



# Todd-Wadena ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie  
December 2022  
www.toddwadena.coop

*From all of us at  
Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative*



# Happy Holidays

## Board of Directors

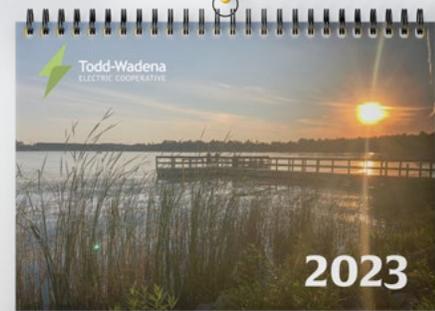
*Dale Adams  
Tom Brichtacek  
Marie Katterhagen  
Gene Kern  
Miles Kuschel  
Kristine Spadgenske  
Mike Thorson*

## Employees

<i>Josh Byman</i>	<i>Brayden Guiazdon</i>	<i>Lori Redetzke</i>
<i>Dan Carlisle</i>	<i>Greg Jacobson</i>	<i>Lisa Reed Krump</i>
<i>Brady Erickson</i>	<i>Scott Kangas</i>	<i>Heidi Smith</i>
<i>Melissa Evans</i>	<i>Jamie Line</i>	<i>David Snyder</i>
<i>Tyler Fisher</i>	<i>Kevin Lupkes</i>	<i>Lori Tumberg</i>
<i>Allison Frederickson</i>	<i>Jason Ohrmundt</i>	<i>Kallie Van De Venter</i>
<i>Jon Grenier</i>	<i>Jason Orlando</i>	<i>Trent Walter</i>
<i>Abby Harrison</i>	<i>Mike Orlando</i>	<i>Luke Wilhelmi</i>
<i>Lisa Graba-Meech</i>	<i>Kristen Paurus</i>	<i>Mary Williams</i>

## 2023 Calendar Now Available

Our 2023 calendars are ready to pick up! Stop by to pick up a calendar at our office or at one of our pick up locations (listed below). *Thank you to all our members who submitted photos!*



### 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

*Note:  
Limited quantities available at each location.*

# Holiday Hours

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

- ❄ **December 23<sup>rd</sup>** for Christmas
- ❄ **January 2<sup>nd</sup>** for New Year's
- ❄ **January 16<sup>th</sup>** for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Drop Off Old String Lights

Recycle your non-functioning lights and extension cords at our office with **Bites for Lights** by Brainerd's Sunrise Sertoma Club. All string lights and old extension cords will be recycled — staying out of landfills. You can drop off your donation in our lobby, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.



### IN THIS ISSUE:

## Youth Tour

One local high school student could win an all-expenses-paid trip to our nation's capital (page 3).

## Scholarships

TWEC uses unclaimed capital credits to offer scholarships in our service area (page 3).



Happy holidays from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative! All of the employees and Board of Directors would like you, our members, to know how much we appreciate you. We hope you have a happy and safe holiday season and a prosperous new year! As 2022 comes to a close, it's a good time to reflect on the past year.

In 2022, the Board of Directors approved the retirement of \$766,000 of capital credits for the remainder of 2007, and from our wholesale provider, Great River Energy, a retirement of \$160,000 of capital credits to Todd-Wadena members who had patronage from 1991-1992. Year to date, I am pleased to report that crews have installed 131 new services for the co-op, built 6 miles of new lines, and rebuilt 9½ miles of single-phase overhead lines. This is an impressive accomplishment, especially considering the strong storms that hit our region this spring.

Massive storms in May destroyed distribution lines and equipment. Our line crews, along with crews from neighboring co-ops who showed up to assist us, worked diligently to restore power to our members. While lineworkers were out working to restore power, our office staff stepped up to support our crews and members during that challenging time. The storm qualified as a FEMA event – the first one we've had in over 10 years. I am thankful for the hard work of our employees and the patience and support of our members as we worked to restore power in the wake of the storms.

After hosting the cooperative's Annual Meeting in a virtual format for the past two years, it was great to be back in-person at the Maslowski Wellness & Research Center this past spring. I appreciated the opportunity to see so many new and familiar faces at the Annual Meeting.

We are always looking at how we can best serve our membership. In July, Todd-Wadena hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Co-op Strong lunch with West Central Telephone Association. The month after that, we held our annual pancake supper, along with an EV Ride and Drive event. We served over 400 people and many members test drove an EV or eBike at the event. Recently, a crew helped hang lights at Burlington Northern Park in Wadena and in the city of Bluffton for the holidays. Another highlight was offering six scholarships in 2022 to local high school seniors and adult learners.

The past year also brought with it some challenges – including supply chain issues and rising inflation. As the cost of service continues to increase, we remain committed to providing our members with the safe, reliable energy you've come to expect.

I am thankful for the employees and directors we have at Todd-Wadena. We would not be here today without you, our members, and we look forward to serving you in the years to come.

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



**Highlights from the October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regular board meeting:**

- Ally Pavak attended the board meeting to discuss her visit to Washington, D.C. as part of the NRECA Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity.
- The board accepted the union contract as presented.
- CEO Dan Carlisle, senior management, and the payroll team hosted an All-Employee Meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff discussed the employee culture survey and the action items that were developed to address stress, burn-out, and work-life balance.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. He touched on a few GRE budget items: salary increases; employee count in IT and transmission; increase in material for transmission projects; and closure of the Elk River office. TWEC directors approved a Resolution to Vote in Favor of the Prairie Island Energy, LLC Power Purchase Agreement.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the September financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 17 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 12 percent over budget. September's purchased power expense was 16 percent over budget. Tier is 0.94 and Equity is 40.99.
- The board approved the 2022 Capital Credit Retirement as presented (TWEC \$766,000; GRE \$160,000).
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson noted how GRE is forecasting more and longer controls as we move into the colder season. She also provided a high-level rate comparison showing TWEC's current rate/incentives (for load management), GRE's 2022 rates, and GRE's proposed 2023 rates.
- Co-Interim Operations Manager Tyler Fisher reported that crews have been working hard to finish up the Leaf River Substation rebuild. The new substation was energized on October 18<sup>th</sup> and began carrying load on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- TWEC's Cyber Security Specialist Abby Harrison presented on the Cyber Security Initiative.
- Board Member Dale Adams gave the STAR Energy report. He shared employee demographics and mentioned how STAR is looking to grow its employee group in 2023.

## 2023 Youth Tour



Each year, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative holds a contest 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)

## 2023 Scholarships

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.

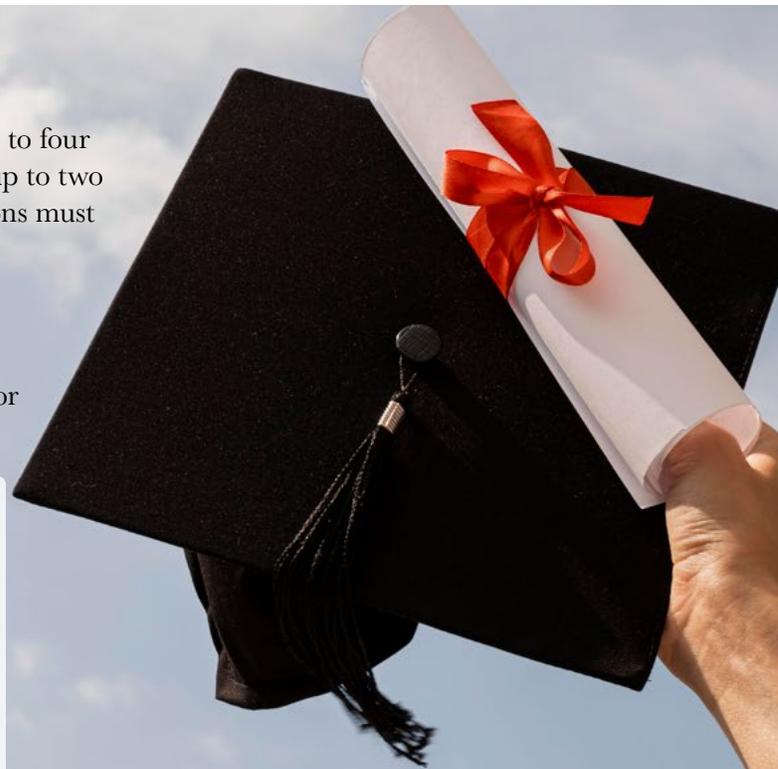
Scholarships are made available with unclaimed capital credits. After a period of seven years, Minnesota law allows cooperatives to use unclaimed capital credits for charitable or educational purposes.

### 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.



A list of requirements and procedures is noted in the fillable application located on our website at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop).



## Nominating Committee to Meet in January

The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet on **January 25<sup>th</sup>** to make selections for director elections taking place at TWEC's 2023 Annual Meeting. 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.

Members interested in becoming a director candidate may also contact the cooperative office at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932 or at [kvandeventer@toddwadena.coop](mailto:kvandeventer@toddwadena.coop).

# Looking to cut costs on your water heating?

## Try Our Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heating Program

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's ETS water heating program lowers energy costs by heating water during off-peak hours (10 p.m. – 6 a.m.), when electric costs are the lowest. The program includes the super-efficient Marathon brand water heater. It stores enough hot water during the off-peak period to provide hot water from storage to use during the 16-hour on-peak portion of the day. The ETS water heating program is recommended for smaller households.

When enrolling in the program, **members receive an 85-gallon or 105-gallon Marathon water heater at a significant discount** (discount available for new program enrollment only). Members who

have a large capacity 80-gallon or more tank or a two-tank system also qualify for the program. A separate meter is required for the ETS water heating program. TWEC provides the socket. Members will need to contact their electrician to wire it.

Members enrolled in the ETS water heating program will also receive a special storage heat rate of 4.3¢/kWh for water heating. A \$2 monthly meter fee is added to the bill as long as the member is enrolled in the program. Members must remain on the ETS water heating program or peak shave water heating program with a Marathon tank.



### Compare Peak Shave and ETS

Our **Peak Shave Water Heating program** controls water heaters several hours at a time when electric use and wholesale cost are at their highest. Members receive an \$8 credit every month after being on the program for 60 months (only 36 months for new construction or gas switching).

Our **ETS Water Heating program** heats water during off-peak hours (10 p.m.–6 a.m.), when electric costs are the lowest. It stores enough hot water during the off-peak period to last through the 16-hour on-peak portion of the day (*best for smaller households*). Members receive a special storage heat rate of 4.3¢/kWh for water heating (plus a \$2/mo meter fee\*\*).

### Costs

Based on 350 kWh per month of water heating.

<b>Peak Shave Rate:</b>	<b>\$0.114/kWh*</b> <i>(with \$8/mo credit)</i>
<b>Water Heating Monthly Total:</b>	<b>\$31.90</b>

\* GENERAL SUMMER RATE (not including the Power Cost Adjustment).

<b>Electric Thermal Storage Rate:</b>	<b>\$0.043/kWh</b> <i>(with \$2/mo charge)</i>
<b>Water Heating Monthly Total:</b>	<b>\$17.05</b>

\*\* A separate meter is required for the ETS water heating program. TWEC provides the socket. Members will need to contact their electrician to wire it.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days. If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, or radiators, remember to clean regularly to boost efficiency.

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



## Using Space Heaters Wisely

Electric space heaters can be a convenient heating supplement when used periodically to take the chill off a blustery day. However, they become increasingly ineffective for heating as the space gets larger. They can also be much more expensive to operate long-term as they are not eligible for lower, off-peak kWh pricing.

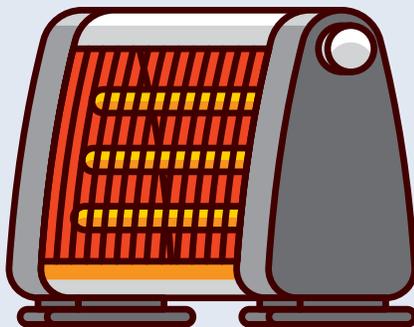
To estimate the cost of running a space heater, we used TWEC's *Kill-A-Watt* meter to figure out how many kWhs our space heater was using. Our heater used 1,500 watts on the high setting. To calculate our usage we used this formula:  $\text{Watts}/1,000 \times \text{Hours} = \text{kWh usage}$ . We wanted to know the cost of usage for one hour on high and our usage came to 1.5 kWh. When multiplied by TWEC's 11.5¢ rate per kilowatt-hour, we found it costs 17.3¢ per hour to run our heater on high.

**DAILY** (1,500 watts/1,000) × 24 hours a day × 11.5¢ per kWh = **\$4.14**  
**MONTHLY** \$4.14 × 30 days = **\$124.20**

Now we can see what impact a space heater is having on our monthly bill. In this example, a space heater that uses *1,500 watts* and operates *24 hours* each day at *11.5¢* per kilowatt-hour costs *\$4.14* per day to operate. If you run it for 30 days, that would add **\$124.20** to your monthly bill!

### Tips On Using Your Space Heater Safely

- ✔ Keep the heater at least 3 feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture, or bed-spreads.
- ✔ Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- ✔ Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- ✔ Never leave a space heater unattended.
- ✔ Never go to sleep with a space heater on.
- ✔ Never use or store flammable liquids near a space heater.
- ✔ Do not use a heater in a bathroom—it's a high-moisture area that could cause damage.
- ✔ Always keep heaters a safe distance from water to prevent electrocution.
- ✔ Do not use an extension cord with a space heater.
- ✔ Do not use the heater to dry clothes.
- ✔ Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm when operating since the unit draws so much power, but they should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.
- ✔ Do not attempt to repair a broken heater yourself. It should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center.



## 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)

## 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





**Todd-Wadena crews help hang Christmas lights at Burlington Northern Park in Wadena.**

## Reminder: Capital Credit Retirement on December Bills as Energy Credit



Active members: your capital credits will be applied to your account as an **energy credit** on your December bill.

## Electrical Safety Tips

The holiday season is a festive time of year! Remember to keep electrical and fire safety in mind as you decorate your home.

Don't overload electrical outlets. Too many decorations or appliances can quickly create a safety issue.

Extension cords used for holiday decorations should be checked for frayed, damaged, or exposed wires.

Never leave a candle burning if you're not in the room.

Make sure your tree is watered daily.

As a member, you earn capital credits each year based on your patronage. This means if you purchase more electricity in a year, your allocation of capital credits is more for that year. Your Board of Directors makes a decision annually on whether to retire, or pay out, old capital credits based on the financial health of the cooperative and provisions of the by-laws.

In 2022, the Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved the retirement of **\$766,000** of capital credits for the remainder of 2007; and from our wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy, a retirement of **\$160,000** of capital credits will be refunded to TWEC members who had patronage from 1991-1992.

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

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## Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy



We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm tem-

peratures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high bills are never fun. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

**Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it be-

tween 58 and 62 degrees— there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

**Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

**Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes, or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

**Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them.

For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads.

**Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks, and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.



By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop) for additional energy-saving tips.

## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR ENERGY SAVINGS



The holiday season is one of the most energy-intensive times of the year, but that doesn't mean you should keep your twinkling, strobing, and glittering decorations packed away. Instead, **use up to 90% less electricity** by switching from incandescent models to durable, longer-lasting **LED holiday lighting**. And now for a limited time, you can save 10%!

Save 10% on LED holiday lights at [energywisemnstore.com/holidaylights](http://energywisemnstore.com/holidaylights)



Offer valid Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. No coupon code necessary. Discount applied at checkout. Customer assumes responsibility for all sales tax. While supplies last.

# 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

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**PAID**  
DPC

# December Reader's Contest

1. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is offering up to \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors, and up to \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 scholarships to adult students.
2. Never go to sleep with a \_\_\_\_\_ heater on.
3. Each year, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative holds a contest to select one local sophomore or junior high school student to attend the NRECA \_\_\_\_\_ Tour.

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](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 December 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Jacob Welde of Wadena was the winner of our November Reader's Contest.**