



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
www.toddwadena.coop
July 2026

Co-op Strong Drive Through Lunch is July 22nd



Join Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, West Central, and Lakes Community Cooperative for the **9th Annual Co-op Strong** lunch! Join us on Wednesday, July 22nd, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Memorial Forest Park & Campground just south of Menahga (825 Aspen Ave. SE).

We're celebrating America's 250th, Co-op Strong style! Swing on through for your free lunch and a *patriotic lunch bag* for every member.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

MEET THE CANDIDATES

**NEW
LOCATION!**

Thursday,	5:30 p.m. Social Hour	Wadena Memorial Auditorium
August 27 th	6:00 p.m. Candidate Forum	249 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena



When the Storm Ends, the Hazards Remain

Recent storms across our service territory served as a reminder of how quickly severe weather can impact our communities. While our crews work diligently to restore power as safely and quickly as possible, some of the greatest dangers exist after the storm has passed.

The photos accompanying this article show just a few examples of the challenges crews encountered during recent restoration efforts. Fallen trees, broken poles, downed power lines, and debris create hazardous conditions that require careful planning and specialized equipment to address safely.

One of the most important safety messages we can share is this: Always assume a downed power line is energized. Even if a line appears inactive or is lying on the ground, it may still be carrying electricity. Stay at least 50 feet away and keep children, pets, and equipment clear of the area. If you encounter a downed line, report it immediately to Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and call 911 if there is an immediate threat to public safety.

Portable generators can be valuable during extended outages, but they must be used properly. Never operate a generator indoors, in a garage, or near open windows due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators should never be connected directly to your home's wiring without an approved transfer switch, as backfeeding can create a life-threatening hazard for lineworkers.

When crews are working in an area, please give them plenty of room to operate. Restoration often involves large trucks, heavy equipment, chainsaws, and work around energized facilities.

After major storms, restoring power is often more complex than replacing a fuse. Crews must assess damage, remove hazards, make repairs, and test the system before power can be safely restored.

Thank you for helping us make safety a priority before, during, and after every storm.

Tyler Fisher
Operations Manager



Experiencing an outage? Call (800) 321-8932 or (218) 631-3120, or report it in SmartHub app. Please do not email or report outages on Facebook—those channels aren't monitored by dispatch.

Meet Kirstan!

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is excited to welcome Kirstan Baumgartner to our team! Kirstan joined TWEC on May 4th as our new Accounting & Collections Specialist.

Before joining TWEC, Kirstan worked as an Accounts Receivable Specialist at America's Auto Auction in New York Mills. In her new role at Todd-Wadena, she'll support our finance department with:

- ▶ Accounting records & financial reporting
- ▶ Collections & payment arrangements
- ▶ Billing accuracy & member account updates
- ▶ Energy assistance programs
- ▶ Capital credit processing

Kirstan is a local—she grew up right here in Wadena, graduated from WDC, and later earned her Bachelor of Science in Finance from NDSU. She and her husband, Brady, live in Wadena. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, fishing, and spending time with family.

We're thrilled to have Kirstan on the TWEC team and look forward to the expertise and positivity she brings.



Audio Edition of *Pine to Prairie*

Did you know you can listen to our *Pine to Prairie* newsletter? Find the audio edition on our website

at toddwadena.coop/newsletter

or on our YouTube channel

@[@Todd-Wadena](https://www.youtube.com/Todd-Wadena). Scan the QR codes to start listening now.



toddwadena.coop/newsletter



[youtube.com/Todd-Wadena](https://www.youtube.com/Todd-Wadena)

TWEC Board Minutes: Highlights from the May 27th, 2026, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle gave an update from the latest Member Managers Group meeting. He shared the status of the contract extension.
- The board discussed Great River Energy (GRE) contracts and approved Big Bend Wind and South Deuel Wind amendment resolutions.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE board report. Financials were stronger than expected in April; demand sales were up and energy sales were down.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the April financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 3 percent over budget. April's purchased power expense was 4 percent under budget. TIER is 1.78 and Equity is 41.64.
- The board approved the 2025 fiscal year allocation and resolution as presented.
- TWEC's 2027 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22nd.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson updated the board on the status of the Aclara DRU changeout project, the status of the Leaf River Substation solar, and appointments to the Operation Round Up board.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher recently attended the Regional Grid Resilience seminar where multiple entities gathered to discuss wildfire mitigation response.
- Board Secretary Marie Katterhagen gave the STAR Energy report. TWEC spent \$383,000 with STAR in 2025 and had savings of \$140,000 as an owner.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel went over the board committees and appointed as follows: Economic Development Committee (Tom Brichacek, Dale Adams, and Gene Kern); Policy Committee (Mike Thorson, Marie Katterhagen, and Kristine Spadgenske); and Safety Operating Committee (Kristine Spadgenske and Gene Kern).
- Katterhagen updated the board on the bylaw review process.

Capital Credit Allocation

If you were a TWEC member in 2025, you received a Capital Credit Allocation statement with your July bill. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Todd-Wadena returns annual margins, our “profits”, to the members who received service during the year. These margins are allocated to you as capital credits.

A capital credit allocation statement is for your information/records only- it is not a bill and not an immediate payment. It represents your share of the co-op’s earnings and is added to your capital credit account. These funds serve as operating capital that helps TWEC build, maintain, and upgrade the electric system. If you’ve been a member for several years, your statement will also show your previous year balances.

Capital credits remain with the cooperative until the Board determines it’s financially responsible to return them. When the year of your service reaches the current 15-to 20-year retirement cycle, those dollars are paid back to you as a capital credit retirement (*active accounts receive a bill credit*).

In short: Allocations are saved as operating capital; retirements are when that money is returned to you. Your *Capital Credit Allocation* statement is for your information/records only; it is not a credit to your bill and does not reflect what will be retired in a future retirement cycle.

Unclaimed Capital Credits for Over Seven Years

The inactive members on this list have unclaimed capital credits that have been waiting for more than seven years. If these credits remain unclaimed, they will be added to the 2027 scholarship fund to support local students.

If you recognize someone on this list, please have them contact our office at (218) 631-3120 by **October 30th, 2026** to claim their capital credits.

Allen, Kathy • Wadena, MN
Anderson, David • Staples, MN
Anderson Estate, Eileen • Wadena, MN
Andrist Estate, Edward • Deer Creek, MN
Bachman, Becky • Staples, MN
Back Estate, Hazel • Verndale, MN
Brasch, Douglas • Staples, MN
Bullpen Ballroom & Saloon • Long Prairie, MN
Bushey Estate, Timothy J • Wadena, MN
Carlson, Terry • Aitkin, MN
Cedarbloom-Miller, Dawn • Park Rapids, MN
Chase, Thomas • Bertha, MN
Cole, Shane • Frost, MN
Corriveau Estate, James • Anoka, MN
Costner, Mari • Staples, MN
Country Manor Motel • Eden Prairie, MN
Dahl Estate, Gertrude • Staples, MN
Davis, Robert • Park Rapids, MN
Dohs, Renee • Little Falls, MN
Doucette, Nancy • Little Falls, MN
Easterday, Scott • Baxter, MN
Ellis, Judith • Long Prairie, MN
Enyart Estate, Sandra A • Apple Valley, MN
Etter, Jackie • Menahga, MN
France, William • Park Rapids, MN
Getz, Don • Hewitt, MN
Greenwood, Dennis • Nevis, MN

Hahn, Jeffrey • Verndale, MN
Hahn, Sherry • Wadena, MN
Haisman, Joe • Big Lake, MN
Hallstrom, Beverly • Plato, MN
Hand, Lawrence • Burnsville, MN
Heinz, Donald • Flensburg, MN
Ingebritson, Chris • New Ulm, MN
Jackson, Colin • Clarissa, MN
Jensen, Robert • Staples, MN
Jesinoski, Michael • Browerville, MN
Johnson, Ryan • Staples, MN
Johnson Estate, Patricia • Park Rapids, MN
Johnson Estate, Shirley • Staples, MN
Johnston, Paul • Staples, MN
Kelash, Dori • Park Rapids, MN
Kopp, Jo Ann • Clarissa, MN
Kowalczyk, Casey • Sauk Centre, MN
Lanhart, Dave • Staples, MN
Leritz, Stephen • Menahga, MN
Loidolt, Thomas • Little Falls, MN
Meier, Vergil • Menahga, MN
Mickelson, Eric • Park Rapids, MN
Mills, Angela • Verndale, MN
Missling, Anthony • Wadena, MN
Motl Estate, James • Browerville, MN
Nelson, Jacqueline • Wadena, MN

Nelson, Wayne • Sebek, MN
Olson Estate, Alan • Alexandria, MN
Otterstetter, Scott • Long Prairie, MN
Perkins, Mark • E Grand Forks, MN
Peterson, Florence • Long Prairie, MN
Pieper, Brandi • Brainerd, MN
Rach, Bruce • Hewitt, MN
Rausch, Richard • Long Prairie, MN
Rengel Estate, Robert • Staples, MN
Rockwell, Janeane • Karlstad, MN
Rosch, Jeanne • Browerville, MN
Roulet, Merrill • Cosmos, MN
Schmidt, Perry • Verndale, MN
Shepersky, Juanita • Sebek, MN
Simonson Estate, Richard G • Staples, MN
Sonsalla, Tom • Saint Cloud, MN
St. Onge, Mark • Detroit Lakes, MN
Stursa Estate, Margaret • Sebek, MN
Swenson, Craig • Staples, MN
Thornton, Shaun • Sebek, MN
Toepper Estate, William • Bloomington, MN
Volk, James • Pine River, MN
Walkama Estate, Delores • Menahga, MN
Ward, Sarah • Staples, MN
Whitlock, Beverley • Browerville, MN
Wilson, Betty • Browerville, MN

Cooling Degree Days this Summer (So Far)

Cooling degree days (CDD) measure how much, and for how long, outdoor temperatures exceed 65°F. Because air conditioners use electricity to keep homes and buildings comfortable, cooling degree days are a useful way to compare cooling demand from one period to another. The higher the cooling degree day total, the more energy is generally needed for air conditioning.

If you've noticed the weeks feeling quite different from one another, that's been the pattern. The weekly averages have bounced back and forth in a series of ups and downs rather than a prolonged heat wave.

COOLING DEGREE DAYS EXAMPLE:

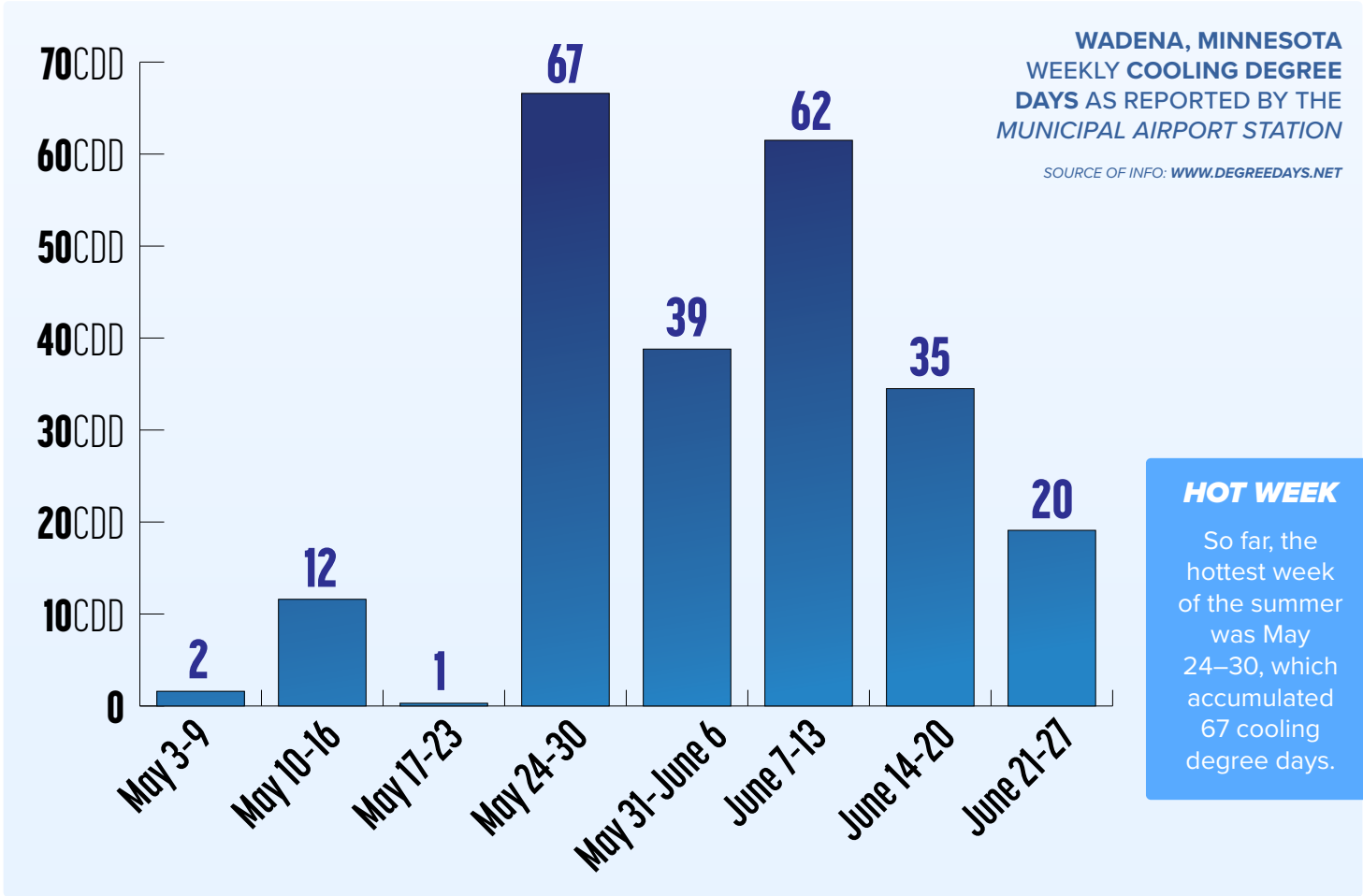
A day with an average temperature of 78 degrees would be considered as a 13 cooling degree day.

$78^{\circ} (\text{avg. daily temp.}) - 65^{\circ} (\text{base temp.}) = 13 \text{ CDD}$

Another day with an average temperature of 86 degrees would be considered as a 21 cooling degree day.

$86^{\circ} (\text{avg. daily temp.}) - 65^{\circ} (\text{base temp.}) = 21 \text{ CDD}$

Cooling degree days are then quantified and reported for a day, week, month, or year.



OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

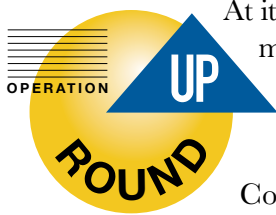
► **Mission Statement**
To be a trusted partner providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy options to our members.

► **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 is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Nine Organizations Receive Community Trust Grants



At its June meeting, the Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Community Trust Board reviewed funding requests submitted through the Operation Round Up® program. Thanks to the continued participation of cooperative members, nine area organizations were awarded a total of \$15,300 to help support projects and services that benefit local communities.

The grants awarded in June will support a wide range of local needs, such as education and

youth programs, to food assistance, building improvements, and more. While each project is unique, all share a common goal: making our communities stronger.

Operation Round Up® is powered by small contributions that add up in a big way. Members who participate allow their monthly electric bill to be rounded up to the next whole dollar, contributing an average of about \$6 per year. While the individual amount is modest, those pennies and spare change combine to provide meaningful support for local nonprofits, community initiatives, and organizations working to make a positive impact throughout the area.



Spend Your Time the Way You Want To: AutoPay+Paperless Just Makes Sense

Enroll in ACH AutoPay through SmartHub and receive a **\$10 energy credit**. You'll never have to worry about remembering a payment date or mailing a check. Then switch to paperless billing and receive an **additional \$10 energy credit** while reducing clutter and gaining convenient access to your bills online.

Complete both upgrades this summer and **receive up to \$20 in energy credits**. It's a simple way to save money and make managing your account more convenient. Sign up today in SmartHub (scan QR code).



**Promotions apply to new residential enrollments only. Promotion runs through Sept. 8, 2026. All new residential enrollees will receive a one-time \$10 energy credit for each Paperless and/or AutoPay (up to \$20!) and will be entered to win an additional prize via monthly AutoPay drawings during June–September!*

Organization

Amount

Trinity Lutheran Preschool	Shade & Sand—Safe Outdoor Learning	\$1,000
Long Prairie Emergency Food Pantry	Minnesota Foodshare	\$1,000
Staples Motley Area Arts Council	Music in the Park	\$1,000
Sebekia High School Trap Team	Trap Team Storage Container	\$2,000
United North Central Track and Field	Tablets for entering marks	\$500
SPARKS Mentoring of Staples-Motley	Training video	\$2,100
CARE Ministry	Back to School Event 2026	\$2,000
Eagle Bend Historical Society	Research Space	\$1,500
Astera Health for Verndale Public School	Athletic Training Room Remodel	\$4,200
Total		\$15,300

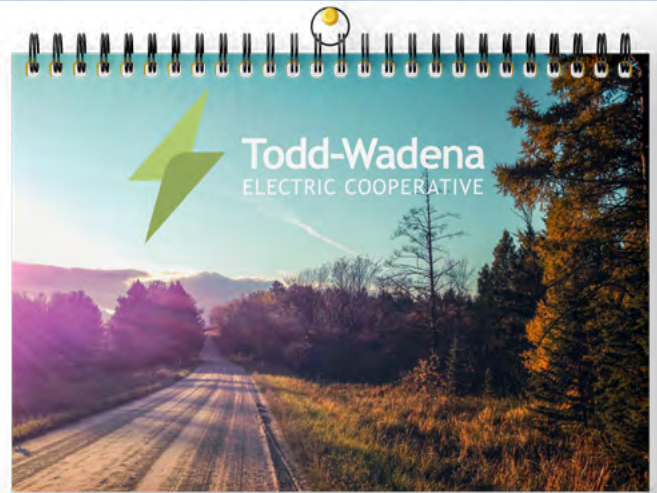


Submit Your Best Photos for our Calendar

Minnesota is beautiful—show us your proof! Submit your best landscape photo of any of the four seasons for a chance to be featured in our **2027 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: www.toddwadena.coop/photo-contest

Deadline: September 10th, 2026



Summer Storm Safety Reminder

DON'T TOUCH DOWNED POWER LINES

50 ft.

Stay far away from downed power lines. Keep at least 50 feet of distance, do not drive over them, and never try to remove brush or tree limbs from the lines. Always assume every line is energized – our distribution lines carry 7,200 volts!

Your safety comes first. Report downed power lines to TWEC at (218) 631-3120.

Demand Response Unit Change-Outs Continue

Last month, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC), began a large-scale project to replace demand response units (DRUs) associated with several of our load management programs.

Members may see TWEC meter technicians Mike and Bob working throughout our service territory, or a contracted Bergstrom Electric electrician. The contracted crews will be driving Bergstrom Electric vans as pictured below.

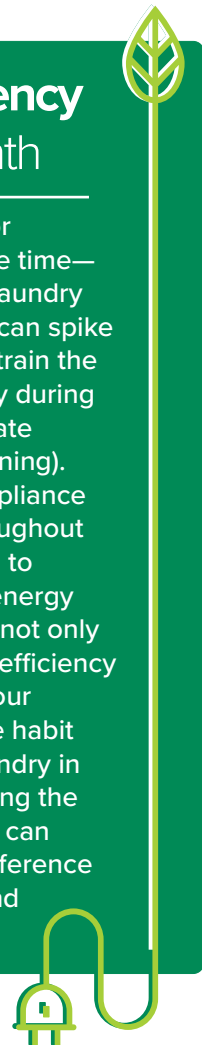
With the majority of this equipment located on the outside of homes, barns, or other outbuildings, members will not be contacted prior to the exchange. Crews will complete the work as efficiently as possible; in most cases, members may simply notice crews working near their meter or service area for a short period of time.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines, and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.

Source: www.energy.gov



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.
Monday - Friday

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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



www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative
www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

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PAID
DPC

July 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 **August 25th**.

1. If you encounter a downed power line, stay _____ feet away.
2. The Meet the Candidates event will be hosted at the Memorial Auditorium in Wadena on Thursday, August _____.
3. Your Capital Credit Allocation statement is for your information/_____ only.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

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**Richard Anderson of Staples was the
May Reader's Contest winner.**

