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Mark Your Calendar

Feb 9 ... Youth Tour Essays Due

Feb 15. Electric Bills Due

Feb 17. ... Scholarship Apps Due

Feb 24. Board Meeting

March 19. Annual Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by March 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.



Reliability Requires Investment

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK

General Manager

As your local power provider, Traverse Electric's mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, every warm home and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid—through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades and the integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.

The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members expect. Strategic upgrades such as replacing aging overhead lines with underground lines are essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Tools such as automated switching devices, smart meters, drones and advanced monitoring systems allow us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages and provide real-time data that helps us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently.

Implementing innovative technologies into the grid is not just a convenience—it is a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life—from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our community means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.

Jeremy

Win a Trip to Washington DC:



Delegates from Minnesota will join more than 1,800 students from across the country in Washington, D.C., June 15-20, 2026.


All expenses—travel, lodging, meals, and program costs—are covered by Traverse Electric

Cooperative. Traverse Electric will send one area youth to the 2026 Youth Tour to Washington DC. To be eligible, applicants should be a high school sophomore, junior, or senior, between the ages of 16-18, and a child or dependent of a current Traverse Electric member.


Each Entrant must submit an essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the following topic: "If chosen as a youth tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of, and what would you have contributed?"

All essays must be typed and include a cover sheet that states the title of the essay, the entrant's name and address, name of parent or guardian, and the name of your school. The winner will be announced by March 1, 2026. Deadline to submit the essay is February 9, 2026.

Mail completed essay and cover letter to Traverse Electric Co-op Inc., PO Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296, or they can be dropped off at Traverse Electric's office or emailed to klupkes@traverseelectric.com.

For details, visit our website at www.traverseelectric.com or check out our Facebook page. 

Scholarships Offered to Local Students

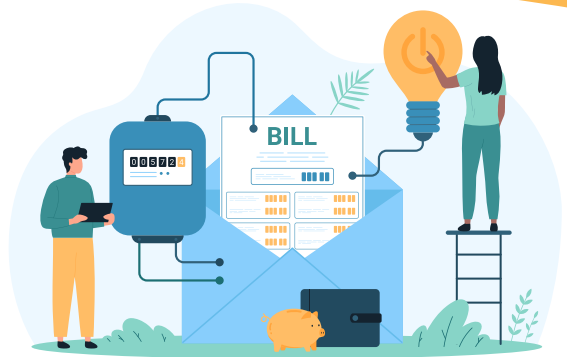
Traverse Electric will award one \$1,500 and one \$1,000 Basin Electric scholarship and \$500 Traverse Electric scholarships to students entering a postsecondary education institution in the Fall of 2026. Applicants should be a dependent of a current Traverse Electric member. The scholarship application can be found on our website at www.traverseelectric.com, picked up from our office, or it can be mailed or emailed upon request. Submit completed applications to Traverse Electric's office or by mail, addressed to: Karen Lupkes, Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296. Applications may also be emailed to klupkes@traverseelectric.com. Application deadline is **February 17, 2026.** 

December 2025 Capital Credit Checks - Invalid Address List

Name	Address	Years In Service
Mary Andrews	Big Stone City SD	2009
Mike Or Denise Bilben	Kimball MN	2005-2015
Mary Brink	St Petersburg FL	2009-2011
Tim Busta	Fargo ND	2009-2013
Steph Ebsen	Chetek WI	2009-2010
Sylvester Fischer	Graceville MN	1973-2009
Bonita Hart	St Cloud MN	2004-2016
Kim Head	Elbow Lake MN	2008-2011
Bryan Holtz	Watford City ND	2009-2011
Kaye Hormann	Wheaton MN	1973-2013
Craig or Sally Johnson	St Cloud MN	2008-2012
Shelly Joyce	Tintah MN	2007-2009
Rod Melinsky	Aberdeen SD	1999-2005
Andreas Neumann	Dilworth MN	2009-2017
Roxanna Patton	Wheaton MN	2008-2009
Kayla Seifert	Dumont MN	2008-2018
Michelle Stage	Springfield MN	2009-2022
Dion Turgeon	Fergus Falls MN	2009-2011
Kellie Turner	Norcross MN	2009-2012
Matt Waterworth	Newfolden MN	2009-2014
Jewel Demarrias	Claire City SD	2007-2009

Easy Ways to Pay

Over the past few months there has been an increase in the number of calls reporting not receiving mailed bills and our office not receiving mailed payments in a timely manner. It seems over the years mail is taking longer. We have heard that sometimes it is taking anywhere from 3 days to 2 weeks. Unfortunately, we cannot control the USPS mail delivery times. That is why we offer these other free and convenient alternative ways to pay your electric bill and to view your electric bill. You also can save the cost of a postage stamp!



1. **SmartHub:** For your convenience, you can use your SmartHub online account access to view and pay, or schedule your payment even before your paper bill arrives in your mailbox. As soon as a new bill is processed for your account, you will receive an email alerting you that a new bill is available. Visit www.traverseelectric.com and click on online bill pay with SmartHub to register or log in. You can also enroll in paperless billing if you no longer want to receive a printed bill in the mail.
2. **SmartHub Mobile App:** You can also use our SmartHub mobile app to view and pay your electric balance. As soon as your new electric bill is processed, you receive an app notification, text message and an email. Download the SmartHub mobile app from your app store on your mobile device.
3. **Pay Now:** From our website, www.traverseelectric.com, simply click on the “Pay Now” option to make a payment. The Pay Now option does not require you to log in. All you need is your account number and the last name on your electric account. 1785
4. **IVR:** You can make a payment by calling our IVR payment number at 833-856-4313 24 hours a day.
5. **Call our office to pay or to get your account balance.** We bill the majority of our electric accounts on the first and second business days of each month. For the majority of our accounts, we can tell you your new account balance the morning of the second business day of each month.
6. **Sign up for auto pay with a checking/savings account or a debit/credit card.** You can sign up for auto pay on SmartHub, on the Mobile App, by calling the IVR phone number, or by calling our office. Your payment will automatically be made on the due date each month with any of our auto pay options.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Use the moisture sensor feature on your clothes dryer if it has one. This option shuts down the dryer when clothes are dry. In addition, clean the lint filter after each load. This improves air circulation and increases the dryer's efficiency.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

If you are not ready to pay using the above methods and still want to mail your check payment to us each month, you can continue to do so. By signing up for Smart Hub account access or the Smart Hub mobile app, you can view your electric bill and mail your payment to ensure that it arrives at our office in time instead of waiting for the bill to arrive in your mailbox first. Paperless billing is an option too, but not required for SmartHub or mobile app users for those of you who want to continue to receive a copy in the mail.

If you are interested in learning more about SmartHub or our mobile app or have any problems registering, please give our office a call at 800-927-5443 and we are happy to help you with that. 📞

November 2025 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The December regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at 9 AM.

- Absent: Monson.
- Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.
- President Diekmann called the meeting to order.
- The agenda was approved.
- The minutes of the November regular board meeting were approved.
- The November check register was approved.
- Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: *Dealing with Conflicts of Interest in the Boardroom*.
- Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.
- Thoennes reported on the Mid-West Consumers Annual Meeting.
- Huhnstock presented the General Manager's Report, which included:
 - ◊ Provided a Basin Electric update.
 - ◊ Provided an East River update.
 - ◊ REED Fund review.
 - ◊ NRECA update.
 - ◊ MREA and MN legislative update.
 - ◊ SDREA and SD legislative update.
 - ◊ Other matters of interest.
- Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:
 - ◊ November 30, 2025 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
 - ◊ MN Energy Assistance Program received funding the beginning of December.

- ◊ Reported on the Basin Electric capital credit retirement.
- ◊ Revenue Deferral status update.
- ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the November 2025 Financial Report.
- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
 - ◊ Provided a crew update.
 - ◊ Reported on projects moved to 2026 that were not completed in 2025.
 - ◊ Reported on the November 25/26 storm outages with 8 broken poles and numerous line breaks.
 - ◊ One of our line trucks is in for transmission repair.
 - ◊ New digger truck is scheduled for Feb 2027 delivery.
 - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
 - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
- Selected NRECA voting delegates.
- Selected MREA voting delegates.
- Approved revisions to Policy 307.
- Reviewed the March annual meeting schedule.
- Reviewed the upcoming district meetings schedule.
- Chris Studer and Anne Hall from East River reviewed the results of the strategic planning session.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▀

TEC Nov 2025 Financials

	Nov 2024	Nov 2025	YTD 2025
Total Revenue.	\$1,124,445.68	\$1,460,617.92	\$14,207,100.93
Cost of Power.	\$703,236.71	\$776,709.76	\$7,954,323.37
Total Cost of Service.	\$1,103,383.84	\$1,190,843.81	\$12,850,547.69
Operating Margins	\$21,061.84	\$269,774.11	\$1,356,553.24
Total Margins	\$35,716.76	\$311,302.71	\$1,830,941.58
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	11,891,197	12,983,823	125,827,253
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales . . .	11,243,038	12,403,712	120,074,798
Line Loss.5%	4%	4%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
Vice-President: Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN
Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD
Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN
Kaley Thoennes, Chokio, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager
Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
Melissa Przymus – Accountant
Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
Isaac Hoverson – Journeyman Lineworker
Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
Tristan Varpness – Journeyman Lineworker
Tayden George – Apprentice Lineworker
Jordan Pearson – Apprentice Lineworker
Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician
Robert Groebner – Facility Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock
Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055
jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Connor Bartz
– Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox 320-808-5309
Big Stone County Grant County
Stevens County Traverse County
Brent Piekarski 651-420-0855
Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779
Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nick Helseth 605-280-2188
Marshall County Roberts County

In case of a power outage, call
(800) 927-5443

6590 State Highway 27
P.O. Box 66
Wheaton, MN 56296 USA
Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443
Local phone: (320) 563-8616

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
October 1–April 30

Web site: www.traverseelectric.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Our Mission: To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.