



## Make Sure to Pick Up Your Calendar

Make sure to pick up your copy of our 2021 calendar! Containing 13 photos submitted by TWEC members, this calendar

displays the incredible beauty of our area through all seasons.

Due to our lobby being closed to the public, we have pick up locations available throughout our service territory. Stop at any of these locations to pick up your calendar. *Limited quantities are available at each location.*

### Long Prairie

Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce  
Great River Regional Library's Foyer  
43 3rd St. N., Long Prairie

### Menahga

A Clean Plate Local & Organic Grocery  
13 Birch Ave. SE

### Wadena

Wadena Chamber of Commerce  
100 Aldrich Ave. SW

## 2021 Scholarship Applications Available

TWO SCHOLARSHIP TYPES OFFERED

### Graduating High School Senior Scholarship

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) will award up to **three \$1,000 scholarships** to 2021 graduating high school seniors for their first year (freshman) as a college student. All scholarships are made available with unclaimed capital credits (more details below).

### Adults Power Up Non-Traditional Scholarship

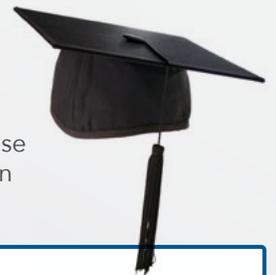
In addition, TWEC will award up to **one \$1,000 Power Up Non-Traditional Scholarship** to an adult student who is either headed to college for the first time, returning to complete an interrupted education, or looking to return to college to improve his or her career opportunities.



**Apply now!** Applications are available at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's website at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop). Please submit your application and attachments to: *Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482.* They must be postmarked on or by **February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

### Where do funds for the scholarships come from?

After a period of seven years, Minnesota law allows cooperatives to use unclaimed capital credits for charitable or educational purposes. Each year, Todd-Wadena is able to use the unclaimed capital credits to offer student scholarships in our service area.



**Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## Is Arbitration Appropriate for TWEC?

Arbitration is a form of alternative dispute resolution. It is “alternative” in the sense that an arbitrator, rather than the court system, will hear the evidence and decide the outcome of a case. Many modern contracts require the parties to the contract to agree to resolve any disputes by using the arbitration process. In Minnesota, arbitration is recognized by the judicial system as a way to avoid court congestion and has been available since the early 1990s as a recognized type of alternative dispute resolution.

Recently, many rural electric cooperatives nationwide have adopted “arbitration clauses” within their bylaws to require that certain disputes between the cooperative and its members be resolved by arbitration. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative has been exploring this option and the membership will be asked to vote on it at TWEC's Annual Meeting in April. This article is dedicated to exploring and explaining this arbitration issue in more detail.

### Why Arbitration?

Arbitration is an effective dispute resolution tool for a number of reasons. It is widely considered to be a quicker way to bring a dispute to a conclusion as compared to traditional litigation in the court system. Arbitration is also considered less expensive than traditional litigation; especially when taking into account the legal fees and expense involved in court filing, witness fees, jury fees, and the multitude of motions, briefs, jury instructions, and other requirements of traditional litigation in the court system.



Arbitration involves a process of selecting the arbitrator that allows equal input from both parties (rather than having a random judge assigned). This usually results in better subject matter knowledge from the decision maker weighing in on the underlying merits of the case and on the final decision.

### How it Works

Incorporating a mandatory arbitration clause into the Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Bylaws would require that most disputes between a member and the

Cooperative be resolved through the arbitration process. The details of how an arbitration proceeding is initiated, and what process guides the parties, is set forth in the *Minnesota Uniform Arbitration Act*—codified at *Minn. Stat. Chapter 572B*.

Generally speaking, the arbitrator will set the time and place for a hearing to determine the controversy. The hearing will take place in Wadena County, Minnesota, and may be adjourned from time to time. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence, and to examine and cross examine witnesses. A party may be represented in the proceeding by a lawyer. The arbitrator has the ability to issue subpoenas and may permit depositions and other forms of discovery the arbitrator deems appropriate.

Ultimately, the arbitrator will issue an award, in writing, and furnish it to each party. The award may consist of any remedy the arbitrator considers just and appropriate under the circumstances of the proceeding. Minnesota's Arbitration Act contains provisions for vacating an arbitration award under limited circumstances and for limited appeal of an arbitrator's award.

### Final Thoughts

Arbitration itself is not a panacea/cure-all for resolving disputes. However, given the growing pressure put on our judicial system by increased criminal and family law caseloads, and the resulting time delays and increased expenses to be borne by civil litigants, arbitration is becoming a more appealing tool.

After considering the nuances involved in arbitration carefully and in observing its successes elsewhere, your Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Board of Directors is recommending the incorporation of an arbitration clause into the Cooperative's Bylaws. You, the members, will have the ultimate say on this decision when you cast your votes in conjunction with TWEC's Annual Meeting in April. I encourage you to vote “yes” on this ballot question and allow the Cooperative's Bylaws to be amended to include an arbitration clause.



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

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

## Board Minutes

*Highlights from the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, regular board meeting:*

- *CEO Dan Carlisle updated the board on legislative matters and the impact of COVID-19 on the cooperative. He also discussed the options for the 2021 Strategic Planning session.*
- *Carlisle announced his new role as the Vice Chair for Great River Energy's Member Managers Group for 2021, with the intention of the Chair in 2022.*
- *The Building Committee gave updates on the demolition of the old building and completion of the "punch list" as contractors finish the new HQ. The project is expected to remain on budget.*
- *Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the October financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 11 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 5.8 percent over budget. October's purchased power expense was 8.6 percent over budget. Tier is 2.45 and Equity is 44.49.*
- *Senior management presented the proposed 2021 budget. Graba-Meech provided the overall budget schematics and 10-year forecast.*
- *The board reviewed a list of the 2021 Membership Dues.*
- *Operations Manager Todd Miller introduced the seasonal employee who was hired in October and reviewed the Safety Report.*
- *Board Member Mike Thorson gave the financial report for Great River Energy (GRE). October margins were ahead of budget. The GRE board took action in November to approve the 2021 Budget, which included the addition of \$2.1 million to add cold storage in the Wadena area.*
- *Board Chair Miles Kuschel shared a state and national recap from the election.*
- *Carlisle updated the board on changes happening at STAR Energy, LLC. The STAR Board Executive Committee has elected the CFO, Lois Croonquist, to act as the interim CEO.*

## Nominating Committee to Meet for 2021 Director Elections

The 2021 Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet on January 21<sup>st</sup> to select nominees for the director elections, which will occur at the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 TWEC Annual Meeting. Any member interested in becoming a director candidate may contact the cooperative office by either calling TWEC at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932 or by sending a mailed notice to *Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482.*

### How to Become a Director

The grassroots participation in nominating and electing directors is one of the most important powers that you, the member-owners of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, have to guide the decisions of your cooperative. This year, the three-year terms of Miles Kuschel and Tom Brichacek will expire at the Annual Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Election ballots will be mailed to all members in March 2021.

In addition to mail-in ballots, there will again be an option to vote online this year. Members may also vote in person at the TWEC Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. If you are interested in becoming a nominee for a director position, please note the list of qualifications below.

### To become a nominee for Director you must:

- Be a member in good standing of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.
- Have your primary address on Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's lines.
- Not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which is either directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative, selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative, or possess a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.
- Not be an employee or have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years.
- Not be a close relative of an employee.
- Have not been convicted of a felony within the last three (3) years.
- Agree to regularly attend all board, regular and special, members' meetings.

# Are You Ready for an Electric Vehicle?

If you are considering purchasing a new car and are looking at an electric vehicle (EV) as an option, it is important to understand how an electric vehicle can lead to savings when compared to conventional gas engines.

Between operational cost savings and the fact you can install a charging station at your home, owning an EV means no more trips to the mechanic or gas station. Government rebates on the purchase of a new EV can help sweeten the deal.

Choosing to go electric-powered instead of gas-powered can lead to significant long-term savings. A 2018 study from the *University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute* found

## Electric Vehicle Benefits



**Enjoy Better Driving**  
Quick acceleration and a quiet ride



**Save Money**  
Lower fueling and maintenance costs



**Save Time**  
Charge while you're doing other things and enjoy the HOV lane

**Charge Where You Go**  
Over 120,900 charging points across the U.S.



**Help the Environment**  
Reduce emissions and improve air quality



that electric vehicles cost less than half as much to operate as gas-powered cars. The average cost to operate an EV in the United States is \$485 per year, while the average for a gasoline-powered vehicle is \$1,117. The exact price difference would depend on current gas and electric rates, as well as the type of car you drive.

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. See the charts below and the example usage patterns for a year of driving.

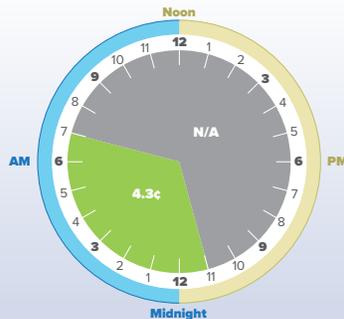
## TWEC Electric Vehicle Rates Compared

The average driver puts on approximately 15,000 miles a year, which would require approximately 4,500 kWh's of charging. Using our *Storage Rate*, which only allows charging from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. for 4.3¢/kWh, you would spend an

estimated amount of \$193 annually. On our *Time-of-Use Rate*, assuming 10% charging on-peak at 30¢/kWh, with the remainder charging off-peak at 6.95¢/kWh, you would spend an estimated amount of \$416 annually.

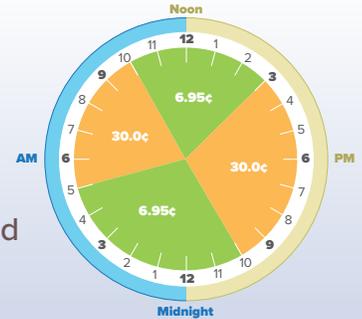
### STORAGE RATE

Annual usage charging only 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. comes to an estimated amount of \$193/year.



### TIME-OF-USE RATE

Annual usage assuming 10% charging on-peak comes to an estimated amount of \$416/year.



## Save Up to \$800 on Your Purchase of an EV Charger

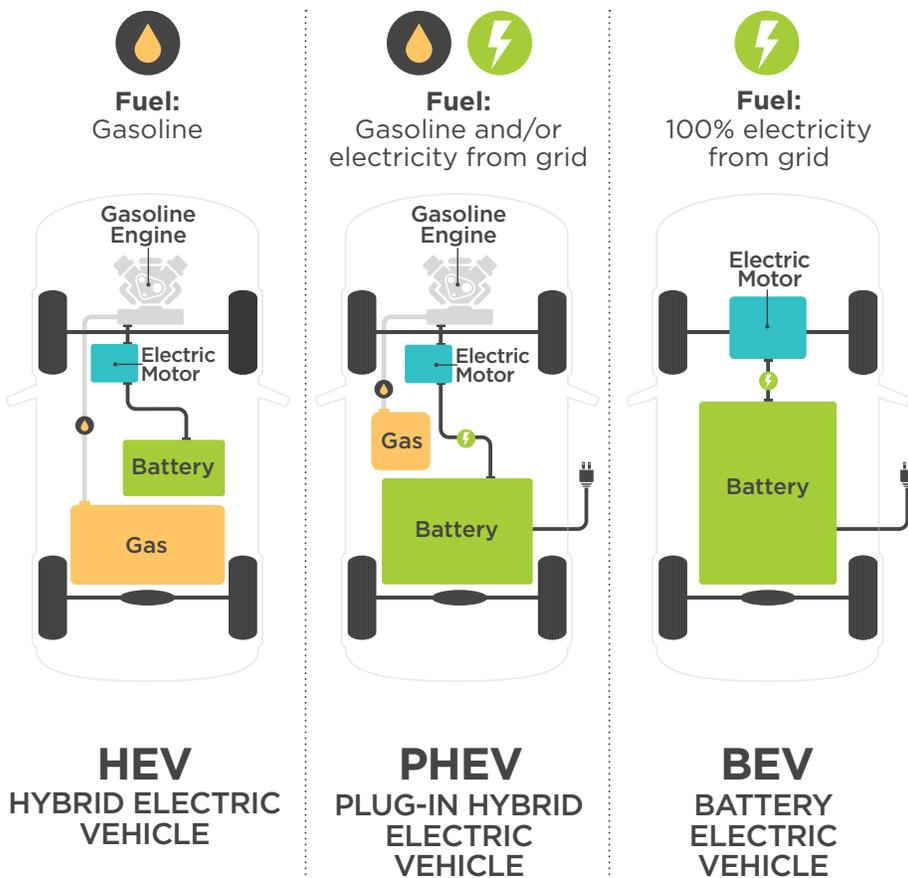
We're making purchasing an electric vehicle (EV) charger easier than ever! If you're one of the first 200 people to purchase an EV charger from our online store, you'll receive an \$800 discount at the time of purchase. Don't delay! Visit [energywisemnstore.com](http://energywisemnstore.com) today.

# Which Type of Electric Vehicle is Right for Me?

If you're looking to purchase an electric vehicle, use this cheat sheet to help determine the best option for you. Drivers can choose between three types of electric vehicles (EVs). Only BEVs and PHEVs are able to be plugged in to charge.

- **Battery electric vehicles (BEVs)** run only on electric power from a battery.
- **Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs)** have a backup gas engine and plug in to charge.
- **Hybrids** (like Toyota Prius) have a gas engine that charges a small battery, so they don't plug in.

Pick an EV that works for your driving habits. You can get up to 250+ miles of electric range in a PHEV or BEV. A PHEV's gas engine can help you take longer trips when needed.



The *ChargePoint* app allows electric vehicle (EV) drivers to find charging stations wherever they go (*note: there's now a charging station in Wadena!*). It provides station information, directions from ChargePoint stations, as well as stations from all other major charging networks to help you find a spot to charge. To find a place to charge, follow the steps below.

- 1) Get the *ChargePoint* app, available for iPhone and Android, and sign up or log in.
- 2) Use your current location or search in a different area to browse stations. If you see a number in a circle, that's the total number of charging spots at the location. Click to see individual stations.
- 3) Click on any station pin and access station details by clicking the info bar at the bottom of the screen. You can see how much it costs to charge, photos of where the stations are, and tips from other drivers.
- 4) Once you've picked a charging spot, click the orange car at the bottom of the screen to get directions.
- 5) If it's a ChargePoint station, the app can send a notification to your mobile device once the charging is complete, and handle payment as well!

## Annual Fuel Costs Compared Between Gasoline and Electric

According to UCS (*ucsusa.org*), owners of EVs could save between \$70 and \$1,200 on annual fueling cost compared to conventional gasoline automobiles. In the lifetime of a vehicle (*166,000 miles*) a gas car would cost \$18,000 in gas versus an electric vehicle's cost of electricity at \$5,200—giving a savings of approximately \$13,000.



\*Based on the national U.S. average of \$3.50/gallon and an electric rate of 11¢/kWh.

## Off-Peak Water Heating

<b>Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heater Program</b>	\$330* for 85 gallon Marathon \$420* for 105 gallon Marathon Non-Marathon—\$400 cash rebate ( <i>must be at least 85 gallons</i> )	<i>Low 4.3¢ kWh rate (plus \$2/mo meter fee) Must enroll in the ETS Water Heater Storage program. *New program enrollment only.</i>
<b>Peak Shaved Water Heating</b>	\$330* for 85 gallon Marathon \$420* for 105 gallon Marathon Non-Marathon—\$400 cash rebate ( <i>must be at least 85 gallons</i> )	<i>\$8/month credit after 36 months for new construction or gas switching. \$8/month credit after 60 months for existing electric to controlled electric.</i>
<b>Existing Controlled Replacement</b>	\$100 cash rebate	<i>Must provide receipt. Total gallons must equal at least 85 gallons.</i>

## Off-Peak Space Heating

<b>Slab Heat/Dual Heat</b>	\$35/kW rebate	<i>Up to 10 kW/\$350</i>
<b>Plenum Heater (New DH only)</b>	\$500 rebate	<i>Must install at least 10 kW</i>
<b>Quality Installed Air Source Heat Pump (QI contractor required for rebate)</b>	\$480 rebate	<i>SEER 14.5</i>
	\$580 rebate	<i>SEER 15</i>
	\$630 rebate	<i>SEER 16</i>
<b>Ground Source Heat Pump</b>	\$400/ton rebate	<i>Must be Energy Star rated</i>
<b>Storage Heat</b>	\$50/kW rebate	<i>Up to 10 kW/\$500</i>

## Appliances

<b>Freezer/Refrigerator (with recycling)</b>	\$75 rebate	<i>Must be Energy Star rated</i>
<b>Clothes Dryer</b>	\$25 rebate	<i>Must be Energy Star rated</i>
<b>Dehumidifier</b>	\$25 rebate	<i>Must be Energy Star rated</i>
<b>Ductless ASHP</b>	\$300 ( <i>if delivered fuel is primary heating source</i> ) \$500 ( <i>if electric is primary heating source</i> )	<i>Must be Energy Star rated</i>
<b>A/C tune up</b>	\$25 rebate	<i>Documentation by contractor</i>
<b>Wi-Fi Thermostat</b>	\$25 rebate	<i>Must be Wi-Fi Smart Thermostat</i>

## Bulbs

<b>LED Bulbs</b>	\$2/bulb	<i>Proof of Energy Star rating. Rebate cannot exceed 50% of purchase price.</i>
<b>LED Yard Light Rebate</b>	\$30/fixture	<i>Proof of Energy Star rating (min. 50 watt LED).</i>

## Electric Vehicles

<b>Charge Wise</b>	\$500	<i>Rebate is to be used towards installation of electric vehicle charger. Must enroll in an electric vehicle rate.</i>
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## Yard Tools

<b>Battery Powered Lawn Mower</b>	\$50 ( <i>Pre-tax purchase price of \$100–\$400</i> ) \$100 ( <i>Pre-tax purchase price of \$401 and up</i> )	<i>Only one rebate per member on any one (1) yard tool. Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price.</i>
<b>Lawn Care Equipment (battery powered) Edger, Trimmers, Chainsaw, Pole Saw, or Leaf Blower</b>	\$25 ( <i>Pre-tax purchase price \$50–\$200</i> ) \$50 ( <i>Pre-tax purchase price of \$201 and up</i> ) <i>Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price.</i>	

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



## Brady Erickson Becomes a Journeyman Lineworker

Brady recently completed his four-year apprenticeship through the *Merchant Job Training and Safety (MJTS)* program. Throughout his apprenticeship, Brady had to complete hours of bookwork, tests, and on-the-job training. Brady now has basic electric skills, spec book knowledge, OSHA training, transformer connections, and most of all—the ability to safely work around electricity. Congratulations, Brady!

Has your organization applied for an Operation Round Up grant? The next deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>. For more details and to download a fillable application, visit our website.



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

## GRE Load Control Page

A few members have had questions regarding the GRE load control page. GRE is listing Lake Country as a separate line item for load control. GRE has added them separately on the page due to a pilot that Lake Country is conducting. The Lake Country Load Management Schedule does not apply to TWEC members and can be disregarded.

Load Management Guide

Current Schedule History Sheet Counts Weather About

Load Management Schedule

Tue Dec 15, 2020 - 04:01 PM CPT

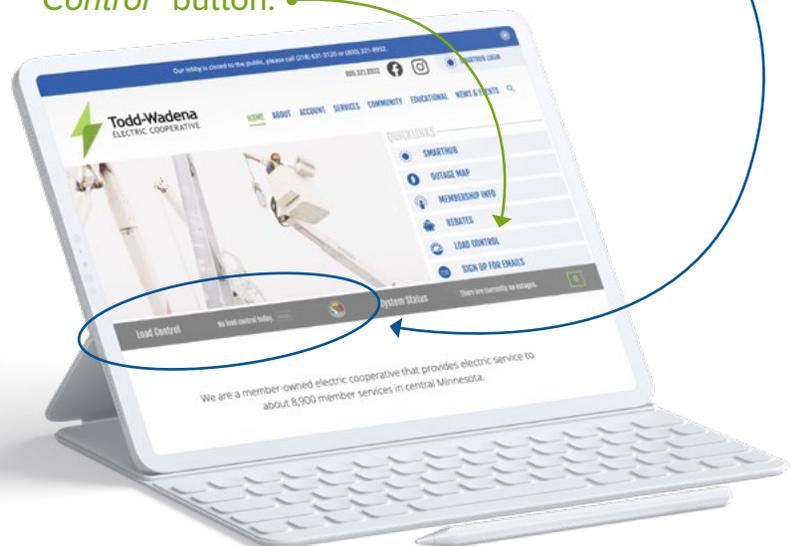
Today	Program Type	Probability	Expected Time (CPT)
CI	CI with GenSet	Unlikely	Undetermined
CI	Interruptible Metered CI	Unlikely	Undetermined
Residential	Dual Fuel	Unlikely	Undetermined
Residential	Interruptible Water Heating	Unlikely	Undetermined
Residential	Lake Country Dual Fuel	Scheduled	03:30 PM - 07:00 PM
Residential	Lake Country Interruptible Water	Scheduled	03:00 PM - 07:30 PM

Next Day	Program Type	Probability	Expected Time (CPT)
CI	CI with GenSet	Unlikely	Undetermined
CI	Interruptible Metered CI	Unlikely	Undetermined
Residential	Dual Fuel	Unlikely	Undetermined
Residential	Interruptible Water Heating	Unlikely	Undetermined

Control times are subject to change as weather conditions and other variables affecting the load change. All times are approximate. Control times and probability displayed here are only for load control initiated by Great River Energy. Load control initiated by your local cooperative is not reflected on this page.

**Note:** you can always see the load control status directly on our website on our status bar. To see GRE's page directly, click the "Load Control" button.

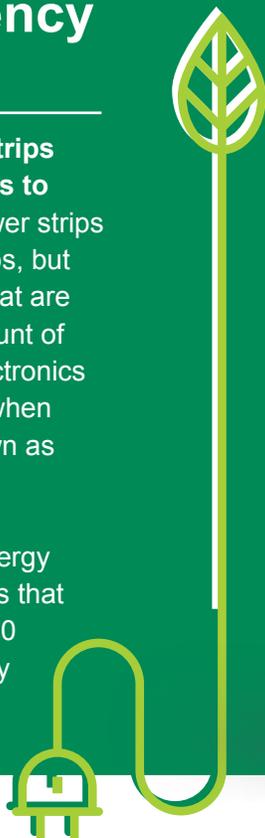


## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

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



# Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for  
members and friends of



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

**Office Hours:** 8:00am - 4:30pm  
Monday - Friday

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(800) 321-8932

**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:**

Gary Zacharias (218) 631-1392

**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

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## **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 [kvandeventer@toddwadena.coop](mailto:kvandeventer@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>.

1. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is able to use \_\_\_\_\_ capital credits to offer student scholarships in our area.
2. Save up to \$\_\_\_\_\_ on your purchase of an EV charger at [www.energywisemnstore.com](http://www.energywisemnstore.com).
3. Receive a \$\_\_\_\_\_ rebate on Wi-Fi Smart Thermostats.

**Name:**

**Your TWEC Service Address:**

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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**Jesse Rensberry of Long Prairie was the winner of our December Reader's Contest.**