TRAVERSE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

watt matters

NOVEMBER | 26

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Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 11..... Office Closed for Veteran's Day

Nov. 15..... Electric bills due

Nov. 24..... Board Meeting

Nov. 26 & 27..... Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Find Your Account Number & Win!

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

Congratulations to Jean Geurts for finding her account number in the October newsletter for a $10 bill credit.



On behalf of Stevens County 4-H, I would like to extend our gratitude for your generous donation to our 4-H program. We are using the funds to help finance a STEM robotic after school 4-H series for Fall! Thank you for investing in our 4-H youth!



Thank you for your generous donation to Wilkin County 4-H! Your donation helps us provide continued opportunities for our local youth to learn, grow, and build confidence.

Unclaimed capital credit donations to County 4-H Programs & County Food Shelves/Pantries:

Traverse Electric is proud to support our community members in need and our area youth by donating $6,615.78 in unclaimed capital credits to SD & MN County 4-H Programs and County Food Shelves/Pantries in our service territory.



Thank you so much for the donation. Roberts County 4-H greatly appreciates it.

Thanks for choosing to donate former capital credits to the food shelf. Your support means a lot!

– Prairie Five Big Stone Lake Area Shelf

Thank you for your recent donation to the Stevens County Food Shelf. Your donation will be used for the purchase of food and other related items. In these times of rising food costs your generosity is greatly appreciated.

– Stevens County Food Shelf

The Marshall County Food Pantry would like to thank you for your generous donation.

– Marshall County Food Pantry

Thank you. Your generous donation is very much appreciated!

– Richland Wilkin Food Pantry

Thank you for your generous donation to the 4-H program in Big Stone County. Your support and commitment is greatly appreciated by all involved!

– Big Stone County 4-H



Happy Thanksgiving!!

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK
General Manager

Happy November! November is one of my favorite months of the year. The leaves are falling, the temperatures are getting colder, Thanksgiving, and deer hunting! Wisconsin gun season always lands during Thanksgiving week and going to the deer shack always brings back great memories, along with spending time with family and friends over the Thanksgiving holiday. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

As November settles in and temperatures begin to drop, your HVAC system will soon become one of the hardest-working appliances in your home. Before your system undergoes all that extra work this winter, now is a great time to ensure it is optimized and ready to go.

Start with something simple. One of the easiest and most effective measures you can take is checking filters. A clogged or dirty filter makes it harder for air to move through your system, which can cause it to work longer and harder than necessary. Check filters regularly and replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Vents matter too. Take a look around your home to make sure furniture, curtains, rugs and other household items aren't blocking any supply or return vents. **25490**

If you have a heat pump, your outdoor unit also deserves extra attention this time of year. Falling leaves, limbs and other debris can collect around the unit and restrict airflow, so keep the area around your outdoor unit clear. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning recommendations. If you have a traditional central air conditioning system, your outdoor unit will likely remain idle during winter months, but it's still good practice to keep it clear of debris.

Don't overlook what you can't see. With forced-air systems, ductwork plays an essential role in delivering heated air throughout your home. Leaks, gaps or disconnected sections can allow conditioned air to escape before it reaches the rooms where you need it. If you've noticed rooms that never seem to get comfortable or unusually high energy use, ask an HVAC professional to inspect your ductwork.

Fall is also an ideal time for a professional tune-up. A technician can inspect your heating system, identify potential problems and make sure it is operating safely and efficiently before the coldest weather arrives. Regular professional maintenance can also help extend the life of your equipment.

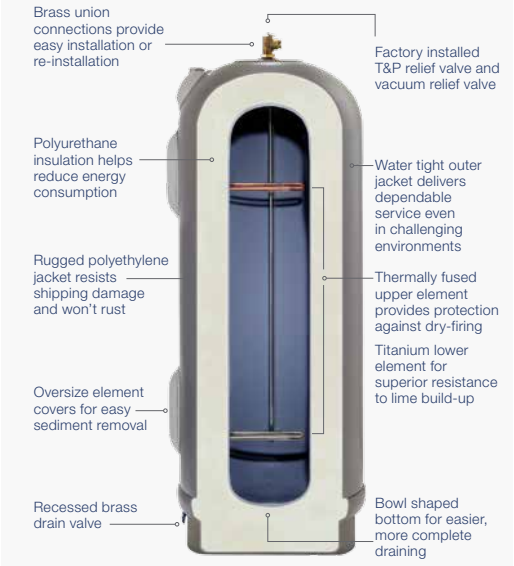
Jeremy

Water Heater Program



- Traverse Electric carries 50, 85, & 100 gallon Rheem Marathon Residential Water Heaters in stock
- Comes with a Lifetime Limited Warranty on tank for leaks for as long as you own it.
- Parts come with a 6 year warranty.
- Rebates and a $4.00 monthly electric bill credit available to Traverse Electric members when placed under load control. Restrictions apply.

MARATHON
HOT WATER FOR LIFE!



No anode rod required, which means no smelly water normally caused by chemical reactions with sulfates.

Call our office at **800-927-5443** for more information on rebates & load control.

Need help paying your winter heating bills?

Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.



For South Dakota members

South Dakota LIEAP, Office of Energy Assistance, Pierre, SD.

Email: LIEAPApp@state.sd.us

Phone: 800-233-8503

Web: Low Income Energy Assistance (sd.gov)

For Wilkin, Traverse, Grant, Stevens Counties:

West Central MN Communities Actions, Elbow Lake, MN.

Email: eap@wcmca.org

Phone: 800-492-4805

Web: https//wcmca.org/program-area/energy-assistance/

For Big Stone County:

Prairie Five Community Action, Montevideo, MN.

Email: eap@prairiefive.org

Phone: 800-292-5437 or 320-839-2111 *(Ortonville Office)*

Web: https://prairiefive.org/programs/energy-assistance/

Standby Generator Systems

Together We Save Energy and Money

Benefits of Owning A Generator System

Our standby power systems are designed to provide peace of mind and keep your life uninterrupted. Lights stay on, the sump pump keeps running, and your furnace or AC keeps your family comfortable.

- Standby generator system intelligently powers your whole house, automatically powering what you need when you need it most.
- Generator automatically starts when the power goes out.
- Sold and installed by Traverse Electric Cooperative.
- Financing is available.
- From Briggs & Stratton – The Power Experts!
- Runs on natural gas or LP (provided by others).

BRIGGS & STRATTON

STANDBY GENERATORS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: Dept. of Energy



BOARD REPORT

September 2026 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The September regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 8 AM.

- Absent: Ehlers.
- Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.
- President Diekmann called the meeting to order.
- The agenda was approved.
- Completed the annual general manager review.
- The minutes of the August regular board meeting were approved.
- The August check register was approved.
- Discussed the Basin Electric video report and the NRECA training video: Risk Management.
- Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.
- Gaulrapp, Marks, and Thoennes reported on the East River 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:
  - ◊ August 31, 2026 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
  - ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
  - ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
  - ◊ Reported on an RUS loan advance.
  - ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the August 2026 Financial Report.
- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
  - ◊ Provided a crew update.
  - ◊ Reviewed projects.
  - ◊ A few tile pump services need to be done this Fall yet.
  - ◊ 2027 safety meeting planning is done.
  - ◊ Carr's Tree Service is finishing up in Long Hollow Township and will then move to MN.
  - ◊ Provided an update on the Long Hollow housing project.
  - ◊ We received one bid for the 40101D Grant project so far.
  - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
  - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the Union Contract.
- Approved non-union employee salary increases.
- Reviewed and approved the 2025 990.
- Approved a resolution to adopt an amendment and the restatement of the 125 Plan.
- Approved increasing limits for FSA and DCAP limits to IRS limits.
- Approved resolution to amend the 401K and Retirement Security Plans.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned.

TEC August 2026 Financials

	August 2025	August 2026	YTD 2026
Total Revenue	$1,226,148.08	$1,273,530.67	$10,890,074.03
Cost of Power	$726,303.96	$729,196.00	$6,351,304.62
Total Cost of Service	$1,071,303.24	$1,260,745.43	$10,005,537.10
Operating Margins	$154,844.84	$12,785.24	$884,536.93
Total Margins	$158,321.02	$47,416.64	$1,010,411.90
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	10,725,016	9,975,019	88,557,454
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	10,247,645	9,447,483	84,368,881
Line Loss	4%	5%	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
Health Kvatum - Apprentice Lineworker
Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
Tristan Varpness – Journeyman Lineworker
Jordan Pearson – Journeyman Lineworker
Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician
Robert Groebner – Facility Technician
Samantha Enwiller – Support Administrator

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
Eric Rikimoto
- Load Management/Electrician 701-971-3827

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, 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
May 1–September 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.*