



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
January 2022
www.toddwadena.coop

2022 Scholarships

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will award up to four *\$1,000 Scholarships* to 2022 graduating high school seniors for their first year (freshman) as a college student.

POWER UP ADULT SCHOLARSHIP

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

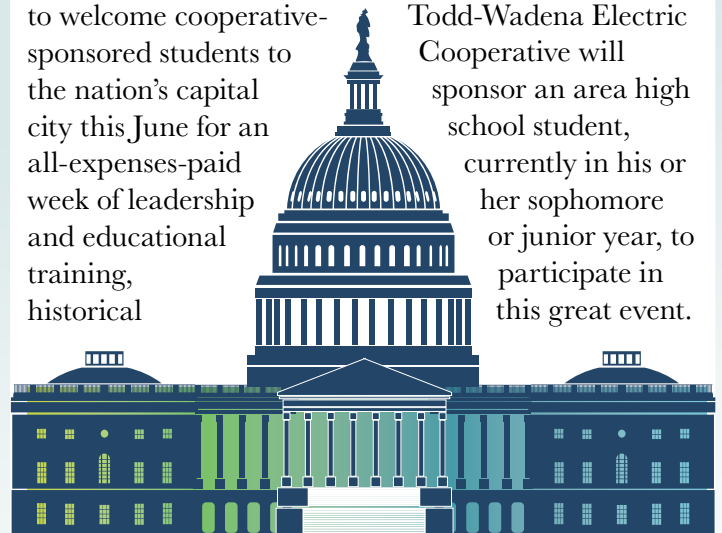
Application deadline is February 25th, 2022. Find more info and application at www.toddwadena.coop.

Youth Tour 2022

OUR WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP IS BACK ON FOR 2022!

The *National Rural Electric Cooperative Association* and *Minnesota Rural Electric Association* plan to welcome cooperative-sponsored students to the nation's capital city this June for an all-expenses-paid week of leadership and educational training, historical

perspectives, tours of city sites, and experiences in the heart of the federal government. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will sponsor an area high school student, currently in his or her sophomore or junior year, to participate in this great event.



Learn more about this opportunity, including applicant qualifications and how to apply, at www.toddwadena.coop



**Make Sure
To Get
Your 2022
Calendar!**

We still have a few 2022 calendars available! Pick yours up at our office or at one of our pick up locations available throughout the service territory! *Limited quantities are available at each location.*

LOCATIONS

- Browerville**
Pro-Ag Farmers' Co-op
501 Railroad Ave.
- Long Prairie**
Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce/
Great River Regional Library's Foyer
43 3rd St. N.
- Menahga**
A Clean Plate Local & Organic Grocery
13 Birch Ave. SE
- Staples**
True Value // 205 Warner Road NE

Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances, and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater, and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV, and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

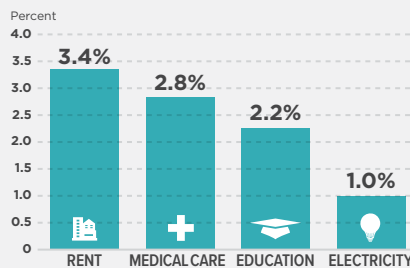
Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.



Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value. **Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative has not had an increase in rates since 2015.**

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series, or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

Board Minutes

Highlights from the November 30th, 2021, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle reported on a few key topics discussed at the November Member Managers Group (MMG) meeting with Great River Energy (GRE). GRE's transmission team has been studying weather patterns and forecasts to be able to improve planning, especially in the case of extreme weather events and to improve infrastructure needs. Carlisle was elected as the MMG Chair for 2022.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the October financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 8 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 5 percent under budget. October's purchased power expense was 4 percent under budget. Tier is 1.21 and Equity is 44.45.
- Carlisle and the management team presented TWEC's proposed 2022 Budget and 10-Year Forecast to the board.
- Operations Manager Todd Miller highlighted some substantial statistics for 2021. So far this year, there were 146 new services installed, 8 services retired, 15 loop changes, 44 service changes, 21 dual heat installs, 76 rotten poles replaced, and 81 pole improvements. On average per year, TWEC installs 5,229 feet of overhead and 32,300 feet of underground; in 2021, 10,809 feet and 77,165 feet were installed respectively.
- In November, TWEC's disconnect process went 100 percent automated.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE report. October financials continue to be strong. Thorson presented a Resolution that would amend the Capacity Purchase Agreement with Rainbow Energy to purchase an additional 68 MW. The board passed a motion to vote in favor of the Resolution.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided a legislative update and broke out each section of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that was signed by President Biden.
- Board Member Marie Katterhagen attended the Cooperative Network annual meeting via zoom. Cooperative Network represents all cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin. They hired three new lobbyist positions as they work diligently statewide and nationally.

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, or by calling Allison at (218) 632-3217 or 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.

Nominating Committee Meeting January 20th

The 2022 Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet on **January 20th** to make selections for director elections taking place at TWEC's 2022 Annual Meeting. This year, the three-year terms of Marie Katterhagen and Mike Thorson will expire at the Annual Meeting on April 19th, 2022.

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.



Save the Date: 2022 Annual Meeting

Make sure to save the date for our 2022 Annual Meeting! The meeting will be **Tuesday, April 19th, 2022** at the Maslowski Wellness & Research Center in Wadena, MN.

Bring the entire family! Children will be able to enjoy free swimming before and during the business meeting. A meal will follow the business meeting.

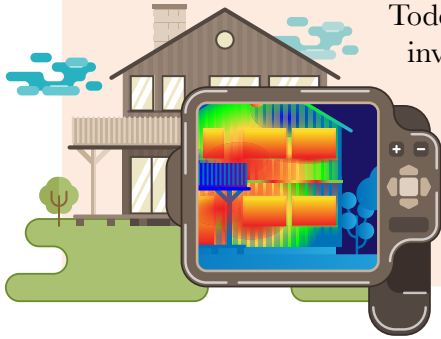


Please note: We are currently planning for an in-person meeting, but will need to remain flexible should the situation with the pandemic change.

Any member interested in becoming a director candidate may contact a member of the Nominating Committee or the Cooperative office by either calling TWEC at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932.

Find Ways to Save with a Home Energy Analysis

Winter has settled in, bringing frigid temperatures and breath-taking wind chills. Now more than ever, it's important to ensure your home is operating with maximum energy efficiency. Whether your home is old or new, chances are you are spending more on energy costs than necessary.



Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative invested in special equipment designed to detect home heat loss. We want to help members pinpoint areas of infiltration where weatherstripping or caulking can pay dividends in lower heating and cooling costs.

Schedule a Home Analysis Today

Call our office at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932 to set up a home analysis appointment with our technician, Greg. Greg will conduct one or both tests and provide detailed reports to verify results. The fees include the trip charge, the scans, and reports.

BLOWER DOOR TEST: \$60

INFRARED SCAN: \$60

BLOWER DOOR & INFRARED: \$90

Blower Door Test

A **blower door** is a powerful fan that mounts into the frame of an exterior door. The fan pulls air out of the house, lowering the air pressure inside. The higher outside air pressure then flows in through all unsealed cracks and openings.



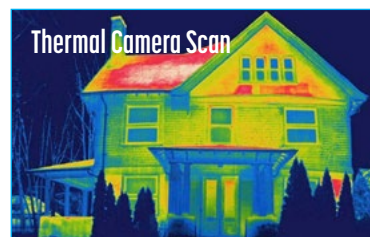
The technician may use a smoke pencil to detect air leaks. These tests determine the air infiltration rate of a building. Establishing proper building tightness is important to reduce energy consumption due to air leakage, to avoid moisture condensation problems and uncomfortable drafts, and to make sure the home's air quality is not too contaminated by indoor air pollution.

Our technician uses a calibrated door, which has several gauges that measure the amount of air pulled out of the house by the fan. Uncalibrated blower doors only locate leaks in homes. They provide no method for determining the overall tightness of a building. The calibrated blower door's data allows the technician to quantify the amount of air leakage and the effectiveness of any air-sealing job.

Infrared Scanning

Thermography, or **infrared scanning**, detects thermal defects and air leakage in buildings. It measures surface temperatures by using infrared video and still cameras. These tools "see" light in the heat spectrum. Images on the video or film record the temperature variations of the building's skin, ranging from white for warm regions to black for cooler areas. The resulting images help the technician determine whether insulation is needed and where. They also serve as a quality control tool, to ensure that insulation has been installed correctly.

Interior scans are often preferred over exterior scans because warm air escaping from a building does not always move through the walls in a



straight line. Heat loss detected in one area of the outside wall might originate at some other location on the inside of the wall. Also, it is harder to detect temperature differences on the outside surface of the building during windy weather. Thermographic scans may also be used with the blower door running since it exaggerates air leaking through defects in the building shell.

Off-Peak Water Heating

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heater Program	\$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>
Peak Shave Water Heating	\$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. *New program enrollment only.</i>
Existing Controlled Replacement	\$100 cash rebate	<i>Must provide receipt. Total gallons must equal at least 85 gallons.</i>

Off-Peak Space Heating

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

Appliances

Freezer/Refrigerator (with recycling)	\$75 rebate	<i>Must be Energy Star rated</i>
Clothes Dryer	\$25 rebate	<i>Must be Energy Star rated</i>
Dehumidifier	\$25 rebate	<i>Must be Energy Star rated</i>
Ductless ASHP	\$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>
A/C Tune Up	\$25 rebate	<i>Documentation by contractor</i>
Wi-Fi Thermostat	\$25 rebate	<i>Must be Wi-Fi Smart Thermostat</i>

Bulbs

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

Electric Vehicles

ChargeWise	\$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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Battery Powered Yard Tools

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

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

Noticing a larger than normal difference between last month's billing statement and this month's statement? Due to our capital credit retirements last month (which appeared as bill credit for active members) bills were *less than normal*. Between that and the drop in temperatures last month, there could be a *larger difference than normal* between the two months.

Receive a Text Message Notification When Your Power Goes Out

Did you know you can receive text message notifications of outages that concern your Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative account? To sign up, visit www.toddwadena.coop/outages and click on the *Sign Up for Outage Notifications* button. You will then be asked for your account number. Select either *Residential* or *Business* and fill in the requested information. You will now receive notifications of any outages that affect your account, as well as power restoration notices.



Please note: We still encourage members to call us in the event of an outage.

Track Your Energy Usage With SmartHub

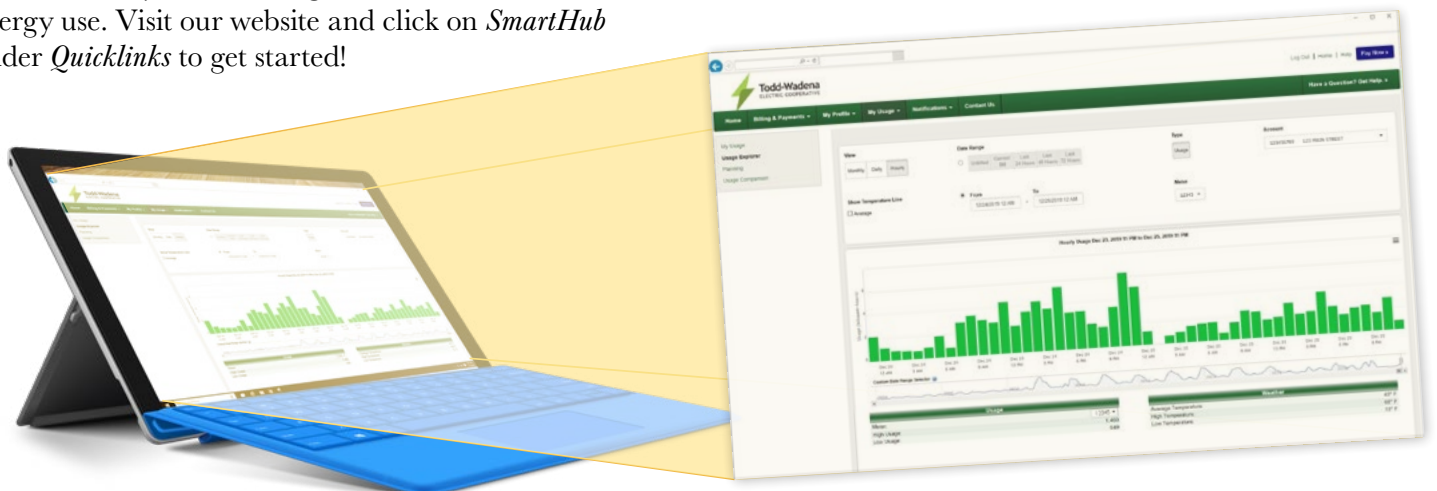
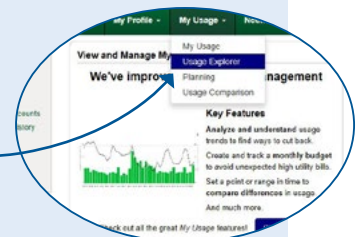
During periods of cold weather like we've experienced recently, our heating systems work extra hard to keep our homes comfortable. It's important to understand how temperature and your electric usage correlate with each other.

SmartHub, a free online tool and mobile app available to all Todd-Wadena members, gives you the ability to view your electrical energy usage at monthly, daily, or hourly intervals for any date range. You can also overlay an average temperature line over your usage to compare spikes to temperature fluctuations.

This is a great tool to help explain energy usage on your bill and assist you in making informed decisions about energy use. Visit our website and click on *SmartHub* under *Quicklinks* to get started!

Where to Find Your Energy Usage

1. Log into SmartHub
2. Under the *My Usage* tab, click on *Usage Explorer*
3. View monthly, daily, or hourly usage and choose a pre-defined date range (*unbilled, current bill, last 24 hours, last 48 hours, last 72 hours*), or a specific date range and time.



Don't Let Electrical Safety Get Buried in the Snow



Winters in Minnesota present challenges to members and Todd-Wadena's line workers. 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 line workers 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 line workers to get power restored. TWEC recommends using a shovel to prevent damage. This allows members to be aware of the utility infrastructure below. If members notice damaged equipment, please contact TWEC at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932 so it can be inspected.

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

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



www.toddwadena.coop/operation-round-up

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning, or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system. Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters, and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: www.energy.gov



Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for
members and friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

www.toddwadena.coop

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Monday - Friday

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Email: todd-wad@toddwadena.coop

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P.O. Box 431
Wadena, MN 56482

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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/toddwadanaelectriccooperative
www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

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Wadena, MN 56482

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**We will be closed on January 17th in
observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

JANUARY READER'S CONTEST

For your chance to be entered in a drawing to **win a \$10 credit** on your bill, correctly answer the questions and include with your TWEC bill. Mail to **TWEC, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482**. Or email the answers to **mbrservices@toddwadena.coop** with the subject line "Reader's Contest". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address. Entries must be received by January 25th.

1. Members need to be mindful of the location of _____ equipment and make sure it is clear and accessible for Todd-Wadena crews.
2. Members can receive a rebate on _____ powered snow blowers.
3. Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning, or replacing air filters once a _____ or as needed.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Brian Workman of Maple Grove was the winner of our December Reader's Contest.