



## Capital Credit Retirement

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 1991-1993.

Reading	Prev.
2399	12.

Detail of Charges:	
Basic Charge	
Energy Charge (1,165 kWh @ 0.10)	
Power Cost Adj (1,165 kWh @ 0.01)	
MN Sales Tax (all taxable meters)	
Becker County Sales Tax	
Water Storage House Cr	
Capital Credit Refund	
Electric Charges - Met	

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

## Holiday Open House



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> • 11 AM - 1 PM**

**TWEC GARAGE • PLEASE USE SHIPPING AND RECEIVING DOOR**

Join us for our holiday open house. Enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies! We're collecting new toys for boys and girls ages 0-7 for the *Wadena Empty Stocking Fund!*

We're also collecting non-perishable food for our *Meals 4 Members* program.

Recycle your old holiday lights at our office for Brainerd Sunrise Sertoma's *Bites for Lights* program.



## Wadena Empty Stocking Fund



Celebrate the season of giving! Make sure every child in our community has a gift to open this Christmas. Help us bring joy this year by donating a new toy for girls or boys between the ages of 0-7 years.

*Meals 4 Members*



# Load Management

We've been fortunate to have such great fall weather this year, but the frigid temperatures of winter will be here before we know it. Our heating systems will soon be pushed to the max, but we are doing our best to make sure your budget is not.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) understands the expense of keeping our northern Minnesota homes warm in the winter. We, along with our power supplier Great River Energy (GRE), take pride in keeping costs as low as we can through our load management programs. Opting into one of our programs, such as TWEC's dual fuel program, can help you save energy, and money, while considering your heating needs.

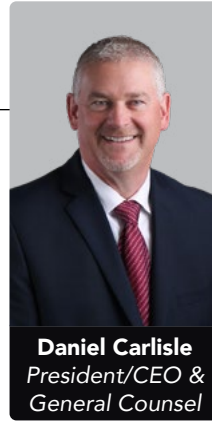
Todd-Wadena utilizes a variety of tools to help keep costs low. One of these tools is GRE's balanced portfolio. The GRE portfolio includes natural gas, renewables, hydro-electric, the Rainbow purchase from Coal Creek, and market purchases. It is through this balanced portfolio that GRE is able to keep wholesale costs low.

Each and every day, GRE looks a day ahead at market conditions and decides if load control will be necessary or beneficial for capacity or pricing needs. This helps keep our costs low and, in turn, our members' rates low. These low prices benefit thousands of our members, not only those with dual fuel but also irrigation, commercial and industrial, and water heating. For many of us, this rate (which is almost half of TWEC's general service rate) can make or break our winter budget. We know this pricing is very important to you and it is extremely important to us.

Each control, regardless of the program, achieves a significant cost savings. To keep our rates low, we may need to squeeze all the value we can out of our load control programs. Coming into the 2022/2023 winter season, our members should expect increased load control. This could be consecutive days of water heater control. It may even include up to 12-hour dual fuel control events that could be consecutive or split between mornings and evenings.

Each of our load control programs have parameters in place that limit the hours of control possible each year. While we don't expect that we will reach these limits, it is a reality that increased load control could happen this year. This is why checking your back-up system and updating TWEC if something changes is more important than ever.

We know increased load control can be frustrating, but if we all work together we can keep load management programs valuable and our pricing low.



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

## Board Minutes

**Highlights from the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regular board meeting:**

- CEO Dan Carlisle discussed how Great River Energy's (GRE) executive staff and the Member Managers Group are working to come to an understanding on where wholesale power rates are going to end up for 2023, into the future, and how the projected GRE excess revenue can be used to offset some of the proposed changes.
- Carlisle also went over some topics from a recent meeting with the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA).
- Board Member Mike Thorson shared highlights from GRE's Strategic Planning session held earlier in September.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the August financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 0.5 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 4 percent under budget. August's purchased power expense was 3 percent over budget. Tier is 0.80 and Equity is 40.52.
- Graba-Meech also presented the 2023 Wage and Benefit introduction to the board. She provided an overview of pay, retirement, and insurance.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Uselman discussed how she is working with STAR Energy on a couple of projects.
- TWEC continues to work with FEMA on the two May storms. The Program Delivery Manager has been assigned and will be working directly with TWEC to ensure all requirements are met.
- Directors discussed the Meet the Candidates event and were very pleased with it.
- Board Member Marie Katterhagen gave a report from the Safety Operating Committee. She then reviewed the results of the unannounced RESAP visit.

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

## 2023 Calendar Pick Up Locations

Our 2023 calendars will be ready to pick up after Thanksgiving! 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 contest winners). Limited quantities are available at each location. *Thank you to all our members who submitted photos!*



## 2023 Calendar Contest Winners

**Cover photo**  
Deanna Hillukka

**January**  
Judy Wolak

**February**  
Rita Tepley

**March**  
Alicia Johnson

**April**  
Kara Brockpahler

**May**  
Alex Treinen

**June**  
Nicole Pehrson

**July**  
Tim Sly

**August**  
Landon Mertens

**September**  
Roberta Brinkman

**October**  
Janice Winter

**November**  
Carrin DeLong

**December**  
RoAnn Trout

**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

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING

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

- 🕒 **November 11<sup>th</sup>** for Veterans Day
- 🕒 **November 24<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup>** for Thanksgiving
- 🕒 **December 23<sup>rd</sup>** for Christmas

## 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 to the right.

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).

### 2023 Nominating Committee

Name	City	Phone Number
Gerald Anderson	Eagle Bend	(218) 738-4609
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

# Notice: High Chance of Increased Load Control This Winter

## 1) 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.**

TWEC's power supplier, Great River Energy, has notified its member cooperatives that there could be increased control hours this winter due to high prices in the natural gas and electricity markets.

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.

## 2) 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:

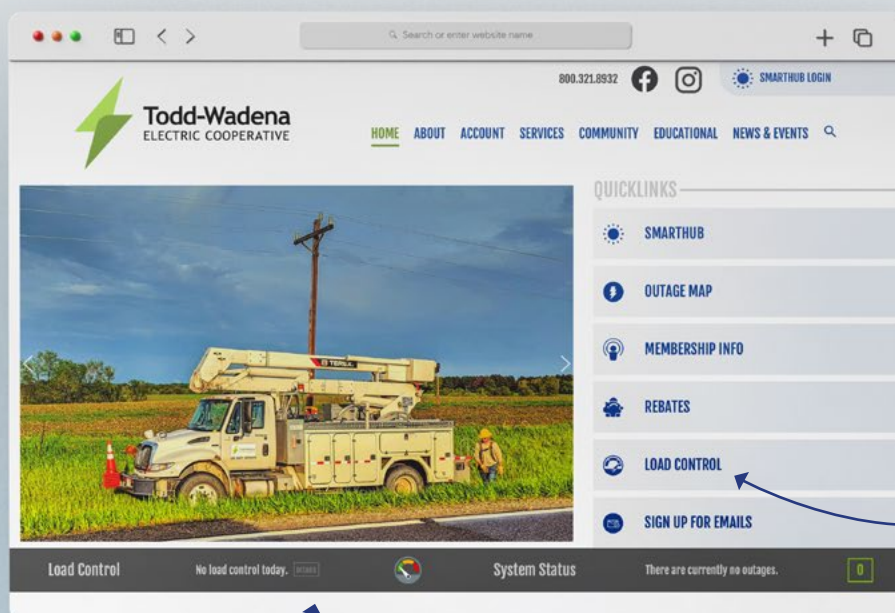
Sign in (or sign up) at [toddwadena.smarthub.coop](http://toddwadena.smarthub.coop). If you haven't previously added a contact for notifications, you will need to start at **Step 1** to the right, otherwise you may go directly to **Step 2** to enable Dual Heat Control notifications.

**1 Add Contacts:** Click *Notifications* in the navigation menu, then select *Manage Contacts*. Add an email contact and/or a phone contact. Follow directions and enter verification code where appropriate.

**2 Set Up Notifications:** Click *Notifications* again, and select *Manage Notifications*. Select *Reports*, then choose *Dual Heat Control*. Click *Options* and select the contact(s) you wish to receive load control notifications.

## 3) Visit [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop) for Current Load Control Status

This section of the website is always up-to-date with today's load control and tomorrow's likelihood of load control.



Click this button to be taken to the website of TWEC's power supplier, Great River Energy, where they list load control information.

# New Transmission Line to Bolster Electric Reliability in Northern Minnesota

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy (GRE) recently announced their intent to build an approximately 150-mile, double-circuit 345-kV transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota near Becker that will support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

The transmission line will run from Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation in Itasca County to Great River Energy's Benton County Substation in Benton County, and then replace an existing Great River Energy transmission line from Benton County to a new substation in Sherburne County.

This 345-kV project will be sited in the member service areas of Lake Country Power, Crow Wing Power, Mille Lacs, East Central Energy, and Connexus. GRE will jointly develop this project with Minnesota Power.

This joint project is one of a portfolio of transmission projects approved July 25 by the region's grid operator, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), as part of the first phase of its Long Range Transmission Plan.

Proactive investments to maintain a reliable and resilient regional power grid are necessary as more low-cost renewable energy is brought online, existing power plants are retired, electrification continues to grow, and extreme weather events become more frequent.

Utilities across the region are significantly increasing the amount of renewable energy they provide to their customers. Great River Energy will more than double the amount of renewable energy, primarily wind

energy, in its portfolio by 2025 and reduce its carbon emissions by 80 percent from 2005 levels in the next 10 years. Minnesota Power was the first utility in the state to deliver 50% renewable energy to its customers in 2021 and envisions delivering 100% carbon-free energy by 2050.

"Building the right transmission will ensure continued reliability as we transition our energy

mix, prepare for increased electrification, and build in more resilience to extreme weather and other consequential events," said Priti Patel, vice president and chief transmission officer for Great River Energy. "The right transmission will ensure we can make the transition to more low-cost renewable energy and maintain the reliability our members expect."

Planning for the approximately \$970 million transmission line is in its early stages. Subject to board approval, the two companies intend to seek a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the MPUC in late 2023. The MPUC will determine

need and the final route and separately review cost recovery for Minnesota Power's share of the project. Subject to regulatory approvals, the transmission line is estimated to be in service by 2030.

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy will begin coordinating with landowners, local governments, agencies, Tribal Nations and tribal organizations, and other interested parties in late 2022 and early 2023. Engagement opportunities including open house meetings and workshops will offer the project community an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the project planning and routing.



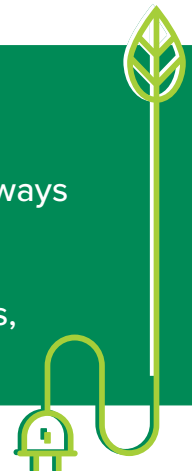
**GREAT  
RIVER  
ENERGY™**



## 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)



## Operation Round Up Grants Awarded

Giving back to the community we serve is a core cooperative principle. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's (TWEC) *Operation Round Up* program is a great way for the co-op and its members to give back.



TWEC's Community Trust Board met in early October and awarded three Operation Round Up grants to local non-profit organizations, totaling \$5,549.67. Since the program's inception in 2002, Todd-Wadena members have raised and donated more than \$596,000 for 736 projects. **The next application deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

Organization		Amount
Bertha Community Food Shelf	Food Shelf	\$3,000.00
Bertha Volunteer Fire Department/Bertha Ambulance Services	Pager and Training Resources update	\$1,000.00
Menahga Softball	Menahga Softball Safety Equipment	\$1,549.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,549.67</b>

## Sales Tax Exemption for Residential Electric Heat

A tax exemption is available for the months of November through April if you heat your home primarily with electricity. To determine eligibility, see the Minnesota Department of Revenue Sales Tax Fact Sheet 157 at [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us).

If you have questions regarding your eligibility for sales tax exemptions, please contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue at (651) 296-6181 or toll free at (800) 657-3777, or by email at [salesuse.tax@state.mn.us](mailto:salesuse.tax@state.mn.us).

**To apply for a sales tax exemption for residential electric heat, please visit [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop).**

## \$50 AutoPay Winner

Congratulations to **Wilmer Engle**, our **\$50 AutoPay Winner**. All members who were enrolled in AutoPay were entered into a drawing to win a \$50 energy credit in October.



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.

## Shop Local This Holiday Season With Your Co-op Connections Card!

Did you “gnome” that our Co-op Connections Card is a great way for members to save and receive benefits while shopping locally? This program is yet another way we’re looking out for our members *and* community!



### BROWERVILLE

**Konetzko’s Meat Market // 516 Main St. S.**  
 \$2 off \$20 purchase of meat sticks OR \$2 off 1 lb. purchase of beef jerky. *One discount per visit. Offers cannot be combined. Not valid with any other offers.*

**Pro Ag Farmer’s Co-op // 501 Railroad Ave.**  
 10% off pet food and bird seed.

### LONG PRAIRIE

**Thorson’s Farm Market // Highway 71**  
 10% off any purchase.

### STAPLES

**Ace Hardware // 210 2nd Ave. NE**  
 10% off any item \$30 or less.

**Japke Decorating, Carpet & Gifts // 877 2nd Ave. NW**  
 10% off one item per visit on clothes or gifts.

**Old 10 Apparel // 508 2nd Ave. NE**  
 20% off any one regular priced in-stock item (excludes letter jackets and laser engraving).

**True Value // 205 Warner Rd. NE**  
 10% off any item \$50 or less.

### WADENA

**1776 Clothing Company // 102 Jefferson St. S.**  
 10% off total purchase of regular priced items.

**Hometown Crafts // 111 S. Jefferson**  
 10% off regular priced merchandise. *Not valid with other coupons.*

**Lyle’s Shoes // 118 Jefferson St.**  
 10% off regular priced in-stock item.

**Pizza Ranch // 106 Jefferson St. S.**  
 \$1 off an adult buffet – limit two.

**Wadena Eye Clinic // 222 1st St. SE**  
 15% off all regular priced glasses. *Not valid with insurance or other discount programs.*

**Whitetail Run Golf Course // 13379 Leaf River Rd.**  
 Get two 18 hole green fees with 18 hole cart for \$75. *No other discounts apply.*

## Our 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](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

# November Reader's Contest

1. TWEC Board of Directors approved the retirement of \$\_\_\_\_\_ of capital credits for the remainder of 2007 and a portion of 2008.
2. 2023 calendars will be available to pick up the week \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving.
3. Join us for our holiday open house in the TWEC garage on Tuesday, December \_\_\_\_\_.

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 November 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

William & Sandra Smith, Staples; Stanley & Patricia Weitemier, Wadena; Allen & Leanna Byler, Long Prairie; Kelvin Maninga, Menahga; Missy Beyatt, Bertha