



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
www.toddwadena.coop
August 2026

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Thursday, August 27th, 2026 Wadena Memorial Auditorium

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:00 p.m. Candidate Forum

249 Dayton Ave. SW
Wadena, MN 56482



Your voice matters — and so does staying informed. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative invites all eligible voters to a Meet the Candidates Forum on Thursday, August 27th at the Wadena Memorial Auditorium. All state and federal candidates have been invited.

Join neighbors for a social hour at 5:30, followed by the forum at 6 p.m. Come meet the candidates who'll be on your November ballot and learn more about those hoping to represent greater Minnesota.

We hope to see you on August 27th!



Looking for Your Most Scenic Pics



Don't forget to submit your scenic photos 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. Visit www.toddwadena.coop/photo-contest to learn more. The deadline is September 10th, 2026.

Members Enjoy 9th Annual Co-op Strong

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, West Central, and Lakes Community Cooperative (LCC) teamed up for the 9th Annual Co-op Strong event on July 22nd at the Menahga Memorial Forest Park & Campground. The team served over **925 sandwiches** during the member appreciation event.

Thank you to everyone who rolled through and helped make it a beautiful summer celebration of co-op community.



Why We Partner with Great River Energy (and What That Means for You)

One of the questions we often hear about TWEC's generation is:

"Why doesn't Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative just generate its own electricity?"

It's a fair question and the answer comes down to size, cost, and reliability.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is a distribution cooperative. Our job is to **deliver electricity** safely and reliably to over 12,500 meters for homes, farms, and businesses across our service territory. We own and maintain the local substations, poles, transformers, and more than 2,300 miles of distribution line that bring electricity directly to our members.

Generating electricity is an entirely different business.

Building even a single power plant requires an investment that can cost hundreds of millions—or even billions—of dollars, depending on the technology. In addition to construction costs, generation owners must purchase fuel, employ specialized engineers and operators, comply with extensive environmental regulations, maintain generating equipment around the clock, and ensure enough power is available every minute of every day.

For a cooperative the size of Todd-Wadena, those costs would be spread across only our members. The result would be significantly higher electric rates and greater financial risk.

Instead, Todd-Wadena is one of 26 member-owner cooperatives that own Great River Energy (GRE), our generation and transmission cooperative.

Think of it this way: one local cooperative couldn't reasonably build and operate an interstate highway system just for its members, but together, many cooperatives can own and operate the larger infrastructure everyone depends on. The same concept applies to electricity generation and the high-voltage transmission grid.

By working together through GRE, all 26 electric cooperatives share the cost of:

- ⚡ *Power plants and energy resources*
- ⚡ *Hundreds of miles of high-voltage transmission lines*
- ⚡ *Grid operations and reliability experts*
- ⚡ *Energy market specialists*
- ⚡ *Long-term planning and engineering*
- ⚡ *Investments in new technologies*

Working together helps us save money by sharing costs. Instead of each cooperative trying to build enough generation for its own members, GRE develops resources that serve hundreds of thousands of cooperative consumers. Sharing those costs keeps electricity far more affordable than if each cooperative had to go it alone.

Another important advantage is *resource diversity*. Electricity demand changes by the hour and by the season. Some days wind generation is plentiful. Other times natural gas,

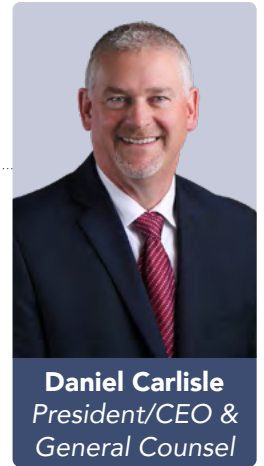
hydropower, or market purchases are needed to meet demand.

GRE manages a diverse portfolio of energy resources and can respond to changing conditions in ways that would be impossible for a single distribution cooperative.

GRE also plans decades into the future studying projected demand, investing in transmission infrastructure, and ensuring adequate power supply as technology and member needs evolve. Those long-term investments help maintain reliability while allowing local cooperatives like Todd-Wadena to focus on serving our communities.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative remains locally owned and locally governed. Our board of directors, elected by the membership, helps guide decisions affecting our cooperative, while also having representation in the governance of Great River Energy. That means your cooperative has a voice in how wholesale power is planned and provided.

The cooperative model is built on the idea that we're stronger together than we are alone. By partnering with Great River Energy, Todd-Wadena can focus on what we do best—delivering safe, reliable electricity and exceptional local service—while benefiting from the strength, expertise, and purchasing power that only a generation and transmission cooperative can provide.



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO &
General Counsel

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

Youth Tour Recap By Griffin Rasmussen

Earlier this summer, Griffin represented Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative on the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

As I reflect on my experience as the Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative delegate at the *2026 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour*, I clearly understand why my parents encouraged me to apply. The youth tour was an incredible experience. It was held from June 15th-20th in Washington, D.C. I flew from Minnesota with 34 other youth from across Minnesota. We met up with about 1,500 other youth representing 47 other states. Together, we shared invaluable experiences learning about United States history, current government concerns, and how electrical cooperatives benefit rural communities.

The morning of our orientation, I was extremely nervous about meeting the chaperones and the other delegates. I didn't know who my roommate was and wondered if we would get along. My roommate and I had a lot in common – so it was easy for us to spend a week together. I met several other incredible people from rural Minnesota that I will stay in contact with. Gayle, our director, was full of energy and told us we were encouraged to trade pins with other people from other states. At first, I thought there was no way I was going to trade pins with someone else. It turns out, I met so many great people from across the United States. There was no need to be nervous because everyone already had that in common.

Highlights from the youth tour included visiting the Potomac Park memorials, Arlington National Cemetery (including the changing of the guard of the Unknown Soldier), U.S. Capitol Building, the Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian National Museum, the Smithsonian Castle, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps. I also enjoyed meeting with members of our State Legislative branch and taking a Segway tour of the National Mall.

During our sessions with the congressional leaders, and at the *NRECA Co-op Connections Fair*, I learned the impact of leadership skills on a rural community and what it means to be an effective leader. The youth tour was not only one of the most socially challenging things I have done, but also one of the most impactful experiences I have had. This experience encouraged me to further explore my interest in agriculture, and the military. I encourage other youth to challenge themselves and take the risk. There will be no regrets.

Thank you to my parents for believing in me and encouraging me to apply. I am grateful for this opportunity and thank Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative for sponsoring me and choosing me as their delegate.





Allison Frederickson
Member & Energy
Services Manager

Help Shape TWEC's Solar Story

Todd-Wadena is forming a **Solar Insights Task Force** to help members better understand how our community solar project at our Leaf River Substation performs in real-world Minnesota conditions.

The volunteer group will include four to five members and one TWEC employee who will meet quarterly (*in-person and/or virtually*).

The task force will review monthly production data, discuss factors such as weather and maintenance, and share easy-to-understand updates with the membership.

Rather than relying on national averages or assumptions, the task force will use our community solar project to help answer questions many members have, including:

- *How much energy does the array actually produce?*
- *How does snow and winter weather affect output?*
- *What is the financial value of the energy produced?*
- *What can members realistically expect from solar in our area?*

Periodically, the task force will publish a summary of its findings in the newsletter, on our website, and on Facebook. An annual report will also be shared at TWEC's Annual Meeting, providing members with a transparent look at production, costs, maintenance, and lessons learned.

We're looking for members with a variety of perspectives—including both **supporters** and **skeptics** of solar—to help ensure the project is evaluated fairly and objectively. Volunteers will receive a small annual bill credit in appreciation of their time.

Interested in serving?

If you'd like to help evaluate TWEC's solar project and share objective, local insights with fellow members, scan the QR code to fill out the Solar Insights Task Force form or visit www.toddwadena.coop/solar-insights.



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.

Heating Options To Consider When Planning a New or Retrofit Heating System

1. Air-Source Heat Pumps or Mini-Split Heat Pumps

Air-source heat pumps (ducted or mini-splits) are among the most efficient heating and cooling systems available, providing year-round comfort while lowering energy costs. They work by transferring heat rather than creating it, and cold-climate models are designed to perform efficiently even during Minnesota winters. Standard air-source heat pumps use existing ductwork, while mini-splits provide flexible, zoned comfort without ducts. For even greater savings, eligible air-source heat pumps can be enrolled in our Dual Fuel Program, pairing the heat pump with a backup heating system on our off-peak rate. Rebates of up to \$1,000 are available for qualifying installations.

2. Geothermal Heat Pump

Geothermal heat pumps transfer heat to or from the earth for space heating and cooling. They provide excellent year-round efficiency because the underground temperature remains relatively constant.

These systems work well with fossil-fuel backup or can be paired with an off-peak electric rate. Energy efficiency rebates of up to **\$400 per ton** are also available.

When paired with a fossil-fuel furnace backup, geothermal heat pumps qualify for the off-peak rate, providing low-cost heating when combined with the **5.8¢/kWh** off-peak rate.

3. In-Floor Heat

In-floor heat is a popular off-peak option because of its comfort. The key is installing the proper heat storage base with sand and slab, or installing a dual-fuel system. Complete perimeter insulation is necessary for both styles.

A **\$35 per kW** rebate is available (*up to \$500*). You must enroll in the Dual Fuel Program to receive the rebate.

4. Electric Thermal Storage (ETS)

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) systems convert electricity to heat during low-cost, off-peak hours and store it for use throughout the day. Central storage furnaces use high-density heat storage bricks, while slab heating systems store warmth in the concrete or underlying thermal mass to provide steady, comfortable heat when you need it. A central storage furnace can serve as your primary heating source or work alongside a heat pump for added flexibility.

ETS systems qualify for Todd-Wadena's **4.5¢/kWh** off-peak storage rate. Enjoy dependable, efficient comfort with clean, safe electric heat and significant long-term energy savings.

Electric Heat Fuel Cost Equivalents

How does our Dual Fuel rate compare? The chart below shows the equivalent cost of heating with propane and fuel oil compared to electricity at our Dual Fuel and Off-Peak rates. Even when propane or fuel oil equipment operates at high efficiency, the cost of heating is often comparable to—or higher than—using electricity through our programs. Because members receive a discounted electric rate, they can often enjoy lower heating costs while still having the security of a backup heating source during peak demand periods. The chart below shows what propane and fuel oil prices would have to be in order to be equivalent or cheaper than our off-peak rates.

Fuel	Equipment Efficiency	4.5¢/kWh	5.8¢/kWh
Propane	70% Efficient (<i>standard</i>)	\$0.84/gal	\$1.08/gal
	90% Efficient (<i>high efficiency</i>)	\$1.03/gal	\$1.39/gal
Fuel Oil	60% Efficient (<i>standard</i>)	\$1.09/gal	\$1.40/gal
	80% Efficient (<i>high efficiency</i>)	\$1.45/gal	\$1.87/gal

HVAC REBATES

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative does not sell or install heating or cooling equipment. Please contact an HVAC professional — they can provide bids, evaluate your home's needs, and recommend equipment that will properly retrofit into your existing setup.

Load Management Dual Fuel Rebate (For electric heating systems: boiler, furnace, baseboard heat, plenum heater, ETS Room Storage)	\$35/kW	\$500 Max Rebate is for electric heating systems only. Must be enrolled for the Dual Fuel Program to receive rebate.
Quality Installed Air Source Heat Pump (QI contractor required for rebate)	\$750 \$1,000	≤5-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2 ≤5-ton, ≥ 2026 CEE Tier 1
Ground Source Heat Pump	\$400/ton	Must be Energy Star rated
Storage Heat	\$50/kW	Up to 10 kW/\$500
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (rebate not to exceed 50% of purchase price)	\$150 \$250 \$750 \$1,000	≤1-ton ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2; ≤1-ton 2026 CEE Tier 1; >1-ton ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2; >1-ton 2026 CEE Tier 1;



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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 through September!

Income Eligible Households May Qualify for Home Energy Upgrades

Under the ECO Act, pursuant to Minnesota State Statutes, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative participates in required energy conservation improvement programs—similar to our electric rebate offerings. As part of these requirements, TWEC also partners with county agencies to help provide income eligible households with access to programs that improve home efficiency, safety, and long-term affordability.

Any inquiries about whether you qualify must be made through your county's agency. Their staff handles all eligibility screening, ensures your situation fits program guidelines, completes the paperwork, and submits everything on your behalf.

Eligible households may qualify for weatherization assistance to improve

energy efficiency, including insulation upgrades, air sealing, duct sealing, weatherstripping, caulking, and other building shell improvements.

Some electric appliances may also qualify for replacement or upgrade options, such as clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators, stoves/ovens, microwaves, and electric water heaters. Each appliance category has specific guidelines, so members should check with their county's agency to confirm eligibility.

Income eligible households may also qualify for installation or conversion costs when replacing a natural gas or propane appliance with a qualifying electric model. Members using **Steibel Eltron electric thermal storage heaters** may be eligible for support to replace them with new Steffes electric thermal storage systems.

To see if you qualify for weatherization, appliance upgrades, or conversion assistance, please contact your county's agency listed below:

Becker, Hubbard, Otter Tail, & Wadena (Mahube OTWA)
(218) 847-1385 or (888) 458-1385

Cass (Bi-Cap) Beltrami
Walker Office
(218) 547-3438 or (800) 332-7161
Bemidji Office
(218) 751-4631 or (800) 332-7161

Douglas (West Central Minnesota Communities Action)
(218) 685-4486 or (800) 492-4805

Morrison (Tri-County)
(320) 251-1612 or (888) 765-5597

Todd
(320) 732-4516 or (888) 838-4066

Meet Our New Journeyman Lineworker: Tyler Schmitz

Tyler Schmitz joined Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative on June 29th as a Journeyman Lineworker in our Operations Department. He brings more than 13 years of lineworker experience, including seven years with Detroit Lakes Public Utilities. His expertise will help us continue to build, maintain, and keep reliable power flowing for our members.

Originally from the area, Tyler is excited to be back near family. He lives in rural Wadena with his wife, Emily, their daughter, and they're welcoming another child in August. Outside of work, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling.

We're thrilled to welcome Tyler to the TWEC team!



Please note: TWEC offices will be closed on **Monday, September 7th** for Labor Day.

Energy Efficiency ————— ————— Tip of the Month

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use, and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

Source: www.energy.gov



TWEC Board Minutes: Highlights from the June 25th, 2026, regular board meeting.

- *Director of Corporate Services, IT, & Cybersecurity Abby Harrison gave an update on the Strategic Plan: New Technology Goal; the Intelligent Document Processing (IDP) software went live in May, coming in on time and on budget.*
- *CEO Dan Carlisle gave an update from the June Member Managers Group meeting. He went over May's PCA, Great River Energy's (GRE) credit ratings, data centers being proposed in Minnesota, and the upcoming GRE strategic planning session.*
- *The board approved the New Salem Wind Resolution as presented.*
- *Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE board report. Capital spending over the next 10 years is expected to be around \$5.6 billion dollars, with 327 active transmission projects spanning over 570 miles of line.*
- *Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the May financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 8 percent over budget. May's purchased power expense was 11 percent over budget. TIER is 2.33 and Equity is 42.21.*
- *Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson gave an update on the status of the Aclara DRU changeout project. The team has completed over 1,000 service orders, with approximately 1,500 to go.*
- *Operations Manager Tyler Fisher noted how the line crew recently completed an underground replacement project near Aldrich substation and an underground conversion near Coal Lake. Crews completed pole top and bucket rescue training, as well as excavation safety.*
- *The board accepted the Annual Red Flag Report.*
- *Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided a legislative update, focusing on the proposed bills related to data centers and the impacts they have on rate payers. The bills ranged from the integration of large loads to FERC regulations to protecting rate payers from increased costs related to these types of new load.*

Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for members & friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Monday - Friday

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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

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Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

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August 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 **September 25th**.

1. All eligible _____ are encouraged to attend the Meet the Candidates Forum on August 27th in Wadena.
2. TWEC is forming a _____ insights task force.
3. Don't forget to submit your scenic photos of any of the _____ seasons for our 2027 photo calendar contest.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

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Kevin Ehnes of Eagle Bend was the June Reader's Contest winner.