



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
www.toddwadena.coop
July 2025



Your Small Change is Making a Big Difference



In June, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's Community Trust Board awarded \$8,500 in Operation Round Up grants to seven local organizations. These funds support important work happening right here in our communities.

Operation Round Up lets you round up your electric bill to the nearest dollar. The average member donates just \$6 a year—less than the cost of a specialty coffee. But when we all chip in, those small amounts add up to real support for local nonprofits and community programs.

Ready to join?

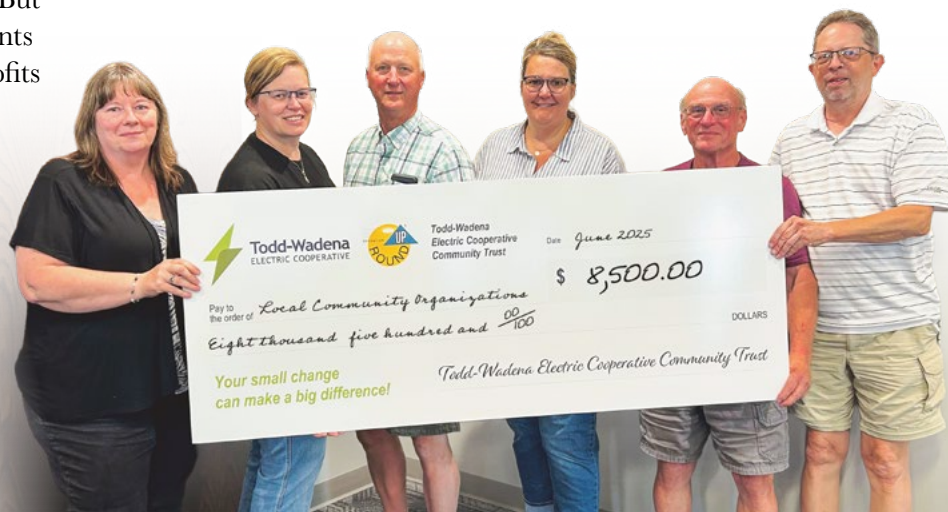
Scan the QR code with your phone to start rounding up. It's easy, automatic, and impactful.



Organization		Amount
Menahga School District	Menahga Pickleball Courts	\$1,500
Long Prairie Senior Center	Art Classes	\$500
Scandia Valley Fire Dept.	New SCBA Bottles	\$1,500
Staples Motley Area Arts Council	Annual Arts Series	\$1,000
Wadena County DAC	Community Garden	\$1,000
Staples Trail Committee- LEAP	Legacy Arboretum and Nature Trail	\$2,000
Wadena County 4-H	Level Up 4-H Cakes	\$1,000
Total		\$8,500

Board of Trustees (left to right):

Sandy Mumm, Kristine Hendrickson, Peter Fink, Heidi Huotari, Bruce Curley, Al Withers. Not pictured: Russ Kleinschmidt



The Cooperative Difference in Action: Capital Credits Allocated to Members

At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, our mission is centered around serving you—our members—with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. But what truly sets us apart from other utilities is our not-for-profit business model. When you receive electric service from Todd-Wadena, you're not just a customer; you're an owner. And one of the most visible ways that cooperative ownership benefits you is through capital credits.

I'm pleased to share that Todd-Wadena's Board of Directors has officially allocated capital credits for 2024. This means we've calculated each member's share of the margins (or profits) the cooperative earned last year and assigned it to your capital credit account based on how much electricity you purchased in 2024.

What is a Capital Credit Allocation?

Each year, after the cooperative pays its expenses—including power costs, system maintenance, and operations—any remaining margins are allocated back to members. This allocation is not a bill nor an immediate payment, but rather a record of your share of the cooperative's earnings. It reflects your equity in Todd-Wadena and helps us maintain a strong financial foundation so we can continue to invest in our infrastructure and services.

You will receive a capital credit allocation notice in your August billing statement, which details how much was allocated to your account this year from both Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and Great River Energy. This is your piece of the cooperative's success, a direct reflection of the cooperative difference.

Allocation vs. Retirement

It's important to distinguish between the **allocation** of capital credits and the **retirement** of capital credits. While allocation records your share of the margins for the year, retirement is when we actually pay back a portion of those funds to you.

Currently, Todd-Wadena's retirements are made roughly 15 years after the original allocation to ensure the cooperative maintains the financial strength needed to serve all members reliably. More information on that will be shared in the coming months. The 2025 capital credit retirement will be shared and dispersed later this year.

The Cooperative Difference

Capital credits represent one of the most powerful distinctions between a member-owned cooperative and an investor-owned utility. Rather than generating profits for shareholders, we return value directly to the people we serve. It's just one way we stay true to our values as a cooperative.



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO &
General Counsel

DISCUSSIONS WITH DAN

Join TWEC President/CEO, Dan Carlisle this summer as he continues to tour the service area, meeting up with TWEC members.

These events are a perfect time for questions about power supply, service reliability, rates, outages, upcoming industry trends, or anything you've been wondering about.

We hope you will join us at one of these special events this summer! *Non-alcoholic beverages will be available.*

Tuesday, July 22nd

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Pirates Den in Verndale

Tuesday, August 19th

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Hub 71 in Sebeka



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

2024 Capital Credit Allocation

Look for your 2024 *capital credit allocation* in August bills. Capital credit earnings are the members' share of the net margins of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.

- TWEC reinvests that money in the cooperative for operating capital, necessary reserves, storm damages, construction, and many other general expenses.
- In the long-term, those credits are stored, representing your investment in the co-op, and are eventually paid back to members.
- The decision to refund capital credits rests solely on your board of directors, is dependent on the financial conditions of the cooperative, and is subject to Rural Utility Services (RUS) and other lending institutions' regulations. Please notify us with any changes to your address and contact information so you can continue to receive your refunds.

2025 MEMBER APPRECIATION

Pancake Supper



Date	Wednesday, August 27th
Time	4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location	TWEC Headquarters
Food	Pancakes & Sausage

All members are invited to join us for our annual member appreciation *Pancake Supper* on Wednesday, August 27th from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative headquarters.

- ✔ Bounce House & Kids Activities
- ✔ Electrical Safety Demonstrations



8th ANNUAL CO-OP STRONG DRIVE-THROUGH LUNCH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST • 11AM–1PM

Join Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, West Central, and Lakes Community Cooperative for the **8th Annual Co-op Strong** lunch! Join us on **Friday, August 1st** from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Memorial Forest Park & Campground just south of Menahga (825 Aspen Ave. SE).

This drive-through lunch is *FREE* to all members. We will also be giving away Co-op Strong tote bags (see below).



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 solar panels?

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 back 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.



Members who are interested in installing their own solar or wind system for interconnection must use **NOVA Power Portal**. Browse interconnection information, submit an application for DER, see the status of your projects, and find information about installing your own renewable energy system at www.toddwadana.coop/services/renewable-energy

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!



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* of the **Cooling System Tune-Up** application at www.toddwadana.coop/services/rebates.
- 3) Then complete the *member portion*.
- 4) Return the coupon to Todd-Wadena, along with a copy of the contractor invoice, within 90 days of purchase.

Limited Time!!!
 Promotion Runs
 through July 31st,
 2025

Stay COOL this Summer with an ASHP!

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 TWEC 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.**

§ Must provide AHRI paperwork that shows SEER2 and HSPF2 ratings.

The Cost of Running Your Dehumidifier in Summer

Dehumidifiers reduce humidity levels, and can help reduce allergens in your home. Many people plug in a dehumidifier and run it until it needs to be emptied. Keep in mind that running a dehumidifier 24/7 will increase your energy bill.



You can figure out how much it costs to run your dehumidifier by using the equation below.

To calculate our usage we used this formula:

$$\text{Watts}/1,000 \times \text{Hours} = \text{kWh usage}$$

Our dehumidifier used 745 watts.

$$(745\text{w}/1,000) \times 24 \text{ hours a day} \times 13.172 \text{ cents/kWh} = \$2.36$$

$$\$2.36 \times 30 \text{ days} = \$70.80$$

If you run the dehumidifier for 30 days, that would add an additional \$70.80 to your bill. Many people will run the dehumidifier during late spring, summer, and early fall. Dehumid-



ifiers may be a need for some households. Todd-Wadena offers a \$25 rebate for members who purchase an Energy Star rated dehumidifier.

5 WAYS

To Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.



Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.

- 1) Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
- 2) Cook with smaller appliances to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
- 3) Keep blinds, curtains, and shades closed during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
- 4) Use fans to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
- 5) Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to off-peak hours when demand is lower.

Go Paperless & Get \$10!

Switching to paperless billing is simple and easy. Never worry about missing a bill again!

Switch to paperless this summer and receive a **one-time \$10 energy credit!**

*New residential paperless enrollment only.
Promotion runs through September 8th, 2025.*

Set Up AutoPay & Get \$10!

Take the worry out of paying your electric bill on time when you enroll in AutoPay!

Switch to AutoPay through ACH (through your bank) payments this summer and receive a **one-time \$10 energy credit**. It's simple to enroll—sign up in the SmartHub app!

*New residential AutoPay ACH enrollment only.
Promotion runs through September 8th, 2025.*

Cooperative Training: Pole Top/Bucket and Cybersecurity

In early summer, our linemen participated in the annual pole top rescue and bucket rescue training. This training provides our linemen the opportunity to learn and practice methods of rigging and rescuing an injured or incapacitated lineworker in an emergency situation from a pole or an aerial bucket. It's the kind of skill we hope we never have to use, but don't want to be without.

Recently, some of our office employees and management team participated in a cybersecurity table top demonstration. These trainings help our team identify, prevent, and respond to cyber threats. The co-op initiates quarterly training to provide hands-on learning to employees and help prepare them for the unexpected. With cybersecurity becoming more robust, these trainings help us to identify and react swiftly to any potential threats.



Right-of-Way Spraying Now Ongoing

As mentioned earlier this year, TWEC will be spraying all circuits from the **Blueberry, Twin Lakes, and Or-ton** substations. This work will be done by **Central Applicators**, who mailed a letter to affected members with the spraying schedule. Please read the letter carefully and contact Central Applicators if you have any concerns. You'll see their logo on their trucks, as well as on their mailed communication.



Help us Serve you More Efficiently

We do contact members and send out automated voice messages for planned outages, payment notices, and other pertinent information regarding your electric service with Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative. Many members 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!*





Todd-Wadena Receives Safety Award

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative was recently recognized for excellence in workplace safety and health by the Minnesota Safety Council. Tyler Fisher, *Operations Manager*, and Dan Carlisle, *President/CEO & General Counsel*, show the **Gold Achievement Award** TWEC received in recognition of excellence in occupational injury prevention throughout 2024.

Submit Your Best Shots for Our Annual Photo Calendar

Have stunning shots of spring blossoms, summer sunsets, fall colors, or winter scenes? We want to see them! Submit your best landscape photo of any of the four seasons for a chance to be featured in our **2026 Photo Calendar**! Contest winners will have their photos printed in our calendar and receive a \$20 TWEC account credit.

Share the beauty of nature through your lens! Photos must be in landscape (horizontal) orientation. Details at toddwadena.coop/photo-contest.

Deadline: September 10, 2025



TWEC Board Minutes

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

- CEO Dan Carlisle went over the six goals that were put together by the board at the May 14 strategic planning session.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report, noting that April financials were looking much better.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the April financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 8 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 5 percent under budget. April's purchased power expense was 6 percent under budget. Tier is 0.76 and Equity is 40.58.
- The 2024 fiscal year allocation of capital credits was approved (TWEC Allocation: \$1,274,680; GRE Allocation: \$350,772).
- Next year's annual meeting will be held on April 16, 2026, at the Maslowski Wellness Center in Wadena.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher gave an update on the 2025 vegetation management plan; Central Applicators will be out spraying, and Carr's Tree Service is working south of Wadena. The operations crew is working on the relocation of lines along the Highway 10 corridor.
- The following board committee members were approved for the 2025-2026 year: Economic Development Committee: Tom Brichacek, Dale Adams, and Gene Kern; Policy Committee: Mike Thorson, Marie Katterhagen, and Kristine Spadgenske; SOC: Kristine Spadgenske and Marie Katterhagen; Union Negotiation Committee: Mike Thorson and Dale Adams.

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: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (summer)
Monday - Friday

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(800) 321-8932

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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

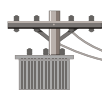
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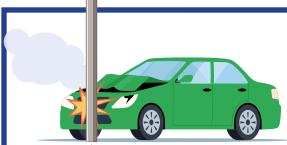
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Safety Corner

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



KNOW WHAT TO DO

if you're in an accident involving power lines or pad-mounted transformers.

1



Do **NOT** leave the vehicle. Warn others to stay away. The ground near the vehicle could be energized.



CALL 911 to have the utility company notified of the situation. Make sure first responders do not approach until it is deemed safe by the utility company.



STAY in the vehicle until utility workers have deemed the area safe. The **ONLY** reason to exit the vehicle is **IF IT'S ON FIRE**.



IF THE CAR IS ON FIRE, jump clear of the vehicle **WITH FEET TOGETHER**, and **WITHOUT TOUCHING THE CAR AND THE GROUND AT THE SAME TIME**.



Continue to **HOP AWAY** with your **FEET TOGETHER** at least 50 feet or further, if you are able.