



Over 325 TWEC Members Attend Annual Pancake Supper and EV Ride & Drive

Over 325 members partook in the annual member appreciation pancake supper event on Tuesday, August 15th. Members enjoyed pancakes and sausages served by the Sebeko Lions. Members had the opportunity to take a ride in one of three electric vehicles (EVs): *Chevy Bolt*, *Ford Mustang Mach-E*, and a *Tesla Model Y*. They could also take an electric bike for a spin. The kids enjoyed the bounce house. Members stopped by the electrical safety demonstration that was on display that shows the hazards of electricity and the safety equipment TWEC lineworkers use on a daily basis.

A rate forum was held in the board room at 5:30 p.m. The forum outlined the new rates that start with September 1st usage.

A huge thank you to all of the members who came out to this event. We appreciate you! Thank you to the *Sebeko Lions*, *Theilen Motors*, *Juettner Ford*, and *County Cycle Pitstop*.



PANCAKES AND SAUSAGES ARE SERVED BY THE SEBEKA LIONS



COUNTY CYCLE PITSTOP PROVIDED ELECTRIC BIKES FOR MEMBERS TO TRY



OVER 325 MEMBERS ATTENDED



MEMBERS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RIDE IN AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE



Responding to the Needs of the Grid

Our homes are outfitted with more devices that require electricity than ever before as life has become increasingly dependent on them to function. As this demand for electricity rises, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative must continue providing the same affordable, round-the-clock service to its members—regardless of market conditions, or in Minnesota's case: weather conditions.

Demand for electricity regularly fluctuates as people move throughout their homes and businesses on a normal day-to-day basis. But on extreme weather days when everyone is either trying to keep cool or stay warm, the electric grid experiences periods of high stress while attempting to meet members' comfort needs.

These times are when Great River Energy (GRE), Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, deploys its demand response/load control strategy to relieve the electric system of this strain. This ability to respond to the needs of the electric system is made possible by members like you.

Residents and businesses have the option to sign up for load control programs through Todd-Wadena that allow GRE to "control" their cooling or electric heating unit, water heater, electric vehicles, or commercial/industrial/agricultural accounts for a period of hours on high demand days in exchange for a reduced electric rate.

When the time comes for these appliances to be used for load control—typically on hot summer days or during a polar vortex when energy prices increase—GRE flips a switch to alleviate demand. This strategy not only reduces sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, but it also helps the cooperative avoid making expensive purchases from the energy market, ultimately saving members money. These load control programs also alleviate the need to build more generating facilities.

Great River Energy, in partnership with its member-owner cooperatives, 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 its system operators are able to dispatch up to 370,000-plus appliances enrolled in load control programs to manage reliability.

It takes a collective effort from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and its membership to maintain a healthy, reliable electric grid. If you are interested in signing up for a load control program or hearing more about your options to enroll in one for a reduced electric rate, contact us for more information.



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO &
General Counsel

Board Minutes

Highlights from the July 31st, 2023, regular board meeting:

- Isabel Birkholtz shared highlights from her trip to Washington D.C., as part of the NRECA Youth Tour.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report with June's financials; energy sales remain strong, with demand being under budget.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the June financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 1.3 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 3 percent over budget. June's purchased power expense was 3.5 percent under budget. Tier is 0.99 and Equity is 40.99.
- The board heard from Dr. Gabriel Chan, associate professor at Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. He is working to develop learning partnerships between universities and electric cooperatives to navigate the energy transition.
- The board accepted GRE's Long Range Load Forecast.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson discussed upcoming Member Forums and events that will allow members to ask questions, receive a FAQ sheet, as well as utilize the rate calculator to help estimate how the rate adjustment will affect them.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher discussed the number of outages that have occurred recently, both from power suppliers and other reasons. He worked with STAR Energy to put together a comparison of TWEC and 10 other cooperatives in the area.
- Board Member Dale Adams gave the STAR Energy report. Owner equity remains strong.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel highlighted a few new rules and regulations that will affect TWEC and/or its members.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

Rate Adjustment in Effect September 1st

As announced earlier this summer, the rate adjustment is now in effect as of September 1st and will be reflected on members' October billing statements. The various factors contributing to the need for this change include, but are not limited to, wholesale power costs, long-term interest rates, increased construction needs, material costs, and other inflationary changes. The rate adjustment helps ensure Todd-Wadena has adequate revenue to cover costs and to position itself to provide members with safe, reliable, and affordable power into the future.

The adjustment to our *General Service* rate is listed below. For the rest of our rates, as well as a list of FAQs, visit www.toddwadena.coop/rate-adjustment or scan the QR code to the right.



TODDWADENA.COOP/RATE-ADJUSTMENT

General Service Rate Adjustment

Effective September 1 st , 2023	Previous Rate	New Rate
Facility Charge	\$23.00/mo	\$38.00/mo
Energy Charge (Summer Months)	\$0.1140/kWh	\$0.13172/kWh
Energy Charge (Other Months)	\$0.1040/kWh	\$0.11672/kWh
Base PCA	\$0.01156/kWh	\$0.00

Online Rate Calculator

We have released a tool that gives members an opportunity to see an estimate of their monthly bills over the course of the year under the new rates.

Simply visit ratecalc.toddwadena.coop or scan the QR code to preview your bill with the new rates. After verifying your membership details, you will see a comparison of your 2022 bills and a simulation of how those bills would change with the new rates (based on your 2022 usage).



RATECALC.TODDWADENA.COOP



Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. Rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- ▶ **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- ▶ **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- ▶ If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, **contact 9-1-1 immediately** and **remain inside the vehicle** until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- ▶ **Consider equipment and cargo extensions** of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes, and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.



Rebates and Low Rates Available with Dual Fuel Heating

Combine two heating sources to best fit your budget and tailor your energy investment to meet your heating needs. Todd-Wadena's **dual fuel program** offers the option to incorporate a low-cost electric heat source with an alternate heating system.

In a dual fuel heating system, an electric heat source, such as baseboard heat, is used in conjunction with fuel oil, natural gas, propane, or electric storage heat as the back-up heating system.

Dual fuel is a “controlled” electric heating program, which helps save money and conserve energy. When demand for electricity is high, the electric heat source is shut off, or controlled (*up to a maximum of 400 hours per heating season*) with a maximum continuous control time of 12 hours. During control periods, your home's back-up heating system provides the heat you need.



Off-Peak Space Heating Rebates

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

RATES

Todd-Wadena offers its members a low dual fuel heating rate of just **5.8¢ per kWh**. It is a requirement of the dual heat program to have a non-electric, automatic back-up heat system (such as propane, fuel oil, or natural gas) that is large enough to heat the whole house.

Dual Fuel Members: Please Make Sure Your Back-up System is Ready



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. Don't wait until the first control event to find out you need a fill.

- Dual Fuel Heating Systems are usually controlled during periods of high demand (*such as frigid winter evenings*), but other factors such as the generation 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 few years, we have seen more morning load control for dual fuel and water heating. We expect that to continue this year as early morning peaks are occurring. This is due to **increased load** paired with **low temperatures**. Morning load control events tend to occur between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m.

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 1st and April 30th.

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

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

** Note: the 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 1st and April 30th, you must act before the disconnect date on the bill.

To avoid disconnection between October 1st and April 30th you *must* complete the following steps:

1. Set Up a Payment Plan

If you receive a disconnect notice on your bill, you must call TWEC 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.



MN Energy Assistance Program

NEED HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS?
ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE.



Apply online or contact your local energy assistance by county:

Becker, Hubbard, Otter Tail, & Wadena (Mahube OTWA)
(218) 847-1385 or (888) 458-1385

Cass (Bi-Cap) Beltrami
(218) 547-3438 or (800) 332-7135 (Walker Office)
(218) 751-4631 or (800) 332-7161 (Bemidji Office)

Douglas (West Central Minnesota Communities Action)
(218) 685-4486 or (800) 492-4805

Morrison (Tri-County)
(320) 251-1612 or (888) 765-5597

Todd
(320) 732-4516 or (888) 838-4066

APPLY ONLINE



What is it?

Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program helps renters and homeowners keep homes heated and the lights on. The program runs from October to May each season.

Who is it for?

People who rent or own their home and struggle with utility bills.

How much can I receive?

- Primary grants range from \$200 to \$1,400 depending on energy consumption costs & income.
- Additional funds are available for crisis situations.
- Free repair or replacement of broken furnaces for homeowners.
- Energy efficiency upgrades per need.

Who is eligible?

The program is based on income guidelines. The program offers extra support for seniors over 60 years old.

Income Guidelines	Household Size	1 Month Max
	One	\$2,722
	Two	\$3,559
	Three	\$4,397
	Four	\$5,235
	Five	\$6,072
	Six	\$6,910
	Seven	\$7,067
	Eight	\$7,224

Preparing Your Home for a Cozy Winter: Essential Tips

As the vibrant hues of autumn begin to fill the trees, it's a good time for homeowners to start preparing for the upcoming winter. With frigid temperatures and snow on the way, taking proactive measures to winterize your home is important. Here are some essential tips to ensure you remain warm and comfortable during the long winter months.

1) **Inspect and Maintain Your Heating System:**

Your heating system is your lifeline during winter. Schedule a professional inspection to ensure your furnace or heating system is in optimal condition. Change the air filters and consider investing in a programmable thermostat to regulate indoor temperature efficiently.

2) **Seal Leaks and Insulate:** Prevent chilly drafts from invading your home by sealing any gaps around windows, doors, and vents. Proper insulation is crucial in maintaining a cozy atmosphere. Check your attic insulation and consider adding more if needed to prevent heat loss.

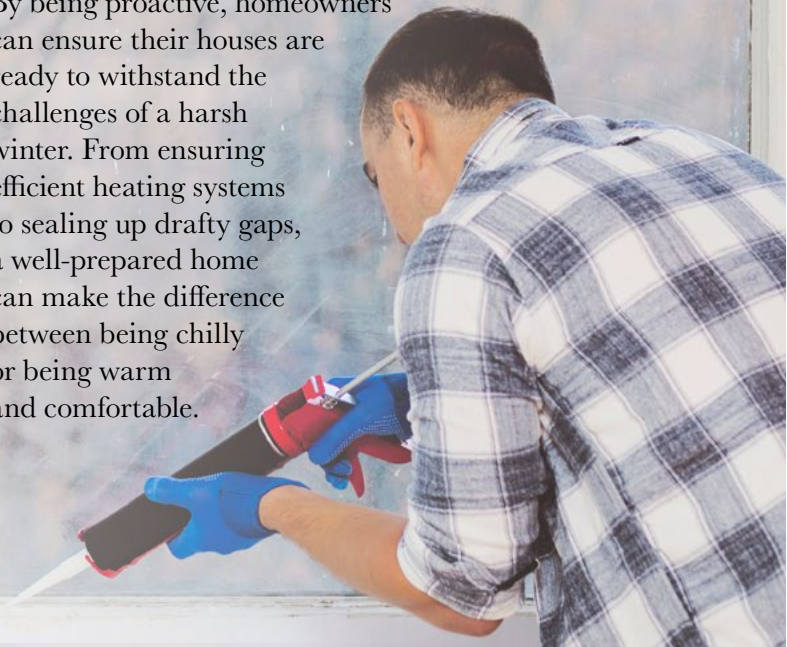
3) **Check and Clean Chimneys and Fireplaces:**

If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, now is the time to clean out the chimney and ensure the flue is functioning correctly. A blocked chimney can lead to hazardous situations, so it's best to have it inspected by a professional.

4) **Prepare the Yard:** Trim tree branches that could potentially fall under the weight of snow and ice, causing damage to your property. Drain and store garden hoses, and shut off exterior water sources to prevent freezing.

5) **Stock Up on Winter Supplies:** Keep an ample supply of rock salt or ice melt, shovels, and snow removal tools on hand. Quick removal of snow and ice from walkways and driveways enhances safety and accessibility.

By being proactive, homeowners can ensure their houses are ready to withstand the challenges of a harsh winter. From ensuring efficient heating systems to sealing up drafty gaps, a well-prepared home can make the difference between being chilly or being warm and comfortable.



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 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Operation Round Up Application Deadline

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



Last Chance to Submit Your Photos for Our 2024 Calendar!

If you haven't yet submitted photos for the cooperative's 2024 calendar — now's the time! Submit your digital photos (up to 5 per member) at www.toddwadena.coop/2024-calendar by **September 18th, 2023**. Be sure to send the photographer's name, TWEC service address, and phone number with the photo.

Keep in mind 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.

Guidelines for Contest

- ▶ Only active Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members may enter the contest.
- ▶ One membership (household) may submit up to 5 photos. If there are multiple photographers per household, please fill out a form for each photographer.
- ▶ Photos must be scenically capturing the beauty of Minnesota's four seasons.
- ▶ Photos must not include people.
- ▶ Only landscape (*horizontal*) orientation photos will be accepted. Vertical photos will not be accepted.
- ▶ Photos need to be sized for printing: *12 inches wide by 9 inches high. 300 dpi minimum quality.*

Unclaimed Capital Credits for Over Seven Years

Unclaimed capital credits go to the 2024 scholarship fund if not claimed. Please contact the office if your name is on this list.

Action, Machine	Fleck, Charlie R	Nelson, Roger N
Anderson, Jean M	Foley, Thomas H	Nelson, Rosina E
Anderson, Paul M	Forar, Lucille L	Nelson, Scott A
Beavers, Geneia L	France, William L	Olson, Erik S
Beste, Walter A	Gerhardt, Gary P	Olson, Mark A
Bjorke, Mark D	Germania Community Club	Ortiz, Robert D
Brekke, Daniel A	Gilmour, Georgine K	OT Repair
Brevik, Gloria J	Hagen, Keith A	Pierson, Willie J Estate
Brolsma, Richard W	Hahn, Sherry D	Poland, Joni M
Brown, Caroline M	Harris, Dale L	Ricker, Pearl M
Brown, Lloyd E	Haverinen, Bobbi R	Rockwell, Janeane M
Cameron, Russell	Iverson, Lauren J	Roth, Jeremy D
Carlson, Terry D	Johnson, Scott C	Sabourin, Robert H
Chase, Thomas R	Kaufman, Roy L	Sawatzky, Loren R
Christensen, Scott P	Kopp, JoAnn E	Scholl, Sharon A
Christian, Cal P	Kvamme, Darrell L	Schwalbaugh, Susie A
Chromey, Edward M	Lembke, Joyce L Estate	Shepersky, Bruce A
Costner, Mari C	Leritz, Stephen C	Stein, John K Estate
Country Manor Motel	Lewis, Randy L	Suhl, Christina A
Davis, Robert M	Madison, Irene L	Swank, David J
Dechaine, Todd A	Manley, Dale W	Thompson, Constance G
Delfosse, Larry D	McCall, Terry L	Toepper, William Estate
DeNittis, L W	Mc Guire, Gloria L	Warzecha, Joseph
Digiovanni, Caroline A	Mickelson, Eric L	Wendt, Delores M Estate
Faiella, Mardel E	Mills, Angela M	Wilson, Betty L
Ferguson, Robert B	Morrow, Jon I	Winter-Holm, Brent J

Note: Our offices will be closed on the following dates.

- 🕒 **Monday, September 4th**
for Labor Day.
- 🕒 **Thursday, September 14th**
for employee training.
- 🕒 **Monday, October 30th**
for employee training.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's 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 & friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

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(800) 321-8932

Website: www.toddwadena.coop

Email: todd-wad@toddwadena.coop

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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:

Mark Thoma (320) 309-9483

Wadena County:

Brandon Disselbrett (218) 640-0187

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
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

Office Hours Change After Labor Day

Our office hours have now returned to
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

September Reader's Contest

1. Maintain a _____-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
2. Change the _____ filters and consider investing in a programmable thermostat to regulate indoor temperature efficiently.
3. Todd-Wadena's _____ fuel program offers the option to incorporate a low-cost electric heat source with an alternate heating system.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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 September 25th.

Kathryn Shetler of Hewitt was the winner of our August Reader's Contest.