



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
January 2024
www.toddwadena.coop

MEALS 4 MEMBERS

As each year begins, we want to serve Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) members in need. We are currently collecting food items for our *Meals 4 Members* program. Your food donations are gathered and then distributed directly to members who can use assistance. Please donate **unexpired/non-perishable food items** now through April. Monetary donations are also welcome.



toddwadena.coop/meals4members

If you are in need, please fill out a one-time *Meals 4 Members* home delivery request form by visiting toddwadena.coop/meals4members, scanning the QR code to the left, or by calling Kallie at (218) 632-3216. Deliveries for *Meals 4 Members* home delivery baskets will be on a weekly basis starting in January and going through April.



Note: Meals 4 Members is available for Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members. Requests will be added to a delivery list.

Save the Date for Our 2024 Annual Meeting!

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's 2024 Annual Meeting will be **Tuesday, April 16th, 2024** at the Maslowski Wellness & Research Center in Wadena, MN.



State of the Electric Industry



I recently had the pleasure of spending time with future Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) members at a few local high schools. The State of the Electric Industry presentation I shared covered the industry's



history, where we're at in the present, and what the future holds.

I started out the presentation by highlighting my history in the cooperative world. My tenure with the cooperative started many years ago when I represented co-ops

as their legal counsel. The work with cooperatives in Minnesota had me hooked and I became passionate about electric cooperatives. So, in 2018, when I was asked by the TWEC Board of Directors to become the next leader of the co-op, I knew it would be a perfect fit.

My student presentation then looked at the history of cooperatives. In the 1940s, when investor-owned utilities wouldn't bring power to rural America, it was made possible by Roosevelt with the Federal Rural Electrification Act and our rural communities working together. These rural areas became our service territory. I explained how today we have to fight to keep these service territories. Municipals taking territory from cooperatives is one of the issues our industry is currently facing.

Power generation was the next topic covered in the presentation. Renewables (wind/solar) are the generation source of choice today, especially by the Minnesota



government. In comparison, back in the 1970s, coal plants were utilized due to the fuel shortages that plagued the nation. At that time, utilities were pushed into coal generation that cost millions of dollars to build. This method of generation is now considered

obsolete, even though these coal plants are still providing reliable baseload power. TWEC's power supplier, Great River Energy, has worked very hard and will continue to work and evolve our generation portfolio to abide by regulations while keeping our power supply reliable.

However, these things don't happen overnight. TWEC is part of the big picture of MISO; there is a lot of discussion surrounding congestion costs on the grid, necessary upgrades and expansions within MISO, and much more to keep our power affordable and reliable.

Looking at how our generation portfolio has changed over the years transitioned into a discussion around politics. The 100% carbon free by 2040 bill passed last year means that our state is aggressively putting forth regulations to be entirely carbon free by the year 2040.

This bill, along with many others, is having a significant impact on the electric industry.

I talked to students about how important it is to stay involved in the politics that affect our rural communities and to communicate with our legislators.

I challenged them to pay attention to the news, but to also research – headlines are just that, and can be misleading.

At the end of the presentation, I encouraged students to consider a career in the electric industry. As our industry grows and changes with the times, we need lineworkers, accountants, engineers, electricians, energy specialists, software specialists, and customer service staff to serve our members.

Even though my time with the students was limited to one hour, I hope I was able to help these young students think critically about our industry, politics, and what the media is telling them. My goal was for students to leave the presentation with a greater understanding of the electric industry and the many career opportunities available to them.



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

2024 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 9th, 2024**. 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.

Visit www.toddwadena.coop for more information.

Graduating Senior Scholarship

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will award up to **four** \$1,000 scholarships to local 2024 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.

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME



JUNE 18 TO 23, 2024
AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- ▶ An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.
- ▶ A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, and meeting elected officials.
- ▶ A chance to develop lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

HOW TO APPLY

- ▶ Applicants must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- ▶ You and your parents or guardian must be served by Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.
- ▶ The deadline is **February 1st, 2024**.

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

Midwest Electric System Ready for Winter Weather

The region has sufficient resources for expected conditions and contingency plans for emergencies

The *Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)* recently released its annual winter outlook in which it outlines expectations for the winter season. MISO is expecting a mild winter for most of its territory. January is forecasted to have the highest winter peak demand in the range of 102 to 107 gigawatts (GW), with generation supply availability expected to be 122 GW.

“Great River Energy team members are ready to meet our responsibilities to our member-owners and MISO by generating and delivering energy regardless of weather conditions,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. “Great River Energy is continuing to invest in its generation and transmission assets to support grid reliability for the future.”

Among other projects, Great River Energy and Minnesota Power are jointly developing the Northland Reliability Project, a 180-mile, 345-kilovolt electric transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to ensure continued reliability into the future as the region transitions to greater levels of renewable energy.

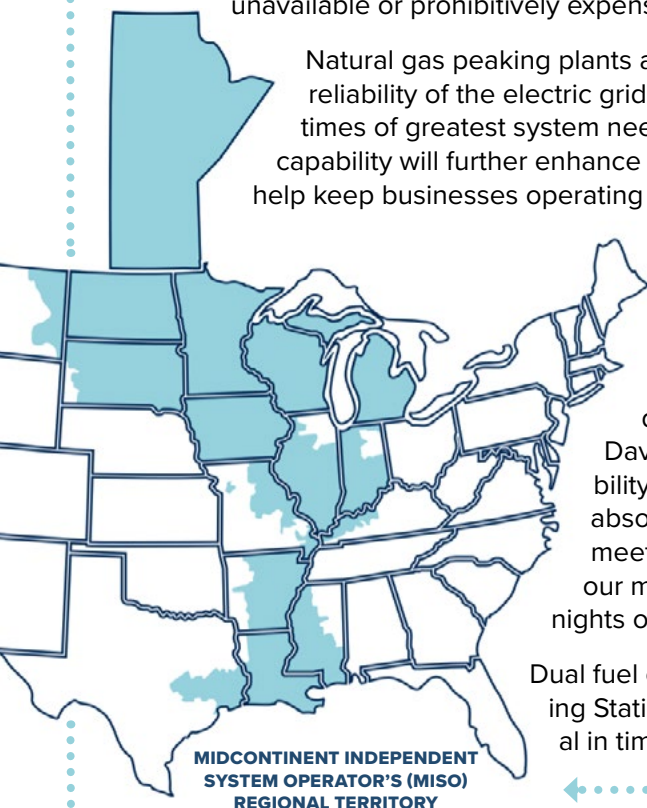
MISO stresses the importance of reliability in all seasons, particularly when entering winter and summer when demand for electricity peaks. Great River Energy’s winter reliability plans received an important boost from a recent decision by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

The PUC unanimously approved the addition of dual fuel capability at Great River Energy’s Cambridge Peaking Station, which will enable the plant to operate on fuel oil when its primary fuel — natural gas — is either unavailable or prohibitively expensive.

Natural gas peaking plants are an important part of overall reliability of the electric grid by providing generation at times of greatest system need. The addition of dual fuel capability will further enhance overall system reliability and help keep businesses operating and homes safe and warm.

“Electric cooperatives serving Minnesota must be prepared for extreme winter conditions that are normal for our region,” said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. “Dual fuel capability in Cambridge is a small but absolutely critical enhancement to meet the needs and expectations of our member-owners on the coldest nights of the year.”

Dual fuel capability at Cambridge Peaking Station is expected to be operational in time for the winter of 2025-26.



TWEC Board Minutes

Highlights from the November 30th, 2023, regular board meeting:

- *David Saggau, CEO of Great River Energy (GRE), joined the meeting to discuss the proposed GRE Bylaw amendment that outlines contractual obligations of an all-requirements member and how that relates to having a position on the GRE Board.*
- *CEO Dan Carlisle gave an update on his TWEC in Schools initiative. The team has multiple presentation days set up with area schools.*
- *Representative Mike Wiener joined the meeting to discuss matters the State is facing, as well as concerns affecting members in TWEC's territory.*
- *Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the October financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 3 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 13 percent over budget. October's purchased power expense was 0.7 percent over budget. Tier is 1.55 and Equity is 41.15.*
- *Board Chair Miles Kuschel gave an overview of his trip to Africa on behalf of NRECA International. He spent time with the ZECDP (Zatumbila Electric Cooperative) training and discussing the roles of a cooperative, its board members, and policies. He also was able to tour the village that will be receiving power through this program and other areas throughout Africa.*
- *Board Member Kristine Spadgenske, as a director on the Dairy Farmers of America Board, traveled to Japan and China visiting and touring multiple dairy farms and milk production facilities. She shared highlights and pictures from her trip.*
- *The management team presented the proposed 2024 Budget to the board. Carlisle highlighted areas the team made cuts to and measures that were taken to find savings for the cooperative.*

Off-Peak Water Heating

Peak Shave Water Heating	\$450* for 85 gallon Marathon \$550* for 105 gallon Marathon Non-Marathon- \$400 cash rebate (<i>must be at least 85 gallons</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.
Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heater Program	\$450* for 85 gallon Marathon \$550* for 105 gallon Marathon Non-Marathon- \$400 cash rebate (<i>must be at least 85 gallons</i>)	Low 4.3¢ kWh rate (plus \$2/mo meter fee). Must enroll in the ETS Water Heater Storage program. *New program enrollment only.
Existing Controlled Replacement	\$100/heater	Must provide receipt. Total gallons must equal at least 85 gallons.

Off-Peak Space Heating

Slab Heat/Dual Heat	\$35/kW rebate	Up to 10 kW/\$350
Plenum Heater (New DH only)	\$500 rebate	Must install at least 10 kW
Quality Installed Air Source Heat Pump (QI contractor required for rebate)	\$500 rebate \$700 rebate	≥ 8.2 HSPF ≥ 9 HSPF
Ground Source Heat Pump	\$400/ton rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
Storage Heat	\$50/kW rebate	Up to 10 kW/\$500

Appliances

Freezer/Refrigerator (with recycling)	\$50 rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
Clothes Dryer	\$25 rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
Dehumidifier	\$25 rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
Ductless ASHP	\$300 rebate	Must be Energy Star rated
A/C Tune Up	\$25 rebate	Documentation by contractor
Wi-Fi Thermostat	\$25 rebate	Must be Wi-Fi Smart Thermostat

Bulbs

LED Bulbs	\$2/bulb	Proof of Energy Star rating. Rebate cannot exceed 50% of purchase price.
LED Yard Light Rebate	\$20/fixture	Proof of Energy Star rating (min. 50 watt LED).

Electric Vehicles

ChargeWise	\$500	Rebate is to be used towards installation of electric vehicle charger. Must enroll in an electric vehicle charging rate.
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Battery Powered Yard Tools

Lawn Mower/Snow Blower	\$50 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$200- \$500) \$100 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$501 and up)	Must purchase at a participating local retailer. Limit of one yard tool per member, per year.
Lawn Care Equipment <i>Edger, Trimmers, Chainsaw, Pole Saw, or Leaf Blower</i>	\$25 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$100- \$200) \$50 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$201 and up)	Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price. Purchased tools must be battery powered.

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

Authorized User Vs. Joint Account

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requires many businesses and organizations to implement an identity theft prevention program in their day-to-day business operations. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative adheres to the FTC’s *Red Flags Rule* to protect our members’ information. The data privacy of our members is very important to us, and you may be asked to provide additional information and identification when you make inquiries on your account.

A member may complete an **Authorized User** form to allow Todd-Wadena to give account information to anyone other than the member themselves. The authorized user is permitted to make inquiries on the account which they are authorized on. An authorized user can inquire about the balance or pay on the account. He or she is not authorized to start/stop service, not entitled to unretired capital credits, nor is he/she financially responsible for the account. The authorized user will be asked to verify his/her identity with the last four digits of his or her social security number.

A member may also choose to add a person to the account as a **Joint Member**. The original member can add a joint member to the account by filling out a form. Both members are required to sign a form stating it has been moved to a joint account. As a joint member, both users are entitled to the same rights. Joint members are financially responsible for the account, able to make service status changes, and will acquire dual ownership of unretired capital credits.

Joint Member	Authorized User
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HAS the same rights as original member ✓ IS financially responsible for the account ✓ WOULD acquire joint ownership of unretired capital credits ✓ IS able to request electric service status changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CAN inquire/pay on account(s) he/she is authorized on ✗ CANNOT start/stop electric service ✗ CANNOT change any billing information (including address, etc.) ✗ IS NOT financially responsible for account(s) ✗ IS NOT entitled to unretired capital credits

Keep Your Contact Info Updated



It is important to keep the cooperative informed of any changes to your contact information so we can reach you when needed. The current contact information on file for each member is printed on the remit statement on your electric bill.

Having the correct contact information in our database helps us in a variety of ways — such as speeding up power outage reports, notifications of scheduled power outages in your area, ensuring future capital credit earnings find their way to your mailbox, and more! Call our office during business hours or update your address by visiting our website, toddwadena.coop/account-forms, then click *Update Membership Information*.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form \(PDF\)](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410*, by fax (202) 690-7442, or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Report Outages Through SmartHub!

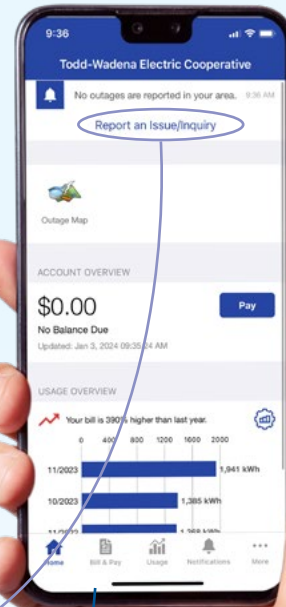
Our SmartHub app is more than just an online payment system. You can use it to track your energy use, update your contact information, and now even **report power outages quickly!**

SmartHub's outage reporting system is integrated with our outage management system—which is monitored 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. We discourage members from using social media or email for outage reporting because information may be missed or not seen for an extended period of time. SmartHub receives and organizes outages almost immediately and helps us get linemen headed in the right direction to get your power restored.

To easily report an outage through your SmartHub mobile app, follow these steps (*which assume you've already installed the app and are logged in*):

- 1) Open the app. On the main dashboard click **Report an Issue/Inquiry**. Then select **Power Outage**.
- 2) Select which account is experiencing an outage (*if you have multiple*). Review the terms and conditions and click **Accept** if all are true.
- 3) Toggle on **Send My Current Location** (*note: you may be asked to turn on location services via your settings*).
- 4) Add any relevant information in comments and, when ready, click **Send** in the top right corner.

**You can also submit outages via the SmartHub web application.*



Note: You must be a registered user of SmartHub in order to use it to report an outage via the mobile app.

Snowmobile Safety Tips

- ❄️ Heavy snow and drifts can bury electrical equipment. Stay safe and watch out for power poles, guy wires, and other electrical equipment that could be hidden under the snow.
- ❄️ Slow down—especially if you are unsure of the area where you are snowmobiling. It's recommended to stick to the groomed trails.
- ❄️ If you see a downed power line, **STAY AWAY** from it and call 911 and the local utility to report it. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized just by looking at it. Always assume it is live and it can carry currents strong enough to kill.
- ❄️ Always wait for help to arrive before you approach an accident scene where a power line may be involved.
- ❄️ Never ride alone—always ride with another snowmobiler. That way if one machine breaks down, you have another to go get help.
- ❄️ Dress for safety and survival. Minnesota weather is no joke; bundle up in layers to keep warm and dry.

Thank you to our local organizations that maintain snowmobile trails for riders!

Visit the interactive trail map below.



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

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Wadena, MN 56482

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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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DPC

January Reader's Contest

1. Members can check to see if their contact information is up to date on the _____ section of their bill.
2. High school sophomores and juniors can apply for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the NRECA _____ Tour.
3. Members can report an outage by calling our office or by submitting an outage with _____.

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 January 25th.

Vern Desotell of Clarissa was the winner of our December Reader's Contest.

