



85th Annual Meeting Recap

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative held its Annual Meeting of the Members on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025, at the Maslowski Wellness & Research Center in Wadena. The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed 251 members and their families who gathered to celebrate the cooperative's 85th anniversary.

Throughout the evening, members had several opportunities to engage and participate. Those who had not yet voted in the 2025 Director Election were able to cast their ballot. Families also enjoyed complimentary swimming at the wellness center, and many took part in bingo, where Dairy Queen gift

cards and TWEC-branded items were awarded as prizes.

Before the business meeting, members had the opportunity to attend an educational session titled *Rates & Reliability*. TWEC

Chief Financial Officer Lisa Graba-Meech and Great River Energy's Vice President and CFO Michelle Strobel presented on the Power Cost Adjustment and how evolving energy mandates and changes to the power supply are impacting electric rates. The session provided valuable insight into the financial realities shaping energy pricing for cooperative members.

Once the meeting was called to order, members were invited to

enjoy a meal catered by The BBQ Smokehouse of Wadena, followed by cupcakes provided by Witches Brew of Staples. During the meal, members viewed a video message from Heidi Zimmerman, TWEC's 2024 Youth Tour representative, sharing highlights of her experience in Washington, D.C. The cooperative also announced Iva Hinson of Staples as the 2025 Youth Tour delegate, who will travel to Washington, D.C. this June. In addition, the 2025 TWEC scholarship recipients were announced and recognized.

Board Chair Miles Kuschel addressed the membership,



Your Voice Matters: Join Me for "Discussions with Dan"

At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, our mission has always been clear: to serve our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. But just as important as powering your homes and businesses is listening—really listening—to the people who own this cooperative. That's why I'm inviting you to join me this summer for a series of informal member gatherings we're calling "Discussions with Dan."



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

These events are designed to meet you where you are—right in the heart of our service territory. I will host three sessions across the area to hear your questions, concerns, and ideas. Whether you want to learn more about our current projects, ask about rates, or share feedback on how we're doing, this is your chance to speak directly with your cooperative's leadership.

Here's where we'll be:

- ▶ **June 19th // 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Cherry Grove in Browerville**
- ▶ **July 22nd // 4:30-6:00 p.m. at The Pirate's Den in Verndale**
- ▶ **August 19th // 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Hub 71 in Sebeka**

Each event will include non-alcoholic beverages and a welcoming environment to have real conversations about the cooperative, your energy needs, and our shared future.

These gatherings are more than a meet-and-greet—they're a reminder that cooperatives are built on member ownership and active participation. Your voice helps guide our decisions, shape our priorities, and strengthen our community. Whether you've been a member for decades or just recently joined, I hope you'll take a little time to stop in and chat.

Let's talk.

Let's connect.

And let's continue building a better cooperative—together.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

TWEC Board Minutes

Highlights from the March 28th, 2025, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle announced that TWEC was awarded, for the sixth consecutive year, the Gold Governor's Safety Award, reinforcing the cooperative's solid safety culture.
- Carlisle was asked to testify on behalf of MREA at a senate hearing regarding SF1142/HF845 on net metering.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. He commented that there was a good peak in January and February.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the February financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 6 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 7 percent over budget. February's purchased power expense was 12 percent over budget. Tier is 0.88 and Equity is 39.94.
- Matt Laughlin, Brady Martz joined the meeting to give the audit report for TWEC and the Community Trust (Operation Round Up). The 2024 Audit Report was approved as presented.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson gave an update on ballots, the schedule, and special items pertaining to the annual meeting.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher discussed how the operations and finance departments conducted an analysis of aid to construction.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided a national legislative update and went over the active Minnesota state bills.
- Board Member Kristine Spadgenske shared highlights from the Cobank district meeting in Minneapolis. The speakers spoke on the economy, including recession and inflation rates; electricity needs are growing, along with increased rates; and encouraged everyone to have a strategy of vision.

Annual Meeting Recap *(continued from page 1)*

highlighting the importance of TWEC's load management programs and its value to both members and the cooperative. He also emphasized TWEC's ongoing commitment to community involvement through scholarships, the Youth Tour program, sponsorships, and donations. Kuschel noted the \$534,000 in capital credits were retired in December 2024, a joint effort by Todd-Wadena and Great River Energy to return patronage funds to members.



CEO Dan Carlisle followed with detailed updates from across the cooperative's departments. He reported on TWEC's continued financial health and operational improvements, including the addition of 95 new services and the rebuilding of over 30 miles of power lines in 2024 to enhance system reliability. In the Member and Energy Services report, Carlisle announced that more than \$34,000 was awarded to local organizations through the Operation Round Up® program and extended sincere thanks to members who participate by rounding up their monthly bills. He also emphasized the impact of TWEC's load management programs in managing demand and creating savings for members. Carlisle announced a new department, Corporate Services, IT, and Cybersecurity. He addressed the

cooperative's growing emphasis on cybersecurity, underscoring the importance of employee training and member education.

In closing, Carlisle discussed key legislative issues facing electric cooperatives and played video highlights from the energy policy panel held at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Annual Meeting, giving members a broader understanding of the regulatory landscape.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Nominating Committee Chair Wally Wiese announced the results of the 2025 Director Election. Marie Katterhagen received 842 votes, and Mike Thorson received 693 votes. Also on the ballot were Alex Roth with 307 votes, Eugene Roller with 289, Robb H. Oyster with 284, and Steven C. Peterson with 216. Katterhagen and Thorson were elected to serve three-year terms on the board.

Members received the 2025 Annual Meeting attendance gift of a rain gauge as they left the meeting.



Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative extends its thanks to all members who attended and participated in the 2025 Annual Meeting. Your continued involvement is the cornerstone of our success—***and a true reflection of what it means to be member-powered.***



Understanding Demand & Load Control

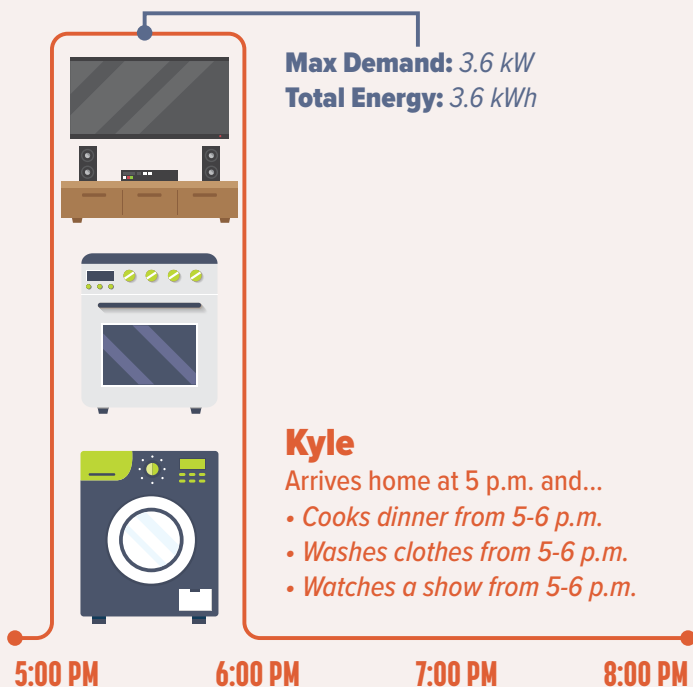
As a Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative member, you've likely heard us talk about load control or seen headlines like "Electric Demand on the Rise." But what exactly is *demand* when it comes to electricity?

In simple terms, demand refers to how much electricity is being used at any one time. It's not just about

how much energy you use in a day—it's also when you use the energy. You and your neighbor might consume the same total energy over 24 hours, but if you run all your appliances during one peak hour, your *demand* is higher.

Consider the following example:

Kyle vs. Leah's Demand Usage



Appliance Energy (per hour)

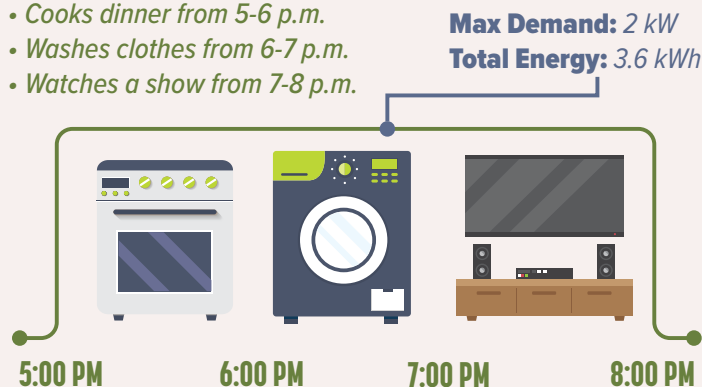
Washing Machine	Stovetop	TV
2 kWh*	1.5 kWh*	0.1 kWh*

*All values differ according to model

Leah

Arrives home at 5 p.m. and...

- Cooks dinner from 5-6 p.m.
- Washes clothes from 6-7 p.m.
- Watches a show from 7-8 p.m.



Why does this matter? It matters because electricity has to be ready and available the moment it's needed. When many people use a lot of electricity at once—typically in the morning or early evening—it creates demand spikes. These spikes strain the grid and increase costs for everyone.

To help manage this, Todd-Wadena offers several *Energy Management Programs* that encourage shifting usage to off-peak times—when electricity is more affordable and the grid is under less pressure:

- **Dual Fuel Program:** This combines two heating sources to help members save money and manage demand. During high-demand periods, the system automatically switches to a backup heat source.
- **Water Heating Programs:** These off-peak programs heat water during low-demand hours, storing hot water

for use throughout the day—cutting both your demand and your costs.

- **Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Program:** This uses special heating systems that store heat generated during off-peak times and release it as needed, helping balance demand and improve efficiency.
- **Off-Peak EV Charging:** The off-peak EV charging program charges your EV during off-peak hours (overnight), cutting both demand and your costs.

These programs are practical ways to lower your energy bill while supporting the reliability of our local power system. When you participate, you're not just saving—you're helping ensure a more stable energy future for your entire community.

To learn more about our Energy Management Programs, scan the QR code to the right, or visit toddwadena.coop/energy-management



Limited Time!!!
Promotion Runs
May 1st - July 31st,
2025

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE HOT PROMO REBATES

WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING, ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating**, using **72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Ducted Air Source Heat Pump*	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≤5-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$500	\$750
≤5-ton, ≥16.0 SEER2 & ≥8.0 HSPF2	\$700	\$1,000

*Ducted Air Source Heat Pump must be installed by a quality installer to qualify for TWECE rebate. A list of QI installers can be found at www.toddwadana.coop.

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump**	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≤1-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$150	\$250
≤1-ton, ≥16.0 SEER2 & ≥8.0 HSPF2	\$250	\$300
>1-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$500	\$600
>1-ton, ≥16.0 SEER2 & ≥8.0 HSPF2	\$700	\$800

** Must be Energy Star rated. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. **Promotion runs May 1st - July 31st, 2025.**

New Construction or Electric Service Upgrade?

Building a new home or upgrading service? Call to learn about our cost saving load management programs. It is important to communicate with us while you are in the planning stages.

- 1) Contact the office by calling (800) 321-8932 or by filling out the *New Construction/Service Upgrade* inquiry form at toddwadana.coop/construction
- 2) A representative from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will contact you to set up a meeting with our staking technician at your job site.
- 3) The staking technician will flag/mark and measure proposed cable route and calculate construction costs based on the information gathered during the site visit.
- 4) If you are not already a Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative member, you will be asked to fill out a membership application. A deposit may be required.
- 5) The Cooperative will send out a construction packet for you to review, sign, and return to Todd-Wadena. Depending on the construction project, it may include the construction agreement, right-of-way easement, and a wiring affidavit from your electrician. Members will also need to pay the aid-to-construction fee that is determined by the Cooperative.

Sign Up for Load Control Notifications

Members who participate in any of our **voluntary load management programs** can receive a notification of control events. It's as easy as 1-2-3 to enroll in notifications!



We offer text/email notifications for the following load management programs:

- ✓ Air conditioning
- ✓ Gen-set (C&I)
- ✓ Peak alert (C&I)
- ✓ Dual heat
- ✓ Irrigation

1 SmartHub Instructions: Sign in (or sign up) at toddwadana.smarthub.coop. If you have previously added a contact for notifications, you may proceed directly to **Step 3** to enable load control notifications.

2 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.

3 Set Up Notifications: Under the settings menu, click *Manage Notifications*. Select *Reports*, select the contact(s) you wish to receive load control notifications next to the appropriate alert type(s), and then click *Save*.



If you are planning a new home, a commercial development, or are upgrading electrical equipment, don't wait to contact us! Call at (218) 631-3120.

Upcoming Office Closures:

➤ Memorial Day

Monday, May 26th

➤ Independence Day

Friday, July 4th

Now Accepting Photos for the 2026 Calendar Contest!

Do you have jaw-dropping photos of spring blossoms, summer sunsets, autumn foliage, or winter wonderlands? We want to see them! 📸

Submit your best landscape shots, showcasing all four seasons, for a chance to be featured in our annual Photo Calendar Contest!

✓ *Landscape/horizontal orientation required*

Winners will have their images printed in our 2026 calendar and receive a \$20 credit on their TWEC account!

Join in & share the beauty of nature through your lens! Learn more at: toddwadena.coop/photo-contest

 Deadline: **September 10th, 2025**

2025 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2025 scholarship recipients! Each of these students will receive \$1,000 to be used towards the 2025-2026 school year!

Madison Wendel, Browerville High School
• *Daughter of Aaron & Jill* • Plans to attend University of North Dakota for Communication Sciences & Disorders



Nicole Hess, Verndale High School •
Daughter of Benjamin & Shyla • Plans to attend University of Minnesota-Duluth for Biology

Cadie Leeseberg, Wadena-Deer Creek High School • *Daughter of Curt & Keri* • Plans to attend University of Minnesota-Twin Cities for Biomedical Engineering



Chloe Leeseberg, Wadena-Deer Creek High School • *Daughter of Curt & Keri* • Plans to attend University of Minnesota-Twin Cities for Speech-Language Hearing Sciences

Jorja Weishalla, Bertha-Hewitt High School
• *Daughter of John & Karla* • Plans to attend University of Wisconsin-River Falls to become a Biochemistry Preprofessional



Leah Weaver, Menahga High School •
Daughter of Robert & Mary • Plans to attend Minnesota State University Moorhead for Marketing/Digital Media Management



Be on the Watch for Pole Testing

To ensure the safety and reliability of the system, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative inspects and tests the utility poles on the electric system every seven to ten years. The poles are visually inspected and tested using a 'sound and bore' method of testing. In late May/June, STAR Energy Services will be conducting pole testing and inspections for 6-8 weeks in the Sebeka and Menahga areas. You may see a vehicle or side-by-side UTV during this time with a STAR Energy Services logo and a Line Inspection decal on it. Please be courteous to the crew members as they ensure the safe distribution of your electricity.



Is Your Contact Information up to Date?

Notice: We do send out automated voice messages for planned outages, payment notices, and other pertinent information regarding your electric service with Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative. Please make sure your contact information is up to date so we can notify you when needed. We have many members who do not have voicemail set up or their voicemail inbox is full and cannot receive new messages. We are unable to leave important messages for members when this happens. Please help us serve you better by making sure your contact information is up to date and your voicemail box can accept messages. Thank you!



Can You Help Us Locate These Former Members?

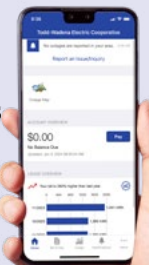
Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is trying to locate these former co-op members to reunite them with their unclaimed capital credits. Their capital credit checks were returned last year — *address unknown*.

These former co-op members have either moved or passed away and we no longer have their current address or estate address. If you know anyone on this list, please have them call our office and provide us with a new address.

Denmarre, Jerry A • Staples, MN
 Dibble, Shaun M • Minneapolis, MN
 Eliker, Brent D & Cindy L • Audubon, MN
 Gingerich, Jonas D • Verndale, MN
 Gorder, David W • Park Rapids, MN
 Greenwaldt, Raymond C • St. Cloud, MN
 Hopp, Terrance J • Granada, MN
 Huotari, Nicole L • Park Rapids, MN
 Jahraus, Shawn M & Yvonne K • Eagle Bend, MN
 Kopponen, James M & Rosealie E • Wadena, MN
 Kruchten, Patrick K • Naples, FL
 Longmuir, Marilee E • Wadena, MN
 Montgomery, Larry L • Henning, MN
 Morris, James • Perham, MN
 Pederson, James D • St. Paul, MN
 Robinson, Harry M • Appleton, WA
 Schmidt, Connie I • Circle Pines, MN
 Thorson, Brian • Eagle Bend, MN
 Tracy, Cheryl M • Wadena, MN
 Wong, Nathaniel S & Nancy • Zumbrota, MN
 Woods, Ronald J • Staples, MN

Report Outages Through SmartHub!

SmartHub's outage reporting is directly connected to our 24/7 outage management system, ensuring reports are received and processed promptly. We advise against using social media or email for outage reporting, as those channels may not be monitored in real time. SmartHub receives and organizes outages almost immediately and helps us get linemen headed in the right direction to get your power restored.



Learn more — visit
toddwadena.coop/outages

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:
Bob Kent (612) 528-5326
Wadena County:
Brandon Disselbrett (218) 580-8614
District 10 (Todd & Wadena Counties):
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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PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage

PAID
DPC

Summer Office Hours

Our summer office hours will be **7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**,
Monday through Friday, starting **Memorial Day** and going
through **Labor Day**.

Safety Corner

*The safety corner replaces our reader's
contest, which will resume in September.*

May is Electrical Safety Month

Here are some safety tips to remember this month!

- ✓ **Never overload outlets –**
Plugging too many devices into a single outlet can cause overheating and increase the risk of a fire.
- ✓ **Turn off appliances when not in use –** Always unplug chargers, hairdryers, and other electronics when finished to save energy and reduce fire risk.
- ✓ **Keep electrical cords in good condition –** Frayed or damaged cords should be replaced immediately to prevent shocks and fires.
- ✓ **Unplug safely –** Never yank cords out of outlets; instead, hold and pull the plug itself.
- ✓ **Avoid water and electricity mixing –** Never touch electrical appliances with wet hands or use them near water.
- ✓ **Use extension cords temporarily –** They are not meant to replace permanent wiring.
- ✓ **Don't run cords under rugs –** This can lead to overheating and cause a fire.

Charles Johnson of Wadena was the March reader's contest winner. We will resume the reader's contest in September.