



Tree Planting 101

We know you like trees on your property and we do too. However, knowing where to plant them makes a huge difference. Todd-Wadena owns and maintains over 1,800 miles of overhead power lines, and trees are the number one cause of power outages on our system. It is important to look up before you start planting and familiarize yourself with the location of any overhead utility lines. Follow these tree planting guidelines to ensure they do not become a hazard in the future.

- 1) You must notify *Gopher State One Call (GSOC)* by dialing 811 at least 48 hours (*not including weekends and holidays*) in advanced of digging. GSOC locates utility-owned facilities for free.
- 2) A *private locate** is needed on member-owned facilities such as underground electric wires and gas lines to outbuildings, electric fences, sprinkler systems, septic systems, and similar underground items.

Todd-Wadena has a vegetation management policy to mitigate vegetation and tree growth around our lines. This is important to maintain so we can continue to provide your homes and businesses with reliable energy when you need it.

** Members needing a private locate can contact Jeff Johnson of Johnson Locating System (JLS) at (218) 821-7672 immediately after contacting Gopher State One Call. JLS will provide you with a discounted rate for the private locate (payment is due at time of locate).*

TREE PLANTING ZONES

Before you plant, consider location. More than half of all power outages are caused by trees or limbs touching or falling on power lines. Trees that grow into power lines can create a safety hazard for children climbing them, individuals trimming them, or crews working on electrical lines. When selecting a tree to plant, consider its size at maturity.

Low Tree Zone

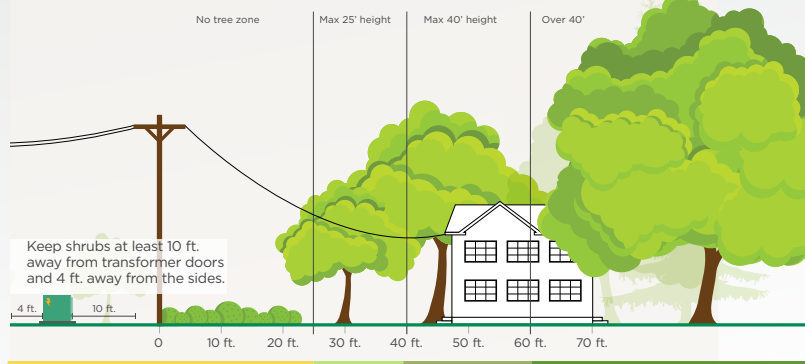
Please avoid planting within 25 feet of power lines. Plant low trees (under 25' when mature) at least 25 feet away from power lines.

Medium Tree Zone

Plant medium trees (25'–40' when mature) at least 40 feet away from power lines.

Large Tree Zone

Plant large trees (over 40' when mature) at least 60 feet away from power lines.



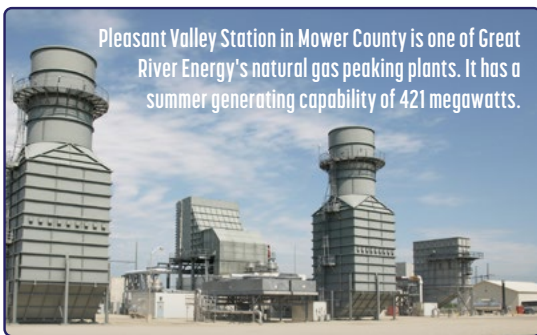
Summer Reliability

As temperatures begin to increase across Minnesota, leading to an uptick in demand for electricity to cool homes and businesses, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is working hard to ensure our members have the reliable power you've come to expect.

To ensure power is available when our members need it, we work closely with our wholesale power provider, Great River Energy (GRE), to make sure plans and resources are in place to ramp up power supply even on the hottest summer days. When necessary, GRE is prepared to call upon an additional segment of its generation resources to meet this demand.

Great River Energy owns and operates a fleet of modern, flexible, and efficient natural gas "peaking station" power plants located at strategic locations throughout the state. These facilities can feed precise amounts of electricity onto the grid when members need it most, including on the hottest days of the year.

These plants are able to start up in a matter of minutes with the flip of a switch. Each of the stations undergo a process of critical maintenance work in springtime so they are in top form once summer rolls around and when they may be called on.



Great River Energy has approximately 1,400 megawatts of peaking generation capacity available to provide energy in any amount — from a small boost to the fleet's full output. Most of the GRE's peaking plants are also "dual fuel" facilities, meaning they can operate on fuel oil when natural gas supply is constrained.

When combined with the high availability of wind in the Midwest, peaking plants provide stability today and flexibility for a future with new technologies and opportunities. They also help GRE manage costs for its 27 member-owner cooperatives.

With these assets in place, you can depend on Todd-Wadena to provide reliable, affordable electricity throughout all of Minnesota's seasons.



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

TWEC Board Minutes

Highlights from the April 26th, 2024, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle shared highlights from the CEO Spring Conference. He also reviewed TWEC's Conflict of Interest policies, both for the board of directors and management.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. He discussed security measures GRE has in place to protect its infrastructure.
- Thorson was elected as TWEC's director representative on the GRE Board.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the March financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 6 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 5 percent under budget. March's purchased power expense was 7 percent under budget. Tier is 1.05 and Equity is 39.74.
- Rick Utech and Melissa Wyman with the Todd County Development Association (TCDA) spoke about offerings TCDA has and projects they are involved in.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson discussed the Annual Meeting. There were 287 members present this year and the co-op had a 19.31% voting percentage.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher reviewed monthly projects and outage statistics. Workload has shifted slightly due to weather conditions and equipment issues.
- Board Member Dale Adams gave the STAR Energy report. STAR's equity has remained high at 69%, and for 2023 total revenue is \$9 million.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided an overview of the status of active legislative bills that may impact TWEC.

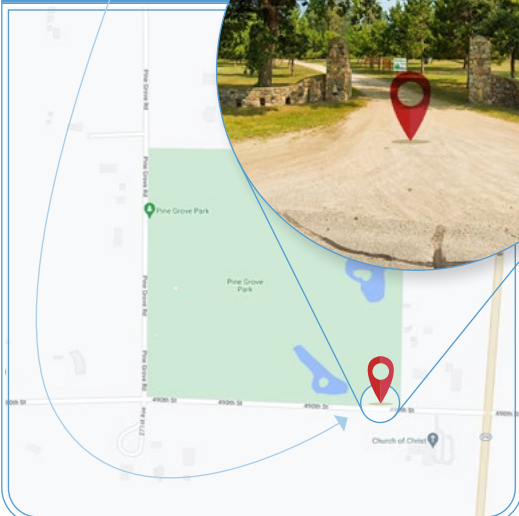


**CO-OP STRONG
DRIVE-THROUGH
LUNCH**

**WEDNESDAY
JULY 24**

We will be serving lunch from
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pine Grove
Park in Staples • 1012 Pine Grove
Road, Staples, MN 56479

Note: Please use the
south entrance
located on
490th Street.



TODD-WADENA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH WEST CENTRAL TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

Todd-Wadena Receives Safety Award

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative was recently recognized for excellence in workplace safety and health by the Minnesota Safety Council. Todd-Wadena received the highest level—the Diamond Achievement Award, in recognition of excellence in occupational injury prevention throughout 2023.



Thank You to Our Dairy Farmers

June is *Dairy Month* and we want to take this opportunity to thank our dairy farmers, from the largest operations to the smallest. We want to honor our dairy farmers who work hard 365 days a year to provide us with safe, nutritious dairy products.

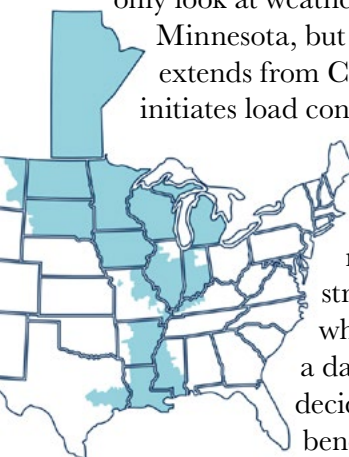


The weather is nice out with little humidity, you may ask yourself why is there a load control event?

The short answer is that while the weather may be nice in rural Minnesota, weather is not the only factor that is looked at when deciding if there is a need for a load control event.

Our wholesale power supplier, *Great River Energy (GRE)*, deploys its demand response/load control strategies to relieve the electric system of any strain. They not only look at weather conditions for the whole state of Minnesota, but the whole MISO territory, which extends from Canada down to Louisiana. GRE also initiates load control based on market prices, to keep costs low for distribution co-ops like *Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative*. Even though the weather may be nice here in Minnesota, there may be strains on the electric grid elsewhere which raises market pricing. GRE looks a day ahead at market conditions to decide if load control will be necessary or beneficial for capacity or pricing needs.

Our load management programs are voluntary for our members to enroll in. These programs allow GRE to extend a load control event on members' cooling or electric heating unit, water heater, electric vehicles, or commercial/industrial/agricultural accounts for a period of hours on high demand days in exchange for a reduced electric rate.



Limited time!
Promotion ends
July 31st, 2024.

Stay **COOL** this Summer with an ASHP!

We've pumped up our air source heat pump (ASHP) rebates so you can stay cool all summer long! For a limited time, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is offering a promotion on ASHP rebates. The promotion runs from May 1st through July 31st, 2024. To learn more, visit www.toddwadena.coop/ashp2024 or scan the QR code to the right.



Ducted Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≥ 7.5 HSPF2*	\$500	\$800
≥ 8.1 HSPF2*	\$700	\$1,000

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≥ 7.5 HSPF2**	\$300	\$500

Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. Promotion runs May 1st-July 31st, 2024.

**Ducted Air Source Heat Pump must be installed by a Quality Installer to qualify for TWEC rebate. A list of QI installers can be found at www.toddwadena.coop.*

***Must be Energy Star rated.*

Know the Difference Between the EnergyGuide and ENERGY STAR Labels

If you know the difference between the EnergyGuide label and the ENERGY STAR label, you are in better shape than many consumers—even retailers get these confused sometimes. See below to learn about the differences between these two labels. Keep in mind that the rebates we offer are only good for ENERGY STAR rated appliances.



EnergyGuide

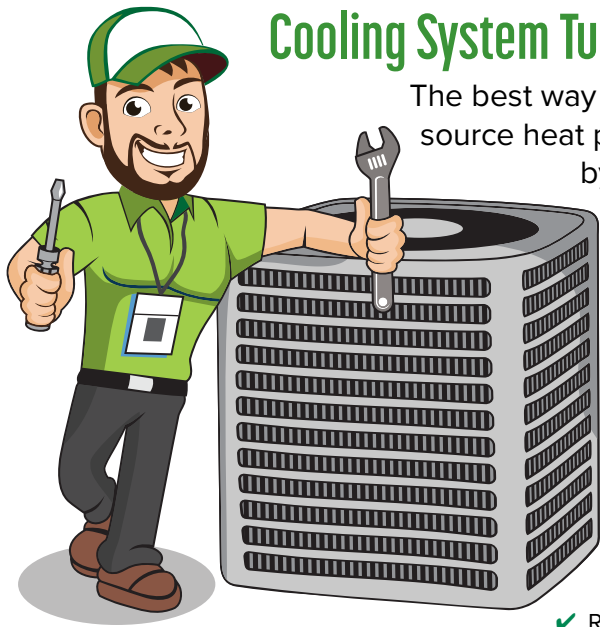
The **EnergyGuide** label is a required label which estimates the annual energy consumption for an appliance. It also provides information about whether that use is above or below the average for that type of product. The dollar amount listed is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.

ENERGY STAR

The **ENERGY STAR** label is the government's symbol for energy efficiency. It helps consumers easily recognize highly efficient products, homes, and buildings that save energy and money, and help protect the environment. The ENERGY STAR logo is often incorporated into the EnergyGuide label for certified products.



Cooling System Tune-up Rebate



The best way to ensure efficient operation of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (ASHP) is by having it tuned-up every two years. A tune-up by a service expert can improve your unit's efficiency by as much as 20 percent, extend its life, and help protect our environment. Todd-Wadena offers a \$25 rebate for central air conditioner and ASHP tune-ups! See if you qualify for this opportunity to keep your equipment running at top level.

To qualify for the tune-up rebate:

- ✓ Tune-up must be completed where electricity is supplied by TWEC.
- ✓ The central air conditioner or ASHP must be in operating condition, over three years of age, and have not had a tune-up in the last two years.
- ✓ Rebate submittal must follow the guidelines as listed.
- ✓ Subject to change or cancellation without notice.
- ✓ Program is for tune-ups only; it does not cover the cost for repairs of the central air conditioner or air source heat pump.
- ✓ Rebate credits under \$100 will be applied to the member's account.

Contact a local HVAC contractor and follow these steps to receive a \$25 rebate:

- 1) Hire the contractor (members qualify for a tune-up rebate every 2 years).
- 2) After completing the tune-up, have your contractor fill out the *contractor portion* below.
- 3) Complete the *member portion* of the application.
- 4) Return the coupon to Todd-Wadena, along with a copy of the **contractor invoice** within 90 days of purchase.

Member Information

Member name: _____
Account number: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Contact phone number: _____

☐ I certify that the items for which I am claiming a rebate are qualifying items and are installed at the address listed above and that this address represents a valid Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative account.

☐ I have attached a copy of the contractor's invoice with rebate coupon.

Member signature: _____

Mail to: Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative
ATTN: Mary Williams
P.O. Box 431
Wadena, MN 56482

Contractor Information (to be filled out by HVAC tech)

Equipment brand: _____
Model number: _____
Serial number: _____
Approximate age of unit (years): _____
SEER rating: _____

☐ I certify that I have completed the following on this unit:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean condenser coil | <input type="checkbox"/> Test all controls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check coolant level | <input type="checkbox"/> Check indoor furnace filter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check coolant pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Check belt, if needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blow out drain lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Lube motor, if needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visually inspect entire system | <input type="checkbox"/> Educate homeowner on system operation |

Contractor signature: _____

Contractor company: _____



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

Frequently Asked Questions About Solar

Q: Does TWEC offer any rebates or incentives for solar?

A: No. TWEC does not offer any rebates or incentives. However, the federal government does have a tax credit. Please be sure to visit with your tax accountant before you purchase to make sure you qualify.

Q: Does TWEC sell and install?

A: No. TWEC does not sell or install panels.

Q: How much will it cost?

A: Every situation and size can vary quite a bit. We recommend that you do your research and get multiple quotes.

Q: Do I need to contact TWEC before installing solar?

A: Yes. TWEC is here to answer questions and guide you through the process of interconnecting solar. Through NOVA, you can access the document library where you can see all of our requirements as well as sample contracts and rate schedules. TWEC requires an application and contract through NOVA that has to be approved and signed prior to interconnection.

Q: Will my solar system supply power during an outage?

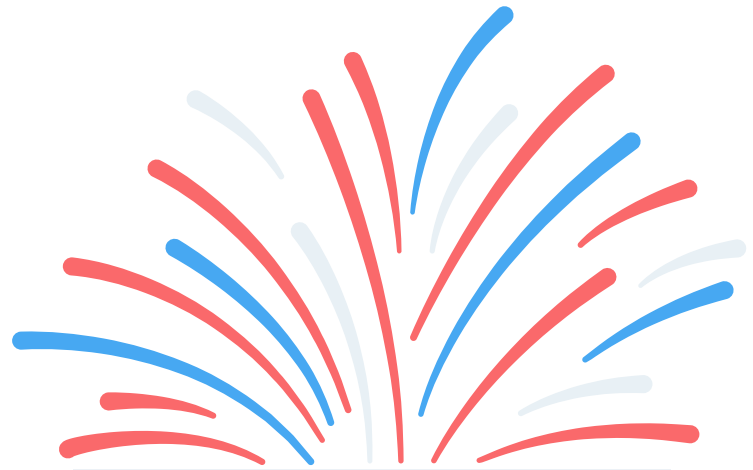
A: No. Solar arrays need utility power to operate. They will shut down during a utility outage for safety so they do not back feed electricity onto the power lines. In order to have power during an outage with a solar array, a member would need to add a battery system with an inverter and a transfer switch or a generator.

Q: Will TWEC pay me for energy I produce with my solar array?

A: Yes. For systems under 40 kW, TWEC pays members the average retail cooperative energy rate per Minnesota statute. This is often called net metering. With net metering, whatever your system is interconnected with (*for example, your home*) will use the energy you produce first. If there is any excess energy produced, TWEC will pay you the average retail cooperative energy rate for those kWhs.

Q: If I have an energy credit for production, why do I still have an energy charge?

A: During sunny daytime hours you may be producing enough energy to cover your usage and then some. However, there are also many cloudy or nighttime hours when the solar system is not producing at all. During these times, you need the electric grid for power and that is the kWh charge you will see on your bill. You will probably see both a credit on your bill and a charge.



Todd-Wadena Electric
Cooperative will be closed
on Thursday, July 4th for
Independence Day. Have a safe,
happy 4th of July!



2024 Youth Tour Recipient

Heidi Zimmerman, daughter of Bonnie and Dean Zimmerman of Motley is the 2024 Youth Tour recipient. She will be attending the NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. June 18th-23rd. Heidi will be a senior this fall at Staples-Motley High School.



Each year, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Minnesota Rural Electric Association send cooperative-sponsored students to the nation's capital city, Washington, D.C. for a week of leadership and educational training, historical perspectives, tours of city sites, and experiences in the heart of the federal government.

Look for your 2023 Capital Credit Allocation Statement in July

This July, current members will receive a statement with their energy bill detailing their *2023 Capital Credit Allocations* and their total unretired capital credits to-date.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative tracks how much electricity you purchase throughout the year. At the end of each year, any funds remaining after expenses (margins) are allocated to members' accounts, based on the percentage of electricity purchased.

These allocated funds are used as operating capital (for improvements and maintenance) to keep our electrical system in tip-top shape to provide you with reliable energy when you need it, until the Board of Directors decides to retire these funds into capital credits. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to approve the allocation and the

retirement of capital credits when it is fiscally responsible to do so.

The allocation statement is not a bill, and it will not be payable in November/December when members typically receive their capital credit checks. It is payable when the Board of Directors approves to retire that allocation year. Based on our current schedule of retirements, you could expect your 2023 capital credit allocation to be retired in 15-20 years for Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's share. Please note that the allocation statement will also include allocations from our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE). GRE retires their capital credits on a different retirement schedule than TWEC.

Remember that allocations are saved and used towards improvements and maintenance on our system until a later date when they are retired and paid out to our members.



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

POWERING CONVENIENCE.

Take the worry out of paying your electric bill on time when you enroll in AutoPay! Switch to AutoPay through ACH payments this summer and receive a one-time, \$10 energy credit.*

All ACH AutoPay enrollees will also be entered in to win a \$50 gift card to a local business.

*New AutoPay ACH enrollment only.
Promotion runs June 8- August 6th, 2024.

Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for members & friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (summer)
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) 580-8614

District 5 (Todd County):

Mark Hunter (320) 616-5574

District 6 (Wadena County):

Lowell Bradbury (218) 349-0068

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

Printed on recycled paper.

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage

PAID
DPC

Summer Office Hours

Our summer office hours are now 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday, through Labor Day.

June Reader's Contest

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 June 25th.

Cindy Boyer of Staples was the winner of our May Reader's Contest.

1. The Energy _____ label is the government's symbol for energy efficiency.
2. The 2023 Capital Credit Allocation statement will be on energy bills in _____.
3. Switch to AutoPay through _____ payments and receive a one-time \$10 energy credit.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

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