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Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 7 Office closed
(Labor Day)

Sept. 15 Electric Bills Due

Sept. 29 Board Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

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

Congratulations to Curtis Jorgenson for finding his account number in our August newsletter for a \$10 bill credit.



Tucker Steffens
Traverse Electric's
2026 Youth Tour Delegate

Electric cooperatives send Minnesota's students to Washington D.C

Thirty-five Minnesota high school students recently returned from a Washington D.C. trip-of-a-lifetime held in June. Electric cooperatives across Minnesota select students and award them an all-expense paid trip to see the sites and learn about the political process in our nation's capital city.

The statewide trip is sponsored by each electric cooperative that sends students, coordinated by the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Nearly 2,000 students from across the United States attend the activity-filled week and learn firsthand about politics, community development and the governmental process with peers from nearly every state in the nation.

The week-long Youth Tour also consisted of learning about current issues, American history, electric cooperatives and meeting with elected officials, including Minnesota senators.

Students made new friends, enjoyed seeing many sites and memorials, learned much about our nation's history and made memories.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of Washington D.C., all state groups convened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and inspirational speakers.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local electric co-ops, the MREA, and the NRECA, since 1964. In that time, more than 60,000 high school students from the nation's cooperative electric utilities have visited their U.S. congressional lawmakers, attended grassroots government education sessions and enjoyed sightseeing in Washington D.C.

Students wishing to participate in Youth Tour 2027 should check with their school guidance counselors or their local electric cooperative.



Electricity Brings Everyday Value

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK
General Manager

When it comes to electricity, we rarely think twice when we flip on a light switch, brew coffee in the morning, charge our phones or adjust the thermostat. We simply expect the power to be there—and that's how it should be because you are a member of Traverse Electric Cooperative, and reliably powering your life is our mission.

We know that many families across our local communities are feeling the impact of rising costs for everyday expenses. Groceries, gasoline, insurance and other necessities cost more than they did just a few years ago. And because of that, we understand that every household is carefully considering where each dollar goes.

That's why I think it's important to occasionally step back and consider the value electricity provides.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$210 a month—roughly \$7 a day. I often think about what that cost provides. It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$7 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes



Pictured are linemen Heath Kvatum (left) and Austin Reinke (right) who are all set up with a bucket truck at the 5th Annual Traverse County Family Fun Night held July 27 at the Traverse County Fairgrounds. About 200 families attended the event.

possible, it's one of the greatest values in the average household budget.

Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, Traverse Electric is here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice from our energy advisors, information about co-op rebates and efficiency programs or answers to questions about your monthly bill, our team is always available.

Traverse Electric is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community—not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power—so you can make the most of every energy dollar. ▀

Jeremy

MN COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Traverse Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonable timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Traverse Electric Cooperative.

MINNESOTA'S COLD WEATHER RULE DOES NOT COMPLETELY STOP WINTER DISCONNECTS.

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Traverse Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 50% of the state median income to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2027.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance. #2706
- For Wilkin, Traverse, Grant, Stevens Counties: West Central MN Communities Actions, Elbow Lake, MN. Email: eap@wcmca.org, 218-405-3073 or 800-492-4805 Option 1, or fax 218-405-3002, <https://wcmca.org/program-area/energy-assistance/>
- For Big Stone County: Prairie Five Community Action, Montevideo, MN. Email: eap@prairiefive.org, 800-292-5437 or 320-839-211 (Ortonville Office), <https://prairiefive.org/programs/energy-assistance/>

Traverse Electric Cooperative is dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Traverse Electric Cooperative at 800-927-5443 to set up a payment plan. Please visit www.traverseelectric.com for more info on the MN Cold Weather Rule. ▶



July 2026 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The July regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 8 AM.

- Absent: None.
- Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.
- President Diekmann called the meeting to order.
- MREA District 3 Director candidate, Mike Cramer, spoke about his candidacy.
- The agenda was approved.
- The minutes of the June regular board meeting were approved.
- The June check register was approved.
- Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: *Maintaining Your Co-op's Bylaws*.
- Chris Pederson from RESCO presented on RESCO's history, business model, & their Alliance Membership.
- Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.
- 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:
 - ◊ June 30, 2026 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
- ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ◊ Reported on renewable energy tags sold in the Basin Marketing Pool.
- ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the June 2026 Financial Report.
- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
 - ◊ Provided a crew update.
 - ◊ Reviewed projects.
 - ◊ Reported on recent storms and lightning damage to a few poles.
 - ◊ Provided an update on the Long Hollow housing project.
 - ◊ Planning for 2027 projects is underway.
 - ◊ RUS will not be going away from 1600 code minor construction projects, but will require preapproval before submitting to RUS.
 - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
 - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
- Revised Policy 309.
- Discussed the \$1.5 million RUS loan advance.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▀

TEC June 2026 Financials

	June 2025	June 2026	YTD 2026
Total Revenue.....	\$1,232,485.67 ...	\$1,297,412.03 ...	\$8,154,121.20
Cost of Power.....	\$710,265.59	\$765,149.38 ...	\$4,815,762.73
Total Cost of Service.....	\$1,150,785.32	\$1,189,052.26 .	\$7,527,882.23
Operating Margins	\$81,700.35	\$108,359.77	\$626,238.97
Total Margins.....	\$87,104.93	\$133,244.22	\$711,984.10
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased.....	9,965,511.....	10,261,165	67,731,275
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	9,459,496	9,824,865	64,604,020
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 Przyms – Accountant
 Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
 Kolby Goff – Apprentice 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.