



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Pine to Prairie**  
January 2023  
[www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop)



## 2023 Youth Tour

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative holds a contest each year to select one local sophomore or junior high school student to attend the NRECA Youth Tour. The 2023 Youth Tour is scheduled for **June 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

The trip to Washington, D.C. is an all-expenses-paid trip to see our nation's capital. The winner will travel with approximately 40 other Minnesota teens, and join 1,400 students from across the nation during the Youth Tour. Participants will learn about cooperatives, visit with legislators at the Capitol, see the national monuments, and make memories that will last a lifetime.



Learn more about this opportunity, including applicant qualifications and how to apply, at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop)

*Application deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023*

## Scholarships for Students

This year, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is offering up to four \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors, and up to two \$1,000 scholarships to adult students. Scholarship applications must be postmarked by **February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

Scholarships are made available with unclaimed capital credits. After a period of seven years, Minnesota law allows cooperatives to use unclaimed capital credits for charitable or educational purposes.

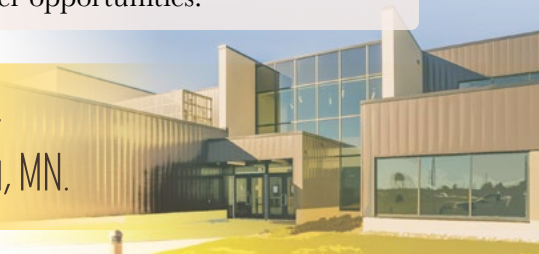
### Graduating Senior Scholarship

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will award up to **four \$1,000 scholarships** to local 2023 graduating seniors for their first year as a (freshman) college student.

### Power Up Adult Student Scholarship

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will award up to **two \$1,000 Power Up Adult Scholarships** to adult students who are headed to college for the first time, returning to complete an interrupted education, or looking to return to college to improve their career opportunities.

Save the date for our 2023 Annual Meeting! The meeting will be **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023** at the Maslowski Wellness & Research Center in Wadena, MN.



# The Impact of Rising Costs

All of us have had our budgets top of mind lately, from groceries to gas and everything in between. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) is no different. We are seeing significant increases across the board – from the cost of poles to transformers and equipment.

Not only are we seeing cost increases in our day-to-day operations, our power supplier Great River Energy (GRE) recently announced a rate increase to our wholesale power costs. TWEC's other power supplier, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), announced an increase for next year as well. With power costs making up the cooperative's largest expense, this will significantly impact our bottom line.

With these increases in mind, TWEC staff has been working on the 2023 Budget for the past few months. Part of the budget that was approved in December included a cost of service study or rate study. This study breaks down the costs of delivering power to members. For example, there are a number of fixed costs involved in delivering power to a service (including poles, wires, transformers, meters, trucks, etc.) that need to be factored into the cost of providing electricity, in addition to the amount of energy consumed.

The cooperative plans to work with Power Systems Engineering to complete the study. We will look at all costs and all rates to assess TWEC's true cost of service. As a member-owned cooperative, it is important that we are transparent about issues impacting the cooperative. This rate study may result in a rate realignment for some or all rates. It may also result in changes to TWEC's power cost adjustment (PCA). The PCA is a monthly pass-through of the increased cost of wholesale power from GRE to TWEC. TWEC's Board of Directors will take a hard look at the cooperative's rates and PCA this year. We will keep members updated on these issues as we enter the new year.

As a not-for-profit utility, TWEC is here to serve our members by providing you with the safe and reliable electricity you've come to expect – even in challenging economic times. With every decision we make, we keep our members' best interests in mind.

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



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

Congratulations to Tyler Fisher on his promotion to Operations Manager!

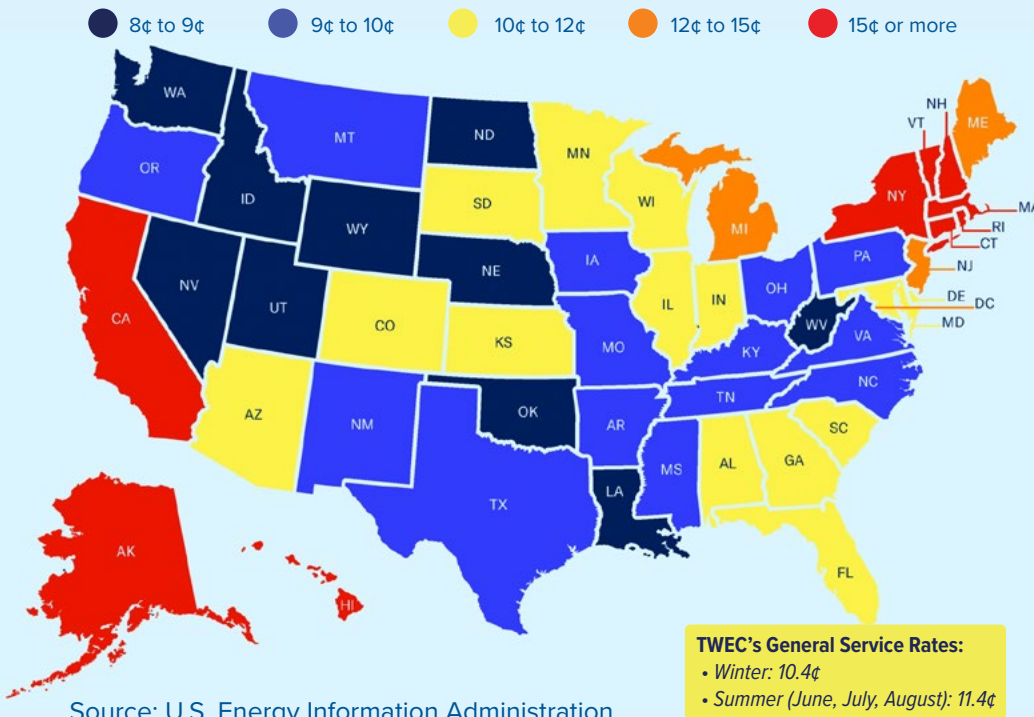


## Board Minutes

### Highlights from the November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regular board meeting:

- Tyler Fisher was announced as TWEC's new Operations Manager.
- CEO Dan Carlisle shared feedback from MREA on how the results of this year's election may affect rural electrical cooperatives.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. October's margins came in ahead of budget. TWEC directors approved a Resolution to Vote in Favor of the Southern MN Municipal Power Purchase Agreement (North Branch).
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the October financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 5 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 5 percent over budget. October's purchased power expense was 1.5 percent under budget. Tier is 1.23 and Equity is 41.5.
- Carlisle and the management team presented the proposed 2023 Budget and the 10-Year Forecast to the board. The presentation compared both the 2022 budget and projected versus 2023 budget.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson noted that TWEC's Tesla has arrived. She also gave an update on the 'Sota Grown Pod and changes to the ASHP rebate requirements that are coming in 2023.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher reported that crews have begun retiring the old Leaf River Substation. He gave a quick update on the FEMA process and the status of work plan projects.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel went over the results from the Minnesota and U.S. election and discussed how these decisions may affect rural electric cooperatives.

## 2021 Average U.S. Electricity Retail Prices (Cost per kWh)



Idaho: 8.17¢	South Carolina: 10.16¢
Wyoming: 8.25¢	Illinois: 10.20¢
Utah: 8.39¢	Alabama: 10.31¢
North Dakota: 8.47¢	Indiana: 10.39¢
Nevada: 8.64¢	Kansas: 10.44¢
Washington: 8.78¢	South Dakota: 10.47¢
Louisiana: 8.82¢	Delaware: 10.56¢
Oklahoma: 8.83¢	Georgia: 10.59¢
West Virginia: 8.89¢	Arizona: 10.72¢
Nebraska: 8.93¢	Florida: 10.75¢
Arkansas: 9.07¢	Colorado: 10.92¢
Oregon: 9.10¢	Wisconsin: 11.02¢
Kentucky: 9.15¢	Minnesota: 11.12¢
Iowa: 9.17¢	Maryland: 11.50¢
Virginia: 9.28¢	New York: 16.14¢
Texas: 9.31¢	Vermont: 16.37¢
North Carolina: 9.42¢	New Hampshire: 17.42¢
Montana: 9.54¢	Rhode Island: 18.52¢
Mississippi: 9.67¢	Connecticut: 18.78¢
Ohio: 9.78¢	Massachusetts: 19.17¢
New Mexico: 9.84¢	California: 19.76¢
Tennessee: 9.86¢	Alaska: 20.05¢
Missouri: 9.90¢	Hawaii: 30.35¢
Pennsylvania: 10¢	
D.C.: 12.84¢	Maine: 14.06¢
Michigan: 12.95¢	New Jersey: 14.10¢

**TWEC's General Service Rates:**

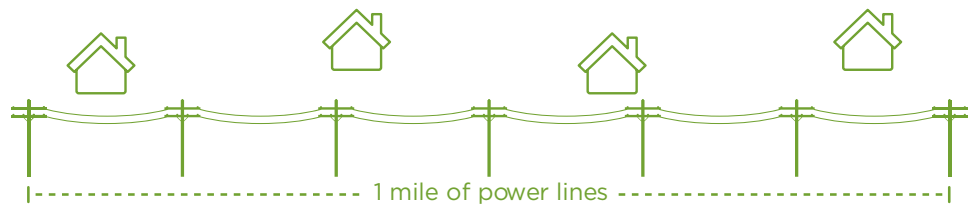
- Winter: 10.4¢
- Summer (June, July, August): 11.4¢

### Going the Extra Mile

Electric co-ops maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other electric utilities, and Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative even more than the national cooperative average. This affects how much it costs to serve each member because Todd-Wadena has fewer consumers per mile of line. However, we always go the extra mile for you—the consumer-members we proudly serve.

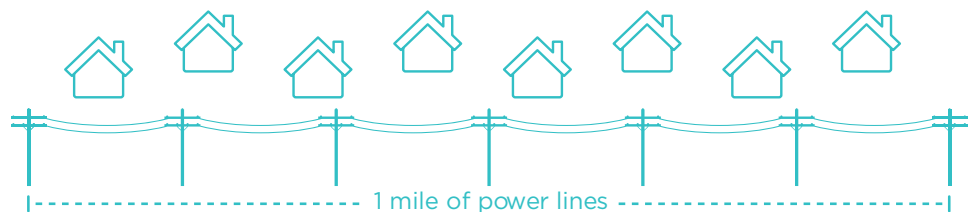
#### Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

Serves fewer than 4 consumer-members per mile of line.



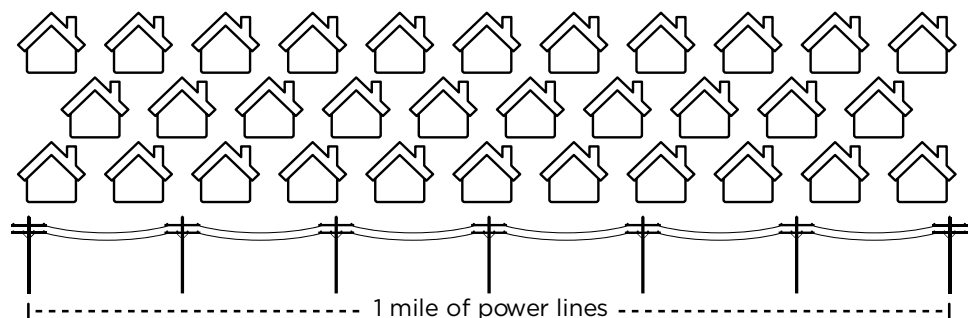
#### National Electric Cooperative Average

Serve 8 consumer-members per mile of line.



#### Other Electric Utilities

Serve 32 consumers per mile of line.



## Off-Peak Water Heating

<b>Peak Shave Water Heating</b>	\$450* for 85 gallon Marathon \$550* for 105 gallon Marathon Non-Marathon- \$400 cash rebate (must be at least 85 gallons)	\$8/month credit after 36 months for new construction or gas switching. \$8/month credit after 60 months for existing electric to controlled electric. *New program enrollment only.
<b>Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heater Program</b>	\$450* for 85 gallon Marathon \$550* for 105 gallon Marathon Non-Marathon- \$400 cash rebate (must be at least 85 gallons)	Low 4.3¢ kWh rate (plus \$2/mo meter fee). Must enroll in the ETS Water Heater Storage program. *New program enrollment only.
<b>Existing Controlled Replacement</b>	\$100/heater	Must provide receipt. Total gallons must equal at least 85 gallons.

## Off-Peak Space Heating

<b>Slab Heat/Dual Heat</b>	\$35/kW rebate	Up to 10 kW/\$350
<b>Plenum Heater (New DH only)</b>	\$500 rebate	Must install at least 10 kW
<b>Quality Installed Air Source Heat Pump (QI contractor required for rebate)</b>	\$500 rebate \$700 rebate	≥ 8.2 HSPF ≥ 9 HSPF
<b>Ground Source Heat Pump</b>	\$400/ton rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>Storage Heat</b>	\$50/kW rebate	Up to 10 kW/\$500

## Appliances

<b>Freezer/Refrigerator (with recycling)</b>	\$50 rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>Clothes Dryer</b>	\$25 rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>Dehumidifier</b>	\$25 rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>Ductless ASHP</b>	\$300 rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>A/C Tune Up</b>	\$25 rebate	Documentation by contractor
<b>Wi-Fi Thermostat</b>	\$25 rebate	Must be Wi-Fi Smart Thermostat

## Bulbs

<b>LED Bulbs</b>	\$2/bulb	Proof of Energy Star rating. Rebate cannot exceed 50% of purchase price.
<b>LED Yard Light Rebate</b>	\$20/fixture	Proof of Energy Star rating (min. 50 watt LED).

## Electric Vehicles

<b>ChargeWise</b>	\$500	Rebate is to be used towards installation of electric vehicle charger. Must enroll in an electric vehicle rate.
-------------------	-------	--

## Battery Powered Yard Tools

<b>Lawn Mower/Snow Blower</b>	\$50 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$200- \$500) \$100 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$501 and up)	Must purchase at a participating local retailer. Limit of one yard tool per member, per year.
<b>Lawn Care Equipment</b> Edger, Trimmers, Chainsaw, Pole Saw, or Leaf Blower	\$25 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$100- \$200) \$50 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$201 and up)	Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price. Purchased tools must be battery powered.

\*Rebates subject to product availability and price adjustments. Call for latest pricing.

# Don't Let Electrical Safety Get Buried in the Snow



Winters in Minnesota present challenges to members and Todd-Wadena's lineworkers. A daily, or even hourly, question: Where do we put all this snow?

Keep safety in mind when clearing snow from your driveway and other areas around your home or business. Electric cooperative members need to be mindful of the location of power equipment and make sure it is clear and accessible for Todd-Wadena crews. Please take note

of the locations of pad-mounted transformers, meters, regulators, cabinets, poles, and overhead wires before moving snow.

Snow piled on electrical equipment not only impacts your safety, but also has the potential to affect electric service to hundreds of homes and businesses in your neighborhood. The National Electric Code states to allow at least 10 feet in front of power equipment and 3 feet on the sides and back

for lineworkers to be able to access the area in the event of an emergency.

In addition to paying attention to ground-level equipment, be sure to look up and be aware of overhead power lines – especially when removing snow from your roof. Also, make plans to pile snow away from power lines where children might play.

In the event of an outage, clearing snow around utility equipment will make it easier for lineworkers to get power restored. TWEC recommends using a shovel to prevent damage. This allows you to be aware of the utility infrastructure below. If you notice damaged equipment, please contact TWEC at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932 so it can be inspected.

## Operation Round Up Application Deadline

Make sure your organization applies for an Operation Round Up grant by the deadline of **January 15<sup>th</sup>**! For more details and a fillable application, visit our website at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop)



## Inflation Reduction Act: Residential Benefits

Pair our great rebates this year with some added dollars from the inflation reduction act funds. These funds are designated for homeowners to make improvements to their home. There are income guidelines; go to [www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator](http://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator) to see what you could qualify for today.

At an income of \$50,000 per household (average income between Todd and Wadena counties) with four household members, you could save up to \$14,000 in upfront discounts and up to \$2,500 in tax credits. These upgrades are also driven by energy efficiency, so you could see savings on your electric bill as well.



## Staying Prepared for Any Weather

*The Midwest electric system has ample energy resources for winter, though utilities and grid operators are prepared should unexpected circumstances arise.*

Just as you take precautionary measures to prepare for the winter season, so too do utilities and the organizations that manage, monitor, and regulate the electric system.

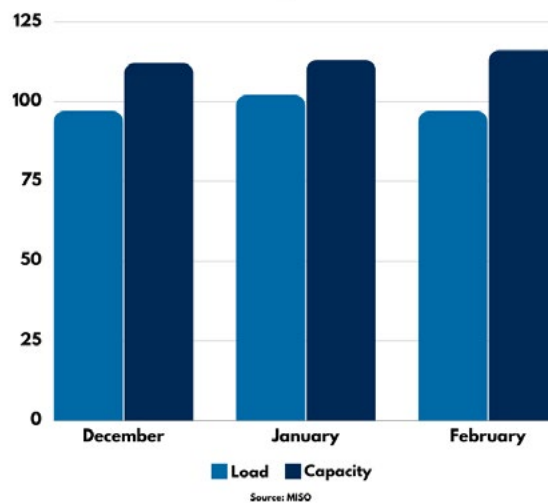
Grid stakeholders work together year-round to ensure electric service is reliable by conducting various assessments ahead of each season to project the energy needs of homes and businesses. This process provides especially important information for summers, when temperatures can soar, as well as each winter when they can fall dangerously low.

The results of these assessments, which consider probable and worst-case scenarios, help guide utilities like Great River Energy (GRE), Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's wholesale energy provider, when managing their electric systems during extreme weather and elevated demand for electricity.

Assessments conducted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) for this upcoming winter found that the grid has a sufficient supply of capacity resources to meet consumer demand under peak conditions.

MISO acknowledges one of winter's key challenges is the potential for "high risk, low probability" events, such as unusually cold weather, intense storms, and/or fuel supply issues that could impact available power and create challenges.

**MISO winter peak forecast**



For its part in maintaining reliability, Great River Energy has access to a diverse portfolio of power supply resources, including peaking resources with dual fuel capability, which means they can operate on fuel oil when natural gas supply is constrained. This fuel flexibility is an important characteristic for system reliability and as a hedge against market and natural gas prices. The cooperative also focuses on the weatherization of these plants to support resilient and reliable operation during extreme weather events.

"Combined, these resources will provide our membership with the security of knowing they have the reliability needed to get them through the coldest nights this winter," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "We are also adding another 300 megawatts of wind before January that will further diversify Great River Energy's power supply portfolio and help provide a hedge in MISO's daily markets."

Great River Energy, in partnership with its member-owner cooperatives, also has the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration.

This means Great River Energy system operators can dispatch up to 370,000-plus appliances enrolled in demand response programs when needed to manage reliability.

In addition to reducing sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, this strategy helps Great River Energy avoid making purchases from the energy market during the periods of high pricing that often coincide with high demand and unusual weather events, which saves members money.

---

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

---

# Meals 4 Members

## DELIVERING MORE THAN JUST ELECTRICITY!

We are again collecting food items for our *Meals 4 Members* program which serves Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) members in need. Your food donations are gathered and then distributed directly to members who can use assistance. Please donate **unexpired goods** or **non-perishable food items** now through April. Monetary donations are also welcome.

If you are in need, please fill out a one-time *Meals 4 Members* home delivery request form by visiting our website, [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop), or by calling Kallie at (218) 632-3216.

Dan Carlisle, TWEC's President/CEO will be delivering *Meals 4 Members* home delivery baskets on a weekly basis starting in February and going through April. Sign up or call if you are in need.



*Note: Meals 4 Members is available for Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members. Requests will be added to a delivery list.*

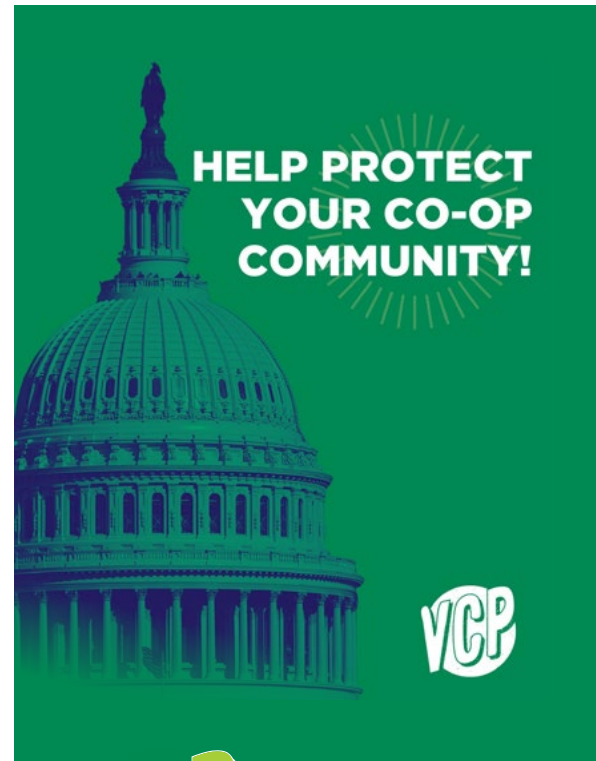
## Help Keep Energy Reliable & Affordable in Minnesota

As a local energy cooperative, TWEC works daily to provide reliable, affordable power to the communities and member-owners we serve. We have a long history of working together to turn on the lights for rural energy consumers. Over the years, we have adapted our business practices to continue providing reliable, affordable energy even though the industry continues to change at a rapid pace. **But we need your help!**

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is just one of 50 electric cooperatives that serves rural energy consumers in Minnesota. We have partnered with other Minnesota cooperatives through our statewide

organization, Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), and our national organization, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to ensure we have a voice at the table this upcoming legislative session. We want to make sure cooperative voices are heard when it comes to energy policy in Minnesota.

Help us advocate for reliable and affordable energy for all of Minnesota's energy consumers by signing up for **Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP)**. This network of electric cooperative member-consumers is working to ensure the needs of rural America are reflected in state and national policy decisions.



You can learn more and sign up at  
[voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota](http://voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota)

**VCP** Voices for  
 Cooperative  
 Power United for Stronger  
 Communities

# Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for members & friends of



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Office Hours:** 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

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

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

**Email:** [todd-wad@toddwadena.coop](mailto: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/toddwadenaelectriccooperative](http://www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative)  
[www.instagram.com/twec.coop](http://www.instagram.com/twec.coop)

## **Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative**

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

Printed on recycled paper.

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**  
DPC

Get a 2023 Calendar  
Before They're Gone

We still have a few 2023 calendars left! Stop by our office right away to pick up your calendar.



# January Reader's Contest

1. The 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ Tour is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
2. Battery powered yard tools must be purchased at a participating \_\_\_\_\_ retailer.
3. Help us advocate for reliable, affordable energy for all of Minnesota's energy consumers by signing up for \_\_\_\_\_ for Cooperative Power

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

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

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 January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**James Neuman of Wadena was the winner of our December Reader's Contest.**

