



This Issue

Reed Fund p2

TSE April Scholar of the Week p3

February Board Report/Financials p4



Mark Your Calendar

Apr 15 Electric Bills Due

Apr 26 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 April 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.



Clearing the Path to Reliability

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK

General Manager

Trees are majestic, beautiful and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

Reliability

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, in 2023, TEC had 29 outages that were attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes see Traverse Electric crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

In fact, all U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we are better able to prepare for severe weather events.

Plus, we all know it's more cost-effective to undertake preventative maintenance than it is to make repairs after the fact.

Safety

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach those trees, they can potentially climb

into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a tree.

Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lessens the chances of fallen trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Affordability

As a co-op, Traverse Electric always strives to keep costs down for our members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help too. When planting new trees, make sure they're planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 ft. or smaller) should be planted at least 25 ft. from power lines. Taller trees (over 40 ft.) should be planted at least 50 ft. from power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. from the transformer door and 4 ft. from the sides. If your neighborhood has underground lines, remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

Additionally, if you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, please let us know by contacting (800)927-5443.

We have deep roots in our community, and we love our beautiful surroundings. It takes a balanced approach, and our vegetation management program is a crucial tool in ensuring service reliability. ▀



RURAL ELECTRIC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.
REED FUND

2024 FUND FACTS

INVESTING TO BUILD A VIBRANT REGION.

1 BILLION
TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT



10,156
JOBS RETAINED/CREATED

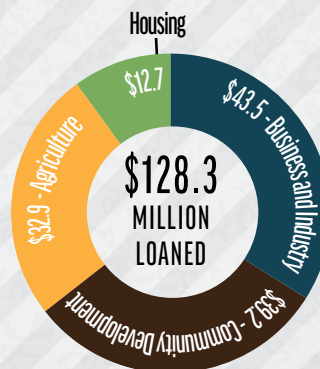
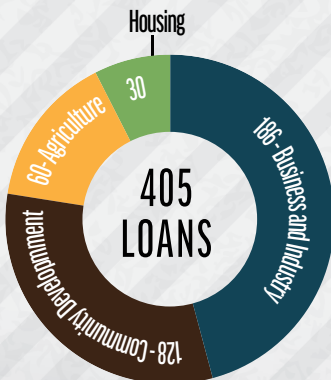
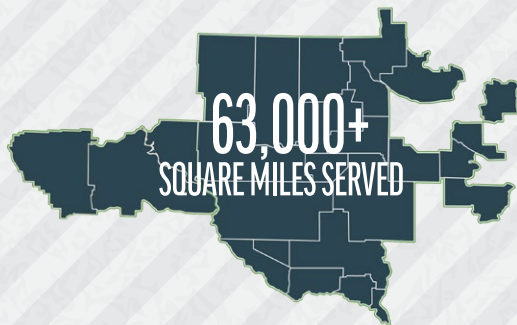
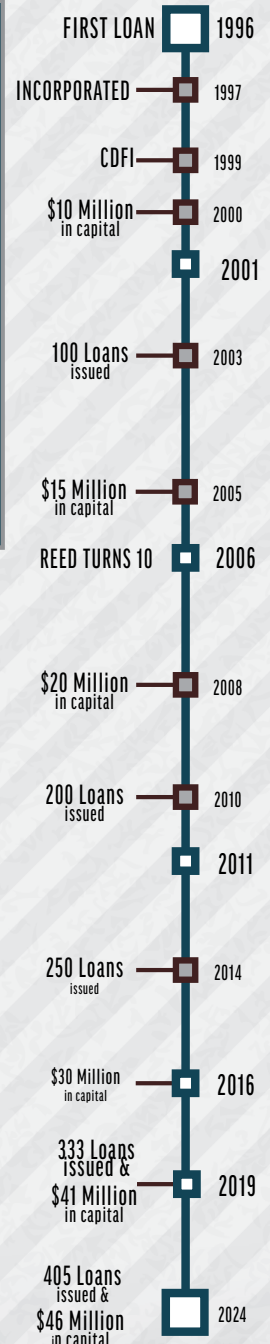
3.1 MILLION

SQUARE
FEET

CONSTRUCTED
OR RENOVATED

VISIT US AT REEDFUND.COOP

REED TIMELINE



Local Student Selected for Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week



Braylen Schmidt was selected to be a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week April 7-13, 2024. Braylen will be featured on Dakota News Now during the 6:00PM news on Monday, April 8 and again on the Dakota News Now morning news on Tuesday, April 9 between 6:00AM and 7:00AM.

Braylen attends Wheaton Area High School. Braylen is involved in many activities at both her school and in her community. She has been in Cross Country since 6th grade, Basketball since elementary school, Track since 8th grade, Future Career and


Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) since 10th grade, National Honor Society since 11th grade, and Student Council since 8th grade. In her community, she coordinates and runs the computer and other technology at her church. Not only is Braylen, continuously involved, she is also one of the most caring people you will meet. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and has the utmost respect for others. She has patience and doesn't judge others based on things that are different but looks for a way to find similarities. She is curious and puts forth her greatest effort in her academics. Braylen is the daughter of Terry and Amanda Schmidt and is from Norcross, MN, located within Traverse Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative. ***Congratulations, Braylen!***



2023 CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS INVALID ADDRESS LIST

Name	Address	Yrs in Service
Doreen Diekmann Abrahamson	Willmar MN	1991-2008
Jed Ahrenholz	Rosholt SD	2008
Darren & Stephanie Ammons	Tintah MN	2007-2010
Joey Bombeck	New Effington SD	2006-2011
Kayleen Bonczek	N St Paul MN	1987-2000
Richelle L Brennan	Chanhassen MN	1999
Paulette Cloud Estate	Sisseton SD	2006-2007
Country Wide Home Loans	Plano TX	2001-2002
Sampson Demarrias	Sisseton SD	1988-1993
Lynnette Egen	Watertown SD	1995
Judith Flett	Roseville MN	1999-2003
Gordon Gast	Campbell MN	1999-2008
Jared Goodsell Estate	Sisseton SD	2005-2007
Thomas & Barbara Hasbrouck	Sartell MN	1982-1991
Roger Hom	Forman ND	1994-2002
Curt & Sandi Hove	Moorhead MN	2002
Claudia Keeble	Browns Valley MN	1993
Jillisa Lesmann	Wyndmere ND	2007-2008
Dr James McCabe Jr	Valdez AK	2008-2012
Sean Murphy	Browns Valley MN	2008-2010
Francis Nebben	Clinton MN	1999-2010
Dan Sauve	Bagley MN	1996
Judy Simons	Lansing MI	1999-2012
Richard Wadleigh	Sisseton SD	2008-2010

ANNUAL COGENERATION NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERSHIP

In compliance with Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. ***Interested members can find information regarding rates and interconnection requirements at www.novapowerportal.com/Home/Index/69. All qualifying facility interconnections must follow the Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc's adopted interconnection process and technical requirements to be allowed for interconnection to the distribution system.*** Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board. Interested members should contact Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296 or call 800-927-5443. 

February 2024 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The February regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 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 January regular board meeting were approved.

The January check register was approved.

Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Marks and Rudolph reported on the East River Energize Forum.

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.

Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:

- January 31, 2024 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- A list of new members was reviewed.
- Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

- Annual audit is scheduled for the week of May 13.
- A margin stabilization return on our January power bill was discussed.

Reviewed and approved the January 2024 Financial Report.

Schwagel presented the Operations Report per written report. Items discussed included:

- Provided a crew update.
- Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- Letters to owners of idle services were sent out.
- East River will have the ability to open/close circuits at substations in the future.
- Reported that meters were sent for repairs and will come with a full warranty.
- Reviewed our Safety Program.
- Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility.
Received an update on the old properties for sale.

Accepted the 2024 Cogeneration Report.
Plans for our annual meeting on March 21, 2024 were discussed.

Selected scholarship recipients.
Selected the 2024 Washington DC Youth Tour delegate.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.

Meeting adjourned. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
Vice-President: Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN
Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN
Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD
Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, 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
Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker
Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker
Isaac Callens – Apprentice Lineworker
Tayden George – 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

Steve Powers 320-808-9104
Connor Bartz 320-287-0009
– Journeyman Electrician

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox 320-808-5309
Big Stone County Grant County
Stevens County Traverse County
Rodney Schaffer 701-235-2840
Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779
Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

Seth Warner 605-500-9020
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.

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.

TEC February 2024 Financials			
	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	YTD 2024
Total Revenue	\$1,011,188.15 . . .	\$1,065,231.38 . .	\$2,306,991.40
Cost of Power	\$640,466.23 . . .	\$667,897.84 . .	\$1,408,022.39
Total Cost of Service	\$992,552.98 . . .	\$1,044,052.01 . .	\$2,148,746.73
Operating Margins	\$18,635.17	\$21,179.37 . . .	\$158,244.67
Total Margins	\$19,623.92	\$22,148.01 . . .	\$172,006.82
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased . .	11,175,481	11,185,285	24,629,153
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	10,687,144	10,629,798	23,454,470
Line Loss	4%	4%	4%