

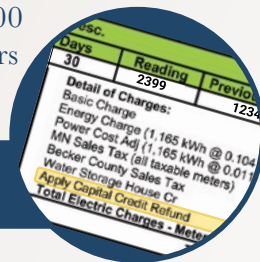


Capital Credits to Be Retired

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 2023, the Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) Board of Directors approved a *capital credit retirement that totals \$1,051,000*. TWEC is retiring \$754,000 to members active in 2008; and Great River Energy, our wholesale energy provider, is retiring \$297,000 of capital credits that will be refunded to TWEC members who had patronage from 1993-1996.

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

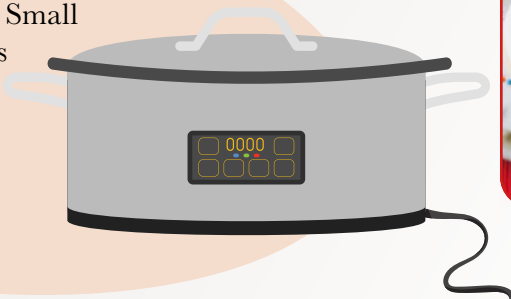


Days	Reading	Previous Reading
30	2399	1234
Detail of Charges:		
Basic Charge		
Energy Charge		
Power Cost Adj (1.165 kWh @ 0.104)		
MN Sales Tax (1.165 kWh @ 0.011)		
Becker County Sales Tax		
Water Storage Sales Tax		
Apply Capital House Cr		
Total Electric Charges - Meter		

Electrify Your Holiday Meals & Save

Stir up savings by cooking electric! Cooler weather is a great time to bring out your favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. So grab your recipe book and start saving in the kitchen.

What's your favorite cold weather soup?



Holiday Open House

When: Wednesday, December 20th
from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: The Lobby at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

New this year! Come *anytime* during the day to the **lobby** at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and grab a cookie and a coffee or hot chocolate!



Something to be Thankful For

A quote I once read said something like “feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” This is why at my family’s Thanksgiving dinner each year, we all take turns saying something we are grateful for. Of course, my list always includes great family and friends and good health. As I thought about it this year, my list also includes a great job serving the membership of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC).

I am thankful to be part of a group of employees who are some of the hardest working people I know and who truly care about the members we serve. As a cooperative, our mission is to be a trusted partner providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy options to our members. Our vision is to improve the quality of life for our members and communities. Both our mission and vision are things we all take very seriously at TWEC. I am thankful to be part of an organization that cares more about the people it serves than the bottom dollar.

I am grateful for a board of directors that truly cares about our membership and the success of the cooperative. Our directors want to stay involved and educated on all aspects of the cooperative so they can serve it to the best of their ability. I am also thankful for TWEC’s culture of safety that ensures our employees go home safely at the end of each day.

Lastly, I am thankful for our wonderful membership. We love our work and we love working with all of you! You are our inspiration and our purpose.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

HAPPY
Thanksgiving
DAY

Board Minutes

Highlights from the September 28th, 2023, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle shared highlights from the recent MREA legislative visit in Washington, D.C. Topics discussed included broadband, the farm bill, permitting, environmental, and supply chain issues.
- Carlisle started an initiative involving area schools. It will focus on Minnesota statutes driving the change in required energy resources, as well as explaining cooperatives and self-governance.
- Board Member Mike Thorson reported that Great River Energy (GRE) continues to have a positive year, with year-to-date margins ahead of budget.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the August financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 12 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 7 percent over budget. August’s purchased power expense was 2.5 percent over budget. Tier is 1.36 and Equity is 40.15.
- Graba-Meech also presented the 2024 wage and benefit introduction. She provided an overview of pay, retirement, and insurance.
- Senator Paul Utke joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m. as a special guest. Discussion centered around matters the state is facing, as well as addressing concerns affecting members in TWEC’s territory.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson reported that the nominating committee had its first meeting for the 2024 election year and is beginning to look for delegates.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher noted how the team installed 22 new services in August and member calls continue to come into the office with more requests.
- Board Member Dale Adams gave the STAR Energy report. He shared how financials continue to be strong and the business continues to grow.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided an update on various happenings in Minnesota related to the electric industry.

2024 Calendar Pick Up Locations

TWEC's 2024 calendars are now ready to be picked up! Stop by to pick up a calendar at our office or at one of our pick-up locations throughout the service territory (*locations listed below calendar preview*). Limited quantities are available at each location. **Thank you to all our members who submitted photos!**

2024 Calendar Contest Winners

January

Michelle Kern

February

Kathleen Shaffer

March

Missy Beyatt

April

Angie Hartwig

May

Jeanette Coleman

June

Susan McNelly

July

Samantha Krause

August

Abigail Thompson

September

Kara Brockpahler

October

Joann Byler

November

Christy Fitzsimmons

December

Jennifer Allen

Cover photo

Tracy Moe



Pick-up 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.

Wadena

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative // 550 Ash Avenue NE (Hwy 10)

Menahga

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

Staples

True Value
205 Warner Road NE

NOTE: OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES.

▶ **Wednesday, November 15th, 1-4:30 p.m.**
for employee training.

▶ **November 23rd-24th**
for Thanksgiving.

▶ **December 22nd & 25th**
for Christmas.

▶ **Monday, January 1st**
for New Years.



Interested in Being a Director?

TWEC's Board of Directors is essential to the success of the co-op. Directors attend monthly meetings to discuss issues and make decisions on behalf of the members. They attend conferences and read many reports/papers to understand the policies for which they are responsible and the issues with which they grapple.

Their responsibilities include mitigating risk, setting rates, understanding power supply, strategic planning, financial decision making, promoting the cooperative business model, gaining insights on political and environmental impacts, and meeting member expectations. If you are interested in becoming a director candidate, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee listed below.

2024 Nominating Committee

Name	City	Phone Number
Jerome Miller	Sebeka	(218) 837-5690
Gary Stracek	Browerville	(320) 594-2960
Wally Wiese	Verndale	(218) 639-6348
Ray Gildow	Staples	(218) 821-8848
Annette Adamietz	Verndale	(218) 445-5190
Erich Heppner	Staples	(952) 807-3279
Samantha Krause	Staples	(507) 766-0238
Heather Gilreath	Sebeka	(218) 841-0309

Members interested in becoming a director candidate may also contact the Cooperative office at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932 or at kvandventer@toddwadena.coop.

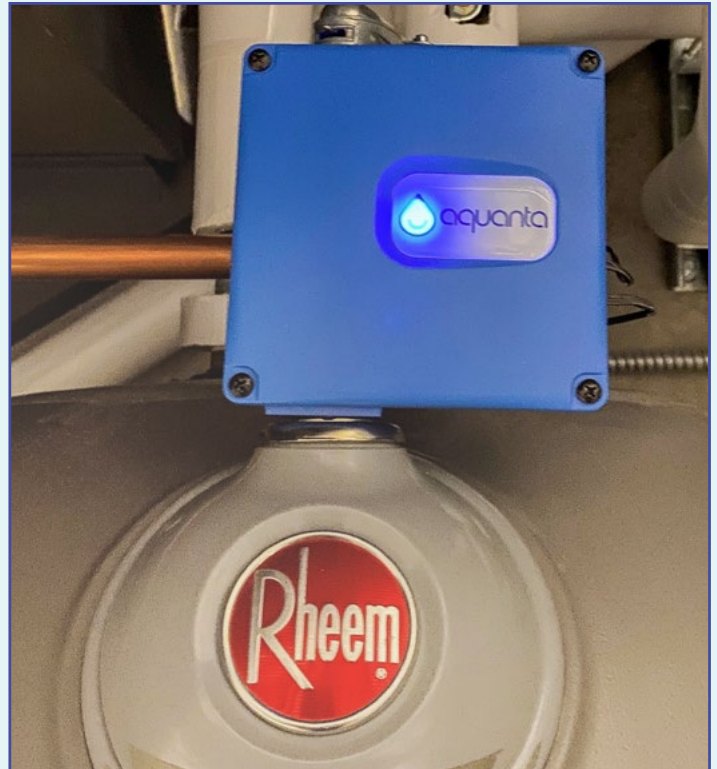
Notice to Water Heater Only Accounts

If you are on the Peak Shave Water Heating program, we may be contacting you to install an Aquanta water heater controller.

The Aquanta controller works as it attaches to your electric water heater. The co-op is able to send a signal to the unit when a load control event is initiated by our power supplier, Great River Energy. With the load control events, electricity to the water heater is controlled up to several hours when electric use and the cost is very high. By avoiding the use of non-essential electricity during peak times, Todd-Wadena and its members save money.

Your electric water heater is currently controlled with a Comverge demand response receiver; this system that we use will reach end of life in January 2026. The power line carrier demand response receivers that we ordered are still not available. We are able to use the Aquanta system for our water heater only accounts.

With the Aquanta water heater controller, you can also adjust your water heater through an app. By monitoring and managing your water heater usage, Aquanta offers cost savings and intelligent controls in the palm of your hand. The Aquanta controller is no cost to members as it is a TWEC equipment upgrade. Our technicians will need to have access to your water heater/utility room and electrical panel for installation.



**In November, we will be calling to schedule an appointment with members living in the following townships:
Ward, Turtle Lake, Fawn Lake, Moran,
Cushing, Germania and Scandia Valley.**



Note: Increased Morning Control

In the past few years, we have seen more morning load control for dual fuel and water heating. We expect that to continue this year as early morning peaks are occurring. This is due to **increased load** paired with **low temperatures**. Morning load control events tend to occur between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Sales Tax Exemption for Residential Electric Heat

With the start of another heating season, we would like to inform our residential members who have electric heat as their primary heating system that their electric bills are exempt from Minnesota sales tax from November-April.

Please Note: All certificates signed during previous years are **ON FILE** and **NO REFILING** is needed. If you have a signed certificate on file, the bill you will receive will not include sales tax on your usage.

If you qualify, go to www.toddwadena.coop to apply for sales tax exemption for electric heat. If you have questions regarding your eligibility, contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue at (651) 296-6181 or toll free at (800) 657-3777.

*** Off Peak and Dual Fuel program participants are already tax exempt, so there is no need to file this form.*

Power Pole Clutter

Flyers, satellite dishes, posters, basketball hoops, decorative lights, even hunting stands. You name it, someone has tried to staple, nail, or tie it to a power pole. Here's a quick look at the dangers and pitfalls associated with unauthorized pole attachments.

Illegal

Many state and local laws and the National Electrical Safety Code prohibit any unauthorized items on poles. Utilities can face fines if these attachments aren't removed.



Pole Damage

Even small holes can allow moisture and insects past the pole sealant, which can shorten the life of the pole or weaken it and cause it to fall in a storm.



Hinders Repairs

Posters and flyers can hide identifying markers on poles and slow repair work.



Gloves

Staples, tacks and nails can puncture lineworkers' insulated rubber gloves and expose them to electric shock.



Boots

Objects can cause workers to fall if they snag their boots.

Climbing Hooks

Nails and tacks can impede climbing hooks from sinking into the wood.



Dangerous

A person who gets too close to energized lines while attaching an object can be electrocuted.



Distraction

Some materials posted on poles, like mirrors or holiday decorations, can be a distraction to drivers.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen! When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy. When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: www.energy.gov





Operation Round Up Grant Recipients

Back Row: Sharon Milbrett, *Eagle Bend Splash Pad*; Alyssa Grunwald, *Someplace Safe Wadena Advocacy office*; Ray Avelsgard, *Nimrod Community Hall Association*; Gabe Decker, Pete Decker, Heidi Smith, *Staples-Motley Diamond Club*

Front Row: Tom Kajer, John Wolak, *Staples Historical Society*

Local Projects Receive Grants Through Operation Round Up

63 million pennies. That's how much TWEC's Community Trust has given back to local community organizations since 2002 in Operation Round Up grants.



Members who participate in Operation Round Up, your monthly electric bill is rounded up to the next highest dollar amount. One month, it may be one penny, and the next month, 99 pennies. The average annual contribution is \$6. Your monthly donation, along with the donations of 4,600 other TWEC members who participate, averages about \$30,000 a year. If you would like to participate in Operation Round Up by rounding up your electric bill, please fill out the form at www.toddwadena.coop/oru.

The Community Trust Board meets three times a year to review and distribute grants to local community organizations. The board includes seven Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members who are appointed by the TWEC Board of Directors.

The Community Trust Board met in early October to review the latest round of applications. The board approved five grants totaling \$11,600.

Operation Round Up Board

Left to Right: Sarah Gregerson, Russel Kleinschmidt (Vice Chair), Bruce Curley (Secretary/Treasurer), Heidi Huotari, Nancy Benson (Chair), Peter Fink **Not pictured:** Kristine Hendrickson

Organization		Amount
Eagle Bend Fire Department Auxiliary	Nelson Park Splash Pad	\$5,000
Nimrod Community Hall Association	Replace Windows	\$3,000
Someplace Safe Wadena Advocacy Office	Emergency Resources for Victims	\$600
Staples Historical Society	Children's Christmas Festival	\$1,000
Staples-Motley Diamond Club	Dugouts for JV Field	\$2,000
Total		\$11,600

Local, nonprofit community service groups may apply for Operation Round Up grants by downloading a copy of the application form and guidelines at www.toddwadena.coop. The next application deadline is January 15th.



Welcome New Employees



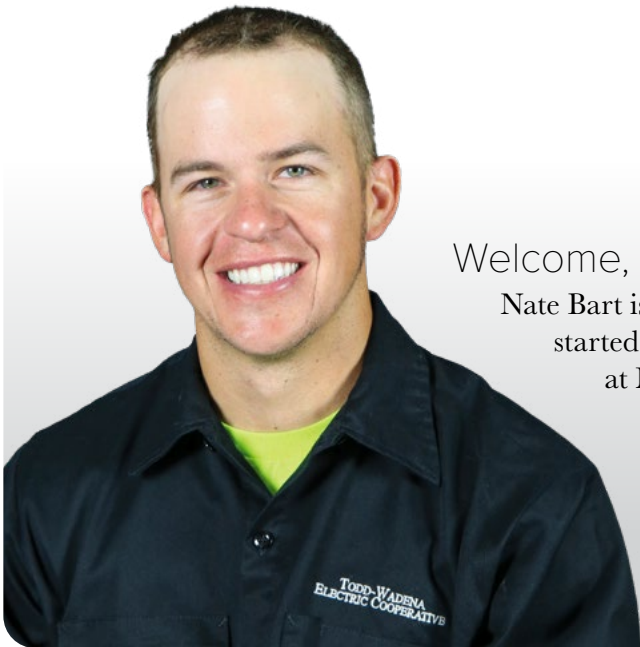
Welcome, Bob!

Bob Daniels is our newest Energy Management and Meter Technician at Todd-Wadena. Bob started at Todd-Wadena at the end of July. Most recently, Bob spent the prior three years as a pipeline electrician for Viking Gas Transmission Company and spent 23 years working for various electrical contractors throughout the state of Minnesota.

Bob lives in rural Perham with his wife and has two adult children. In his free time, Bob enjoys gardening, hunting and fishing. He also enjoys working on classic cars and antique tractors and is currently working on restoring a '69 Pontiac Firebird with his son.

Bob is excited to be at Todd-Wadena and meeting the members. Bob has been busy recently with changing out irrigation demand response units, and will be working on Aquanta water heater devices soon.

Welcome, Bob!



Welcome, Nate!

Nate Bart is the Co-op's newest Journeyman Lineworker. Nate started at Todd-Wadena in early July. Nate received his training at M-State's lineman program. He most recently worked at Crow Wing Power for six years, and Aevenia for four years prior.

Nate lives in rural Verndale with his wife and daughter. He enjoys hunting, fishing, farming, and snowmobiling. Welcome to the Co-op, Nate!

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
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

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
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:

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

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

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Be a Tree Trimmer

Celebrate the **Season of Giving** with us! Make sure every child in our community has a gift to open this Christmas by 1) **Donating new toys, hats, or mittens for boys and girls ages 0-7**, or 2) **Donating money**. Help us bring joy to a child's Christmas this year!

We are collecting items for the Wadena Empty Stocking fund through December 5th.

November Reader's Contest

1. Please contact a member of the _____ Committee if you are interested in running in the 2024 Board of Director Elections.
2. The holiday open house will take place on Wednesday, December _____ in the TWEC _____.
3. Since 2002, there have been over _____ million pennies donated to local community organizations through Operation Round Up grants.

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 November 25th.

October (Co-op Month) Reader's Contest Winners:

Maureen Yanta of Menahga, Becky Schweich of Bluffton, James Ruten of Motley, Lois & David Lee of Browerville, Marilyn Novak of Browerville

