



Co-op Strong Recap

The 2023 Co-op Strong member appreciation drive-through lunch was a huge success! Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, along with West Central Telephone and Lakes Community Cooperative, served over 800 to-go meals to members on Thursday, July 20th at the Memorial Forest Park & Campground in Menahga. This annual event has been going on for six years, and moves around the service territory of the co-ops that participate. This year, members received a hot beef sandwich, chips, cookies, water, and a giveaway item. Thanks for being a member!



2023 MEMBER APPRECIATION

Pancake Supper

AND EV RIDE & DRIVE



	Date	Tuesday, August 15th
	Time	4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
	Location	TWEC Headquarters
Note: The event will also include a member forum from 5:30-6:30 p.m.		

Join us for our annual member appreciation *Pancake Supper and EV Ride & Drive* on Tuesday, August 15th from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative headquarters. We hope to see you there!

- ▶ Ebike Demos
- ▶ EV Ride & Drive
- ▶ Electrical Safety Demo
- ▶ Bounce House
- ▶ Member Forum 



EV RIDE & DRIVE

Check out the EVs and take one for a test drive!

Ebikes on display and available for test drives as well!

Transmission Buildout

Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC), is transitioning from a historically coal-dependent cooperative to one with low carbon intensity. The cooperative is on track to meet Minnesota's 80% greenhouse gas reduction goal decades ahead of schedule.

This type of news makes headlines every day, but there's a critical piece of the story that is not being talked about as broadly: The need to expand our nation's electric transmission grid to facilitate this transition. As the resources we use to generate electricity change, the system of interconnected power lines that delivers it from where it is created to where it is needed must change, too. Without significant investments in our electric grid, the reliability of electric service that we all rely on is at risk.

The good news is plans are well underway to expand and upgrade the region's grid in the Upper Midwest. Great River Energy continuously works with our region's grid operator, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), to ensure the right transmission investments are made. For the past two years, Great River Energy has been actively engaged in MISO's process of developing a long-range transmission plan (LRTP) and advocated for the projects that are in the best interest of its members for reliability, affordability, and fairness.

Earlier this year, MISO set a huge grid expansion in motion across the Upper Midwest when it approved the first phase of transmission solutions in its LRTP. This \$10.3 billion portfolio includes 18 large projects that will help ensure continued

reliability across the region for decades as power plants retire, more renewable energy comes online, and we continue to see the need for resilience to extreme weather.

TWEC and Great River Energy support the portfolio MISO approved. When complete, it will allow significantly more new generation capacity to connect to the transmission grid. It will be the largest simultaneous grid buildout since cooperatives originally brought electricity to rural communities.

Great River Energy, in partnership with Minnesota Power, is co-developing the largest project in Minnesota called the **Northland Reliability Project**. This 150-mile transmission line will run from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker, expected to be completed by 2030. It will provide benefits to northern and central Minnesota specifically, while improving the electric system overall in Minnesota and beyond.

Building out the grid also helps us get ready for the future impacts of electrification as power demand continues to grow and extreme weather events become more frequent. We need to keep an eye toward the future and ensure we have a system ready for the increasing load and greater dependence on electricity. TWEC is committed to making sure the electricity that powers our lives is clean, safe, and as reliable as ever.



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

Northland Reliability Project



Segment One

Install approximately 130 miles of a new double-circuit 345-kV transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line corridors.

Segment Two

Replace two existing transmission lines:

- ▶ Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors on double circuit 345-kV structures.
- ▶ Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the existing Sherco Substation in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors using double-circuit 345-kV structures.

Additional Project Improvements

- ▶ Expand the existing Iron Range Substation near Grand Rapids and the Benton County Substation near St. Cloud.
- ▶ Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfigure existing transmission lines in the Riverton area.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

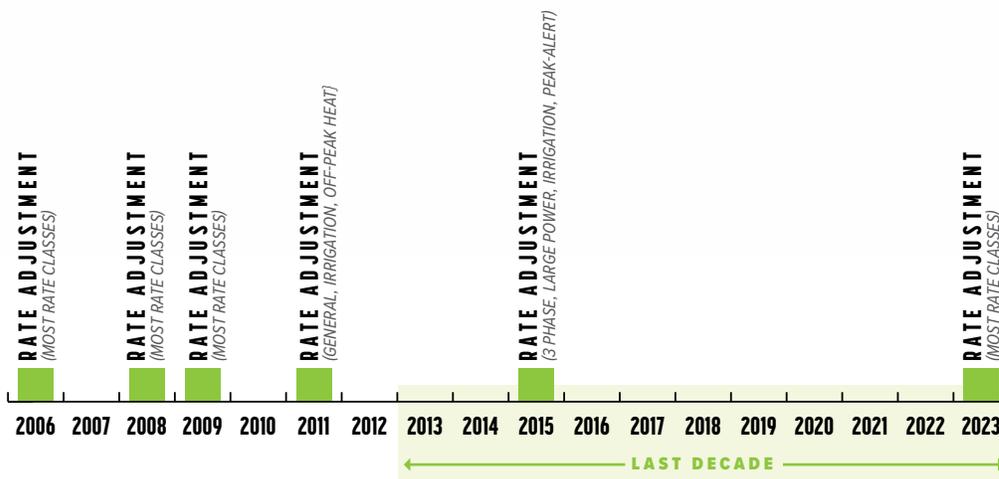
Try Out Our Rate Calculator!

Members now have access to a tool that lets them preview how the new rates (going into effect September 1st) could impact them. Since the actual adjustment for each member depends on their current rate and usage, this tool gives members an opportunity to actually see an estimate of their bill under the new rates.

Simply visit ratecalc.toddwadena.coop or scan the QR code to the right 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).



A History of TWEC Rate Adjustments



Todd-Wadena is very proud that we haven't needed to adjust most rates, including general service, in more than a decade. As you can see from the graph, the general service rate hasn't been changed since 2011. TWEC goes through great efforts to keep our costs low and our efficiencies high. This has enabled us to keep rates flat for this length of time. Over the last few years, TWEC has experienced increased power costs, interest rates, and severe inflation. This 2023 rate adjustment arises as we were no longer able to absorb all of these costs. TWEC is committed to providing safe and reliable energy to our members; this adjustment will enable us to continue to do so.

Board Minutes

Highlights from the June 29th, 2023, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle attended the Member Managers Group meeting in June, which was held in conjunction with Great River Energy's (GRE) annual alumni event. A business meeting was held for CEOs, continuing to focus on rate education sessions, and then the GRE team presented on the upcoming purchase power contract extension proposal.
- Carlisle also discussed a meeting that was held with GRE's transmission team to look at outage issues that are affecting a few of TWEC's substations in the southern part of the service territory.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE report with May's financials. GRE had another strong financial month with May margins coming in \$14 million ahead of budget.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the May financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 4 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 0.7 percent under budget. May's purchased power expense was 7 percent under budget. Tier is 0.66 and Equity is 41.18.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson shared the Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) report and the results from the GRE Member Survey.
- The board approved the appointment of the following individuals to the 2023-2024 Nominating Committee: Gerald Anderson, Gary Stracek, Ray Gildow, Erich Heppner, Heather Gilreath, Jerome Miller, Wally Wi-ese, Annette Adamietz, and Samantha Krause.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher gave an update on the status of new construction projects. Vegetation management will be amping up in the upcoming weeks, with both Carr's Tree Service and Central Applicators working in TWEC's territory.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel reviewed some of the more impacting taxes that will affect the Cooperative, its employees, and its members. Many of these new taxes are related to vehicles and equipment.
- TWEC's Operation Round Up Board awarded over \$14,000 this month.



Date	Tuesday, August 15 th
Time	4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Location	TWEC Headquarters

EV Ride & Drive

We are hosting an **Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride and Drive** at the same time as the *Annual Member Appreciation Pancake Supper* event. Members are welcome to come look at *and* test drive a variety of electric vehicles!

EV Charging 101

It's important for electric vehicle (EV) owners to understand the different charging levels available for their EV. This guide discusses each option, helping you make informed decisions about charging your EV efficiently. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative offers rebates for members installing Level 2 chargers (*must enroll in one of TWEC's EV rates to receive rebate*). Members who install a Level 2 charger are also eligible for our special EV rates.



Level 1 Charging is the most basic method of charging an electric vehicle. Simply plug the EV directly into a standard 120-volt outlet. It is convenient in that it requires no additional equipment installation. However, it is the slowest method of charging an EV, typically delivering around 2 to 5 miles of range per hour of charging.

POWER: **120V**
CHARGE: **2 TO 5 MILES OF RANGE PER HOUR**

Level 2 Charging is a significant improvement. Unlike Level 1 charging, it requires a dedicated 240-volt circuit and requires a special EV charger to be installed. It can deliver charging rates of approximately 10 to 30 miles of range per hour. This significantly reduces the charging time, making it a preferred choice for most EV owners.

POWER: **240V**
CHARGE: **10 TO 30 MILES OF RANGE PER HOUR**

Level 3 Charging, or *DC Fast Charging*, uses Direct Current (DC) to rapidly charge the EV's battery—delivering charging rates of approximately 150 to 350+ miles of range per hour. However, it's important to note that it requires specialized charging infrastructure, which is expensive to install and operate.

POWER: **480V**
CHARGE: **150 TO 350+ MILES OF RANGE PER HOUR**

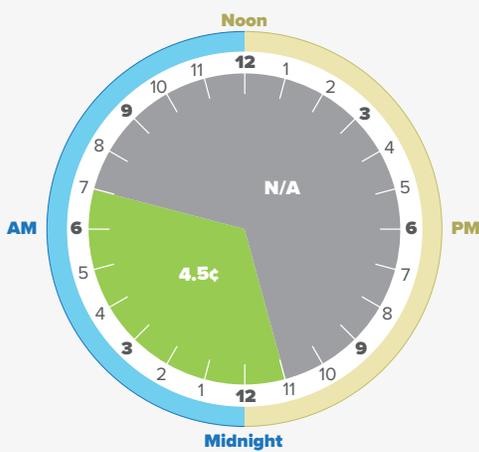
TWEC Electric Vehicle Rates

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.



EV Charger Rebate
\$500

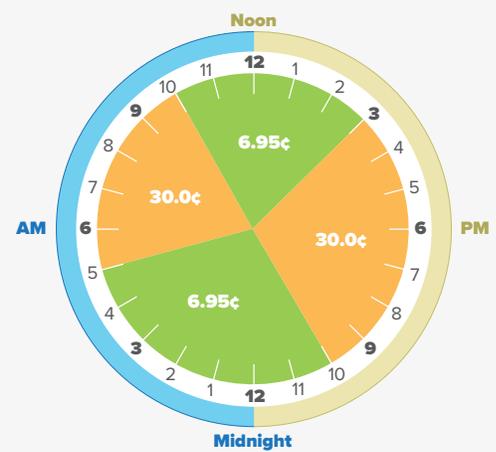
STORAGE RATE



Storage Rate: **4.5¢/kWh** Charging Not Available

EV charging available only between 11PM-7AM

TIME-OF-USE RATE



Off-peak Rate: **6.95¢/kWh** On-peak Rate: **30.0¢/kWh**

EV charging anytime, but the rate is higher during on-peak times.

EV Annual Cost to Drive 15,000 Miles

Storage Rate: \$202.50



Time-of-Use Rate: \$416.00

Value of Electricity: Estimating Electricity Use and Cost

Electricity’s abundance and reliability are precisely why it’s so tricky to tell how much you’re using. Other types of energy require occasional reminders of how much you’ve consumed – your car will need a refill, or you’ll empty the propane tank on your gas grill – but you never really “run out” of electricity. However, that doesn’t mean you can’t estimate how much you use. The following formulas will show you how to determine where your electricity dollars are being spent. Below that, we’ve included the average monthly cost of some common household items.



STEP 1	Your electric bill is determined by the number of kWh used in a billing period. The first step is to determine your cost per kWh . Our <i>General Service</i> rates are 13.172¢/kWh for summer months, and 11.672¢/kWh for the other months. An average of the two is approximately 12¢/kWh.
STEP 2	Since the wattage of an appliance determines the electrical use per hour, the second step is to determine the wattage of the appliance. The wattage of an appliance is found on the serial plate. Electrical load may also be expressed in volts and amps, rather than watts. If so, multiply volts times amperes (amps) to determine the wattage. EXAMPLE 120 Volts × 12 Amps = 1,400 Watts
STEP 3	Use the formula shown in the following example to estimate use and cost. A light uses 100 watts and is left on for 15 hours. How many kWh are used and what does it cost? EXAMPLE kWh used: (100 watts × 15 hours) ÷ 1,000 watts = 1.5 kWh Your cost: 1.5 kWh × 12¢/kWh = 18¢
STEP 4	To find your daily cost for electricity, divide your bill amount by the number of days in the month. EXAMPLE \$115 ÷ 30 days = \$3.83 which is your daily cost To find the daily cost per person in your family, divide the daily cost by the number of people in your family. EXAMPLE \$3.83 ÷ 4 people = 96¢ per person per day

	Appliance	Typical Energy Usage**	Average Monthly Cost at 12.047¢/kWh*
KITCHEN	Refrigerator (side-by-side, purchased after 2010)	55 kWh/mo	\$6.63
	Chest Freezer (less than 16.5 cu ft)	24 kWh/mo	\$2.89
	Stove Range Top	37 kWh/mo	\$4.46
	Coffee Maker	8 kWh/mo	\$0.96
HOUSEHOLD	Clothes Dryer	85 kWh/mo	\$10.24
	Dehumidifier	81-690 kWh/mo	\$9.76 – \$83.12
	Portable Heater (1,500 watts)	280-1,080 kWh/mo	\$33.73 – \$130.11
LEISURE	Digital Television (larger than 40 in)	21 kWh/mo	\$2.53
	Video Game System	1.9-5.4 kWh/mo	\$0.23 – \$0.65
	Smartphone	0.3-3 kWh/mo	\$0.04 – \$0.36

* Rate of 12.047¢ is based off adding TWEC’s **summer rate x 3** (0.13172) with the **rate for other months x 9** (0.11672), then **dividing by 12**.

** These energy usage figures are based on the average use of an appliance in good working condition and are based on national averages and independent research. Actual energy usage will vary based on the number of hours used, and the age and condition of equipment.

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

Dual Fuel Members: Please Check Your Back-up System Now

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.

- 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.



Submit Photos for our 2024 Calendar

We are looking for photo submissions for the cooperative's 2024 calendar. 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.

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.
- ▶ Photos must be scenically capturing the beauty of Minnesota's four seasons.
- ▶ Photos must not include people.
- ▶ One membership (household) may submit up to 5 photos. If there are multiple photographers per household, please fill out a form for each photographer.
- ▶ 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.

2022 Capital Credit Allocation

Look for your 2022 capital credit allocation in this month's bills. Capital credit earnings are the members' share of the net margins of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.

- TWEC reinvests that money in the cooperative for operating capital, necessary reserves, storm damages, construction, and many other general expenses.
- In the long-term, those credits are stored, representing your investment in the co-op, and are eventually paid back to members.
- The decision to refund capital credits rests solely on your board of directors, is dependent on the financial conditions of the cooperative, and is subject to Rural Utility Services (RUS) and other lending institutions' regulations. Please notify us with any changes to your address and contact information so you can continue to receive your refunds.

Operation Round Up
Grant Application
Deadline Coming Soon



The next deadline to submit an Operation Round Up grant application is **September 15th**. All local, nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

2023 Youth Tour

By: Isabel Birkholtz

The 2023 Youth Tour was an amazing experience! I got the opportunity to do and see so many cool things in our Nation's Capital. I spent the week with 33 other kids representing electric cooperatives all over Minnesota. Together we learned so much, including the importance of electric cooperatives, especially in rural areas. One of the coolest things about this trip was the bond I got to make with all these kids. We spent the week doing so many amazing things!

On the first day we went to the Lincoln Memorial and walked the National Mall. We saw the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial. Visiting these were very educational. Next we went to Arlington Cemetery where we took a trolley tour. This was one of my favorite places that we visited. I was amazed by just how big the whole place was and was speechless at the endless rows of tombs. While we were at Arlington, we watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There are no words to describe how powerful this experience was. To see the way that we honor all of the Unknown Soldiers was incredible.

On the second day of the trip, we went to the Capitol! We went on a guided tour which was so cool! Then we

got the incredible opportunity to meet with different legislators from Minnesota and ask them tons of questions! We got to talk to many different representatives, as well as both Sen. Tina Smith and Sen. Amy Klobuchar. This was one of my favorite experiences on this trip, just to be able to sit and talk with the politicians who represent our state of Minnesota was so cool! We also got to tour the House and Senate gallery, which was one of my favorite things we did on the whole trip!

The last two days of the trip we got to see the National Cathedral - which was beautiful, Mount Vernon - which was also beautiful, the Smithsonian museums, the Library of Congress, and the White House! We also went to the Holocaust Museum. That was an incredibly eye-opening and tear-jerking experience, but one of my favorite things we did that week. We also spent one night at a big meeting with all the kids from all the states and learned about the NRECA and electric cooperatives and heard from a couple different inspirational speakers.

Overall this trip was easily one of the best things I've ever done. I had a blast and learned so much. I will never stop recommending this trip to other youth! I am beyond grateful for this opportunity and will forever thank Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative for sponsoring me and choosing me as their delegate.



Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for members & friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Monday - Friday

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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

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Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

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DPC

Office Hours Change after Labor Day

Our office hours will return to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday, starting Tuesday, September 5th.

Office will be closed September 4th for Labor Day.

August Reader's Contest

1. The _____ Reliability Project is a 150-mile transmission line that will run from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota.
2. To figure out the _____ of an appliance, multiply volts times amperes (amps).
3. If you have a Dual Fuel Heating System, now is the time to be sure your _____ heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply.

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 August 25th.

Daniel Shaw of Staples was the winner of our July Reader's Contest.