located around the eaves of your roof is allowed

to freeze. This forms icicles and literal dams of ice, preventing further snow melt and water from rolling off the roof. That collecting water runs into your walls and ceilings, causing severe damage inside your home. Proper insulation will help keep the eaves clear of icicles and ice dams.

### Check Smoke and CO Detectors

With the winter heating season nearing, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and have fresh batteries. You'll want them to work properly in the event of a life-threatening problem with your heating and/or ventilation system.

## Weatherization Assistance Program

The *Weatherization Assistance Program* in Minnesota provides free home energy upgrades to income-eligible homeowners and

renters to help save energy and make sure your home is a healthy and safe place to live.

Weatherization works closely with its companion program, the *Energy Assistance Program*, to help permanently reduce the energy bills for low-income Minnesotans.

If your household qualifies, an energy auditor may evaluate your home to determine if weatherization is needed. The auditor will look for opportunities to make your home more energy efficient by sealing air leaks, adding insulation, and checking if the furnace is working properly.

VISIT [MN.GOV/COMMERCE/CONSUMERS/CONSUMER-ASSISTANCE/WEATHERIZATION](http://MN.GOV/COMMERCE/CONSUMERS/CONSUMER-ASSISTANCE/WEATHERIZATION) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## Last Chance to Submit Photos for our 2023 Calendar!

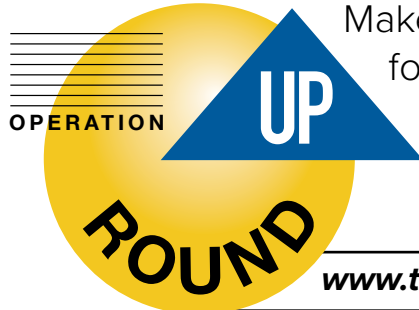


Our deadline for submitting photos to our 2023 calendar is quickly approaching! Please submit your digital photos (up to 5 per member) to [mbrservices@toddwadena.coop](mailto:mbrservices@toddwadena.coop) by **September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. Be sure to add the photographer's name, TWEC service address, and phone number when submitting the photo. 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@toddwadena.coop](mailto:mbrservices@toddwadena.coop) by September 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.



Make sure your organization applies for an Operation Round Up grant by the **deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup>**! For more details and a fillable application, visit our website.

[www.toddwadena.coop/operation-round-up](http://www.toddwadena.coop/operation-round-up)



## 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

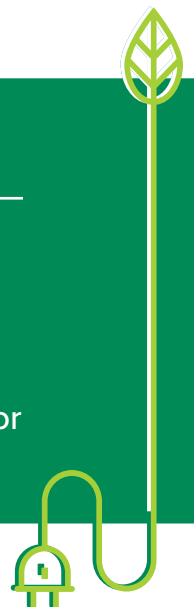
*NOTE: We are also doing a drawing for a \$50 energy credit in October for ALL members who are enrolled in AutoPay.*



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures, and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR-certified.

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





## Preparation & Awareness Are Keys to a Safe Harvest

Harvest season is one of the busiest times of year for farmers—and among the most dangerous. Before taking to the fields, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them. We encourage farm managers to share this information with their families and workers to keep them safe from farm related electrical accidents.

If you are on equipment that makes contact with a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed that it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keeping your feet together prevents you from getting a shock.

- ☑ Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines, and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- ☑ Keep yourself and equipment 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times.
- ☑ Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.
- ☑ Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.
- ☑ As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles, or rods into power lines. Non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay can conduct electricity depending on conditions.
- ☑ Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

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

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**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](http://www.facebook.com/toddwadenelectriccooperative)  
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## Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

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DPC

## September 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](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 September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Dale and June Erickson of Wadena was the winner of our August Reader's Contest.**

1. The *Weatherization Assistance Program* in Minnesota provides free home energy \_\_\_\_\_ to income-eligible homeowners and renters to help save energy and make sure your home is a healthy and safe place to live.
2. Save a trip to the mailbox and enroll in \_\_\_\_\_ and receive a one-time \$5.00 credit to your account.
3. If you are on equipment that makes contact with a power line, do not \_\_\_\_\_ the equipment.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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