



## This Issue

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## Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 15 . . . . . Electric Bills Due

Dec. 23 & 26 . . . . Office Closed

Dec. 27 . . . . . Board Meeting

Jan. 2 . . . . . Office Closed



## Find Your Account Number & Win!

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

We have not found a winner yet for last month's newsletter.



## Planning for the Future of Your Electric Cooperative

MANAGER'S COLUMN

DALE SCHWAGEL

Interim General Manager

Traverse Electric, along with our engineering firm, will begin the process of gathering data for a new construction work plan in 2023. These work plans take into consideration: aging infrastructure, load growth, capacity issues, and reliability and safety throughout Traverse Electric's system. The planning we do at Traverse Electric includes input from our board, managers, employees, and our members.

In addition to construction projects that come with a new work plan, we will continue to work hard to maintain the system that we have. System maintenance includes pole and line testing, equipment inspections, and right of way clearing.

The effects of supply chain delays and shortages, are having a direct impact on all projects we do here

at Traverse Electric, as well as the significant increase in cost with all materials. We have had trouble getting necessary common equipment, such as wire and transformers and the required material to terminate our underground projects. As an example, we used to be able to order transformers and could have them within 4-6 weeks, now those lead times are 52-100 plus weeks. We are ordering transformers, wire and associated hardware for the 2024 construction season without locked in prices, so we have what we need on hand to serve our members.

What can you as a member do to help keep our plans on track? Communicate with us. Make Traverse Electric a priority call when you are in the initial stages of planning your projects. We need to make sure we have the necessary supplies and

equipment needed to energize your service. These are certainly challenging times; we can work together to get through this. ▶

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

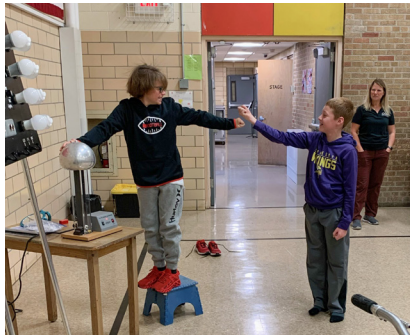
Source: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



# 'Co-ops in the Classroom' program educates students on how electricity works and the importance of safety

What do socks, atoms and bicycles have in common? All these materials were used to teach children in schools throughout Traverse Electric's service territory about electricity.

Co-ops in the Classroom is a program offered by Traverse Electric's wholesale power provider, East River Electric Power Cooperative, based in Madison, SD. Jen Gross, Education and Outreach Coordinator for East River, travels throughout East River's service territory in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota to teach children about electrical safety, generation, conservation and economics.



*Wheaton students in grades 4th-5th attended the presentation and had fun shocking friends.*

In November, Gross brought this energy education to classrooms at Rosholt, Fairmount, Herman, Wheaton, and Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley schools. During the hour-long presentations to the fourth, fifth and sixth graders, Gross took the students on the journey of electricity at the atomic level, all the way to the hundreds of miles it travels from the power plant to our homes.

A Traverse Electric lineman accompanied Gross to the schools and also showed the students the

safety gear they need to wear and how to be safe around electricity.

A variety of hands-on demonstrations engaged the students. A Van de Graaff generator demonstrated the movement of electrons with some hair-raising results.



*Fairmount students in grades 3rd-6th got to see a "hair raising" event.*

"That one is always a crowd-pleaser," said Gross. "Not only does it provide a visible and audible example of how electricity moves, students also get a kick out of



*A Rosholt student experienced the Van de Graaff generator. Rosholt's 3rd - 5th graders attended.*



*3rd -5th graders at Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley also got to try the Van de Graaff generator.*



seeing their hair stand up and shocking their friends. Sometimes we even get the teachers to join in.”

Another device that brings a lot of excitement is the Pedal Power bicycle generator. Students are asked to become power plants as they provide the energy that produces electricity for lights and small household devices.



*Herman-Norcross School's 4th-6th graders attended the presentation where a student got to ride the Pedal Power bicycle generator.*

“The Pedal Power turns the concept of electricity from abstract to tangible. By providing the energy needed to make a light bulb turn on, students are able to quantify how much more energy an incandescent light bulb requires than a CFL or LED,” said Gross. By the end of the presentation, students had developed a new understanding and appreciation for electricity.

Traverse Electric is committed to the communities we serve. By providing this service to schools in our territory, we can reach thousands of people with the critical messages of electrical safety and conservation. ▶

# Facility Update

Progress continues with the new headquarters; the office and warehouse are expected to be erected and dried in by mid-November. The concrete is moving forward, the office area floor is poured and we are expecting curb and gutter, and all outside aprons to be done within this same time frame as well. We will continue to provide updates in the future. ▶



# October 2022 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The October regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 8 AM. Absent: None.

Staff members present were Interim General Manager Dale Schwagel and Karen Lupkes.

President Diekmann called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

Executive Session to discuss the General Manager Search.

The minutes of the September regular board meeting and the October 4, 2022 Special Meeting were approved.

The September check register was approved.

Discussed the Basin and East River video reports.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Schwagel 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:

- ▶ September 30, 2022 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- ▶ A list of new members was reviewed.
- ▶ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.

- ▶ Connor Bartz is now a licensed journeyman electrician in MN and SD.
- ▶ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the September 2022 Financial Report.

Schwagel gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ Discussed primary metering at the Veblen Substation.
- ▶ Tony Bruns is now a journeyman lineman.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility and construction progress.

Discussed long-term financing options and interest rates.

Approved a resolution to amend the 401K Plan.

Discussed the 2023 farmland lease.

Approved the Basin 2023 Load Forecast.

Discussed the proposed Basin Electric Bylaw Resolution.

Approved resolutions to authorize Schwagel, as interim general manager, to be the certifier for the cooperative with RUS.

Reviewed a draft of the 2023 Budget.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.

Meeting adjourned. ▶

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN  
 Vice-President: Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN  
 Secretary: Mark Pearson, Rosholt, SD  
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN  
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN  
 Terry Monson, Veblen, SD  
 Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD  
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN  
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN

## OFFICE PERSONNEL

Dale Schwagel – Interim General Manager  
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager  
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager  
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant  
 Susan Wilts – Billing Clerk

## OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman  
 Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Golden Helberg – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Tony Bruns – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker  
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician

## INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Dale Schwagel  
 Cell: 320-808-6176 | Direct: 320-563-1060  
 dschwagel@traverseelectric.com

## MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

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

## 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

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Dan Urban 605-222-0143  
 Marshall County Roberts County

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 P.O. Box 66  
 Wheaton, MN 56296 USA  
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 Local phone: (320) 563-8616

### Hours of Operation

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

Web site: [www.traverseelectric.com](http://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 October Financials

	Oct. 2021	Oct. 2022	YTD 2022
Total Revenue . . . . .	\$1,252,799.66 . . . . .	\$1,254,575.14 . . . . .	\$10,409,759.79
Cost of Power . . . . .	\$739,883.06 . . . . .	\$774,601.98 . . . . .	\$6,305,004.17
Total Cost of Service . . . . .	\$1,044,345.42 . . . . .	\$1,135,367.26 . . . . .	\$9,633,974.32
Operating Margins . . . . .	\$208,454.42 . . . . .	\$119,207.88 . . . . .	\$775,785.47
Total Margins . . . . .	\$206,016.02 . . . . .	\$133,385.04 . . . . .	\$877,304.06
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased . . . . .	13,392,825 . . . . .	13,202,065 . . . . .	112,263,850
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales . . . . .	12,714,829 . . . . .	12,610,265 . . . . .	107,135,160
Line Loss . . . . .	5% . . . . .	4% . . . . .	4%