



Todd-Wadena

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
October 2023
www.toddwadena.coop

A History of Service and Cooperation

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative was incorporated in 1940 by a small but dedicated group of people committed to bringing power to rural central Minnesota and improving the lives of their friends and neighbors.

The cooperative's story began in the late 1930s, during the Great Depression. At the time, many rural Americans did not have access to electricity. This was a major obstacle to economic development and quality of life. In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act (REA)

into law. The REA provided loans to rural cooperatives to help them build electrical infrastructure.

During the drought of the late 1930s, the task of soliciting memberships in the Todd-Wadena area began. The cooperative's early years were challenging. Membership fees were \$5—a sizable investment at a time of such uncertainty. The cost to wire a house or barn was simply out of reach for many. While some farmers viewed the coming of electric power as a saving grace, others considered it just a "pipe dream."

(TWEC History continued on page 3)



Todd-Wadena's original Board of Directors dedicate the first substation near Verndale on September 28, 1941. The first Board Members included: Earl Schultz: President, W.J. Tils: Vice President, Lloyd Sapp: Secretary, Otto Tappe: Treasurer, George Voss, Earl Chaffee, Matt Wirkkala, Boyd Conley, and Nick Schmitz.



What is Co-op Month?

Celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, *National Co-op Month* is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build resilient, inclusive communities.

Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation in 1948. Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.

Learn more about National Co-op Month in CEO Dan Carlisle's column on page 2 →

National Co-op Month

One of my favorite quotes has always been: “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Yet, sometimes, remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation’s 40,000 cooperatives celebrate *National Co-op Month* this October, it is a great time to take a look back – and a look forward.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. The large, investor-owned power companies of the time thought they couldn’t generate enough profits in rural areas, so they bypassed them. Undeterred, neighbors in our region met together frequently to discuss forming their own electric cooperative.

Once the cooperative was established, annual meetings quickly became the “must attend” event of the year. TWEC was able to directly serve its member-owners, providing electricity to the growing community. Electricity allowed area businesses to expand, farms to operate more efficiently, and residents the option of heating and cooling their homes. The cooperative was motivated then, and still is today, by service rather than profit.

Now let’s fast forward to today where TWEC has grown to serve over 9,000 member services. We are proud to have returned over \$6.9 million in capital credits to our members since 2010. The cooperative continues to invest in our local community through its economic development programs, volunteer program, and participation in community events. TWEC also supports area youth through education programs and scholarships.

As we continue to look toward the future, you can be confident that TWEC is committed to exploring new ways to help our members and our community. Providing you with reliable power is always a priority, with ongoing maintenance and new construction projects planned to keep our grid reliable. We are continually researching ways to make our load management programs more affordable and convenient for our members to use. TWEC is focused on incorporating initiatives and services that provide the greatest benefit to our local membership.

We understand that the spirit which helped create this cooperative must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not. We will continue to deliver reliable, cost-effective energy to our members, all while investing in the well-being of the community where we serve, live, and work.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel



Board Minutes

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

– CEO Dan Carlisle updated the board on a potential project. He also noted that MREA announced a projected 3.49 percent increase for dues in 2024.

– Board Member Mike Thorson reported that the Great River Energy (GRE) Board did not meet in August, but financials continue to be strong. GRE had a \$6 million credit to the members.

– Carlisle, as legal counsel, gave the annual fiduciary duty review to the board. He focused on three main topics: sexual harassment, safety, and cybersecurity in so far as they may impact a board of director's fiduciary duty.

– Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the July financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 8.5 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 4.7 percent over budget. July's purchased power expense was 5 percent under budget. Tier is 1.41 and Equity is 40.74.

– The 2022 Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) results were presented. TWEC shifted to the next consumer size peer group (9,000-11,999) with 9,136 members. Even with the new comparable data, the Cooperative overall is in the average and continues to do comparatively well in most categories.

– Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson gave a recap from the Pancake Supper and rate forum member meeting. The Cooperative provided 325 meals.

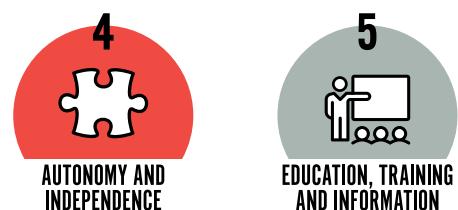
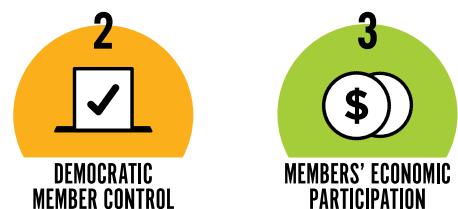
– Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided a legislative update. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved the emergency preparedness requirements for small modular reactors.

The 7 Co-op Principles

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values.

Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.



**Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

A History of Service and Cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

Former Wadena County Extension Agent Miles Rowe said he often wished he had a tape recorder along to preserve some of the conversations in those days. "I recall one meeting held at a farmhouse where the discussion centered on the dangerous aspects of electricity," Rowe shares. "Yet I remember how the heat from the kerosene lamp was so intense it was blistering the varnish on the woodwork." In the end, the cooperative's founders persevered, and by 1941, the first members were receiving electricity.

Over the next few decades, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

grew rapidly. The cooperative expanded its service territory and built new power lines to reach more and more rural residents. Today, the cooperative serves over 9,000 member services in Todd, Wadena, and surrounding counties.

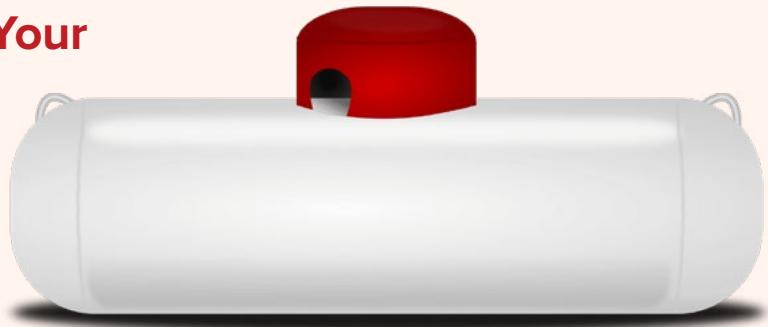
Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is proud of its rich history of service and cooperation. The cooperative's founders were visionaries who saw the potential of electricity to transform rural life. Today, the cooperative continues to build on their legacy by providing its members with the reliable and affordable electricity they need to thrive.



Dual Fuel Members: Check Your Back-up System Fuel Supply

Members of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) who are on the dual fuel load management program are encouraged to make sure they have **adequate supplies of their secondary fuel source this winter.**

As a reminder, the primary heating systems of participants can be controlled up to 12 hours per day and up to 400 hours per heating season. Control occurs on days of high electrical demand, high wholesale energy prices, and/or system emergencies.



Morning and evening control is expected. If you are on our dual fuel program, please ensure your back-up system has sufficient fuel for the winter months. If you have any questions, please contact TWEC's office.

Sign Up for Dual Fuel Load Control Notifications

Members who participate in our **dual fuel load management program** can receive a notification of control events! To manage or receive notifications from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, you will need a SmartHub account.



SmartHub Instructions:

Sign in (*or sign up*) at toddwadena.smarthub.coop. If you haven't previously added a contact for notifications, you will need to start at **Step 1** below, otherwise you may go directly to **Step 2** to enable Dual Heat Control notifications.

1 Add Contacts: Under the settings menu, click *Contact Methods*. Add an email contact and/or a phone contact. Follow directions and enter verification code where appropriate.

The screenshot shows the "CONTACT METHODS" section of the SmartHub interface. It displays a table titled "Verified Contacts" with four rows. Each row contains a method icon (Phone, Text, Email), a contact name, a status (Enrolled - Voice Calls, Enrolled - Text Messages, Enrolled - Emails, Enrolled - Emails), and action buttons (Edit, Delete). At the bottom right are "Add Email" and "Add Phone" buttons.

CONTACT METHODS			
Verified Contacts			
These are the contacts we have on file that you have created or verified and will be used for notifications that are configured on the Manage Notifications page			
Phone	Contact	Status	Action
Text		Enrolled - Voice Calls Enrolled - Text Messages	
Email		Enrolled - Text Messages	
Email		Enrolled - Emails	

2 Set Up Notifications: Under the settings menu, click *Manage Notifications*. Select *Reports*, then find *Dual Heat Control*. Use the dropdown menu under *Text Message* and/or *Email* to select the contact(s) you wish to receive load control notifications, and then click *Save*.

The screenshot shows the "Manage Notifications" section of the SmartHub interface. It displays a table titled "Alert Type" with five rows. Each row contains an alert type (Air Conditioning Control, Dual Heat Control, Gen Jet (Generators), Irrigation Control Notice, Peak Alert Control), a description, and dropdown menus for "Text Message" and "Email". The "Text Message" dropdown is set to "Multiple" and the "Email" dropdown is also set to "Multiple". At the bottom right are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons.

Alert Type	Description	Text Message	Email
Air Conditioning Control		Text Message: Multiple	Email: Multiple
Dual Heat Control		Text Message: Multiple	Email: Multiple
Gen Jet (Generators)		Text Message: Email	Email: Email
Irrigation Control Notice		Text Message: Email	Email: Email
Peak Alert Control		Text Message: Multiple	Email: Multiple

Cold Weather Rule

Each year, some members are unable to pay their electric bill during cold weather months. The *Minnesota Cold Weather Rule* was established to protect residential members from electrical service disconnection between October 1st and April 30th.

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

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

The Cold Weather Rule does not prevent winter disconnections. If you have a DISCONNECTION NOTICE on your bill between October 1st and April 30th, you must act before the disconnect date on the bill.



Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program in Minnesota provides free home energy upgrades to income-eligible homeowners and renters to help save energy and make sure your home is a healthy and safe place to live.

Weatherization works closely with its companion program, the *Energy Assistance Program*, to help permanently reduce the energy bills for low-income Minnesotans. If your household qualifies, an energy auditor may evaluate your home to determine if weatherization is needed. The auditor will look for opportunities to make your home more energy efficient by sealing air leaks, adding insulation, and checking if the furnace is working properly.

VISIT MN.GOV/COMMERCE/ENERGY/CONSUMER-ASSISTANCE/WAP
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE.

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 hire an electrician to wire it.

Members enrolled in the ETS water heating program will also receive a special storage heat rate of 4.5¢/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

Costs

Based on 350 kWh per month of water heating.

Our **Peak Shave Water Heating program** controls water heaters several hours at a time when electric use and wholesale costs 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).

Peak Shave
Rate:

\$0.13172/kWh*
(with \$8/mo credit)

Water Heating
Monthly Total:

\$38.10

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

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 4.5¢/kWh for water heating (plus a \$2/mo meter fee**).

Electric Thermal Storage Rate:

\$0.045/kWh
(with \$2/mo charge)

Water Heating
Monthly Total:

\$17.75

** A separate meter is required for the ETS Water Heating program. TWEC provides the socket. Members will need to hire an electrician to wire it.

Cybersecurity Starts with All of Us

By Abby Harrison, Executive Assistant & Cyber Security Specialist

Each October, we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month. As the new cybersecurity specialist for Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, I always remind employees, and want to remind you, that we are all the first line.... first line of defense against cybersecurity threats. It only takes one click on a malicious email, website, or attachment to enable a bad actor to gain access to our network or to your home devices.

The energy sector continues to be a target for cyber-attacks. We face threats targeting our employees, our supply chains, and partners. It is critical we stay vigilant, because we are not only a part of our nation's grid, but also the infrastructure that continues to bring you safe, reliable energy. We want you to know we take our role in managing cybersecurity threats to our members' data and our operations seriously.

Todd-Wadena has put into place cybersecurity policies and procedures that are designed to be the first level of defense. Our goal is to be proactive instead of reactive if/when a cyber-attack attempt takes place. Cooperative employees have been trained in best practices and we encourage you to use some or all of these **best practices** to help protect yourself against cyber crime. No single tip or practice is foolproof, but taken together they can make a real difference in protecting the Cooperative and our members.

PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

Keep Your Defenses Up!

- Make sure all of your computer software—including your web browser—is updated with the latest version.
- Create a strong password and keep it private. Using long, complex, and unique passwords is a good way to stop your account from being hacked. An easy way to keep track and remember your passwords is to use a password manager.
- Treat all Wi-Fi networks as a potential security risk. Never check financial or other sensitive accounts when using public Wi-Fi.

Don't Fall for a Phish!

- Be on the lookout for emails, phone calls, and other messages that try to gain access to your information. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If something seems off, trust your instinct. Todd-Wadema will never demand payment information from you via email or over the phone. If you receive such a call, hang up and call the office directly at **(218) 631-3120**.
- Think before you click! Don't click links or attached files in emails or text messages from senders you don't know. Even if you do know the sender, hover over the link before you click, as they may have been hacked or someone could be spoofing them!

Enable Multi-factor Authentication

- Multi-factor authentication adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging into one of your accounts. By requiring multiple methods of authentication, your account is further protected from being compromised.

Do Your Research

- Before downloading a new app on your device, make sure it is authentic by checking who created the app, what the user reviews say, and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.

Check Your Settings

- Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings and be aware of who can access your documents. This extends from Google docs, to Zoom calls, and beyond.

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
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Todd-Wadena
Electric
Cooperative's Mission,
Vision, and Values



- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines.
- Know where power lines are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in areas where lines are less visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or equipment.

Halloween Safety Tips



■ Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.

■ Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.



TRICK OR TREAT WITH AN ADULT

■ Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.



KEEP COSTUMES CREATIVE AND SAFE

■ Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.

■ Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.



DRIVE EXTRA SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN

■ Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic, and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.

■ Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., so be especially alert to kids during those hours.

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

► **Monday, October 30th**

for employee training.

► **Friday, November 10th**

for Veterans Day.

► **November 23rd-24th**

for Thanksgiving.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: www.energy.gov



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

Email: todd-wad@toddwadena.coop

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

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LOCAL ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Todd County:
Mark Thoma (320) 309-9483
Wadena County:
Brandon Disselbrett (218) 640-0187
District 5 (*Todd County*):
Mark Hunter (320) 616-5574
District 6 (*Wadena County*):
Sheldon Monson (218) 689-3260

If your electric power goes out:

First, make sure the problem is not on your side. (*Members may be billed for service calls if the problem is caused by their own equipment.*) Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and by the meter pole. (*Call us for help, if necessary.*)

Second, check with your neighbors to see if they have power. Then call Todd-Wadena to report the problem. Give your name and account number. Then report any tree branches, twisted wires, broken poles, and whether or not your neighbors are also out of power.

Before digging call:

Gopher State One-Call
811 or (800) 252-1166

Find us on

www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative
www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

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Co-op Month Giveaways

Follow us on Facebook, and participate in weekly Co-op Month giveaway contests!

October Reader's Contest

1. Members who participate in the _____ fuel load management program can sign up for notification of control events.
2. _____-factor authentication adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging into one of your accounts.
3. October is Co-op Month: like and follow Todd-Wadena on Facebook for _____ giveaways during Co-op Month!



Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

We will draw 5 names for Co-op Month! 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 October 25th.

Larry Odden of Staples was the winner of our September Reader's Contest.