

POWERLINE

A monthly newsletter for member-owners of Corn Belt Energy

January 2011



homeE ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM

PRODUCT TYPE	REQUIRED EFFICIENCY LEVEL	REBATE OFFERED
Geothermal closed loop, water-to-air	14.1 EER 3.3 COP	\$1,500
Geothermal closed loop, water-to-water	15.1 EER 3.0 COP	\$1,500
Air Source Heat Pump *	≥SEER 16	\$1,000
Central Air Conditioning *	≥SEER 16	\$350
Natural Gas or Propane Furnace *	AFUE ≥ 95%	\$350
Electric Heat Pump Water Heater	ENERGY STAR qualified	\$250
Insulation materials	N/A	30% of materials, up to \$500

Rebates Available to Corn Belt Homeowners

The homeE rebate program (*pronounced "home-E"*) has been designed to encourage electric cooperative members to become more energy efficient. Through home evaluations, Corn Belt Energy will provide energy efficiency recommendations and then offer rebates for specific improvements that can add up to big savings on members' energy bills.

Now in its second phase of funding, this program is managed through The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, which will be distributing nearly \$2.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds earmarked for energy efficient improvements to residences. This program will remain active until the funds allocated to 26 Illinois electric cooperatives, including Corn Belt Energy, are exhausted.

How it Works

Based upon a home energy evaluation, Corn Belt Energy residential members become eligible for a series of rebates for making energy efficiency improvements to their homes. If a member has an energy evaluation but does *not* act on a rebate, a \$25 fee will be charged to their account to cover expenses.

Eligibility

Homeowners who are Corn Belt Energy electric members are eligible to participate in the homeE program. The home must be served by Corn Belt Energy and must be the member's primary residence. New construction homes are not eligible.

Qualifying Rebates

To qualify for a rebate, Corn Belt Energy must complete a home energy evaluation *prior* to installation. The maximum HomeE rebate per household is \$1,500 with some restrictions.

These rebates may be combined with other federal and state rebates and incentives. *Rebates for heat pumps, air conditioners, and gas furnaces cannot be combined. The insulation rebate may be combined with any other item up to \$1,500 but a member may only receive one HVAC-related rebate.

Getting Started

To schedule a home energy evaluation, contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 800-879-0339 x235. Find more details about the homeE program online at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Member Services" and "Energy Efficient Programs."

education GRANTS program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2011 Education Grants Program. Four schools that serve children of Corn Belt electric members will each be awarded \$1,000 to fund innovative programs that enrich students' education.

Teachers and administrators of public or private K-12 schools may apply; the facility does not need to receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, but must serve children of our members. Multiple projects within the same school can be combined to a total of \$1,000. Applications and further details can be found online at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Community."

An impartial panel of judges will review the grant applications and preference will be given to projects and programs that enhance learning and are not currently being funded through the school's budget.

The application deadline is March 31 and the grants will be awarded in late spring.



Youth to Washington Tour

Your child or grandchild could go on the trip of a lifetime!

High school sophomores and juniors with a passion for leadership and government are encouraged to apply for an all-expenses-paid, week-long trip to Washington D.C. in June!

Parents and grandparents who are Corn Belt Energy members are welcome to nominate a child or grandchild to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Up to ten applicants will be selected by an impartial panel of judges to attend Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield on April 6. From that group, up to two students will be chosen to represent Corn Belt Energy by attending an all-expense-paid, week-long trip to Washington D.C. They'll join 1,500 other high school students from across the nation for

a fun-filled week in the capital from June 10-17, 2011.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been bringing high school students to Washington D.C. for over 50 years. On the tour, students will learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government and walk away with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. They participate in National Youth Day, visit with their representative and senators, and explore the sights around the nation's capital.

Applications can be found on our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Community." Applications must be sent by February 28.

How to save 10% or more on your heating costs

You can save around 10% on your heating bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10°–15° for eight hours a day. You can do this automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat.

Using a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating according to a pre-set schedule. As a result, you don't operate the equipment as much when you are asleep or when the house is unoccupied.

Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings that you can manually override without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program. When shopping for a programmable thermostat, be sure to look for the ENERGY STAR® label.

You can easily save energy in the winter by setting the thermostat to 68°F while you're awake and setting it lower while you're asleep or away from home. By turning your thermostat back 10°–15° for 8 hours, you can save about 5%–15% a year on your heating bill—a savings of as much as 1% for each degree if the setback period is eight hours long.

A common misconception associated with thermostats is that a furnace works harder than normal to warm the space back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, resulting in little or no savings. In fact, as soon as your house drops below its normal temperature, it will lose energy to the surrounding

environment more slowly. The lower the interior temperature, the slower the heat loss. So the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more energy you save, because your house has lost less energy than it would have at the higher temperature.

When programming your thermostat, consider when you normally go to sleep and wake up. If you prefer to sleep at a cooler temperature during the winter, you might want to start the temperature setback a bit ahead of the time you actually go to bed; you probably won't notice the house cooling off as you prepare for bed. Also consider the schedules of everyone in the household; is there a time during the day when the house is unoccupied for four hours or more? If so, it makes sense to adjust the temperature during those periods.

The location of your thermostat can affect its performance and efficiency. Read the manufacturer's installation instructions to prevent "ghost readings" or unnecessary furnace or air conditioner cycling. Place thermostats away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights, and windows. Also make sure your thermostat is conveniently located for programming.



Source: www.energystar.gov



Clothes Washer REBATES

Corn Belt members with electric water heaters may qualify for a \$50 rebate if they have purchased an ENERGY STAR clothes washer after April 15, 2010.

Call Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 800-879-0339 or find the rebate form online at www.cornbeltenergy.com > Programs & Services > Energy Efficiency Programs.

Water Heater REBATES

If you're purchasing a new electric water heater, Corn Belt can help defray the cost.

Buy an electric 40-gallon water heater and you'll receive a \$100 rebate; purchase a 50-gallon or larger unit and we'll give you a \$125 rebate. You can purchase your water heater from any retailer, and we encourage you to buy an energy efficient model with good insulation.

To claim your rebate check, send a copy of your receipt to:

Corn Belt Energy
Attn: Justin Stuva
1 Energy Way
Bloomington, IL 61705-6356

Make sure the receipt indicates the size of the water heater and include your Corn Belt account number.

Now Accepting Director Nominations

The terms of the following Corn Belt Energy Directors will expire at the June 24, 2011, Annual Meeting:

- Dennis Fredrickson, District 6
- Albert Hagenbuch, District 8
- Michael Killian, District 1
- Rae F. Payne, District 1
- Jerry Starkey, District 1

The Board of Directors will consider the appointment of the following persons to the Nominating Committee at its December 28 meeting. If you are interested in running for one of the Board's vacant seats, contact one of these persons or an existing Director with your credentials:

- Owen Arvin, 96 County Rd 1830 E, Carlock 61725
- Peter Borowski, 3017 Thornwood Lane, Bloomington 61704
- Gary Golden, 27143 US Hwy 150, Le Roy 61752

- Robert D. Haas, 3173 Hilltop Drive, Clinton 61727
- R.D. Henry, 315 County Road 2600 E., Hudson 61748
- Gene Hoffman, RR 4, Box 271S, Clinton 61727
- Brad Johnson, 1499 N 2550th Road, Ottawa 61350
- Terry Longman, 1478 County Road 2600 East, El Paso 61738
- Gary Moncelle, 20401 PJ Keller Highway, Lexington 61753
- Alan Peters, 3316 E. 3rd Road, LaSalle 61301
- John Pogge, 2704 Degarmo Drive, Bloomington 61704
- Charles Read, 17243 1600 East Street, Princeton, 61356
- Arlis Springer, 25349 Litwiller Road, Delavan 61734
- Kenneth West, 2244 Knox Road 2250 E., Victoria 61485

Nominating Committee Sets Meeting

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Corn Belt Energy office near Downs at 11 AM on Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

Any cooperative member who is interested in being nominated to the Board of Directors should contact a committee member prior to the meeting. The committee can nominate no more than two individuals for each expired Directorship (listed above).

As an alternative, any active cooperative member may also be nominated for election by petition. Any fifty active members of the Cooperative, by their petition, may propose the name of any qualified member as an additional nominee.

The nominated person must have active service in the Board district of the vacancy, and no other Directors can live in the same township. Petitions to nominate Directors must be filed at Corn Belt Energy's office no later than May 10, 2010.

The election to fill the Director seats will occur at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 24 at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 14 active members who represent the membership in the operation of the Cooperative. The detailed procedure for choosing a Director is stated in our corporation bylaws. Our bylaws and a district map can be found on our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "About Us."



Contact Us

800-879-0339

Call this number to report an outage and call from a phone associated with your account if possible.

MAIN OFFICE

1 Energy Way
Bloomington, IL 61705

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Monday - Friday

cbec@cornbeltenergy.com
www.cornbeltenergy.com



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 