

POWERLINE

A monthly newsletter for co-op members of Corn Belt Energy

January 2013

Celebrating a Legacy of Co-op Values

Corn Belt Energy proudly celebrates 75 years of serving co-op member-owners in 2013, and we'll feature chapters of our history throughout the year.



CHAPTER 1 - IN THE BEGINNING

Over 75 years ago, life was very different for people who lived in rural America. While 90% of townfolk had electricity, only 10% of rural citizens were fortunate enough to have access to it; electric companies didn't see the return on investment for building miles of power lines that would only serve a few farms. And even if they did build lines out to farms, utility companies assumed most farmers wouldn't be able to afford electricity anyway. So as people in town enjoyed the benefits of electric lighting, convenient appliances, refrigeration and indoor plumbing, farm folk continued with life as they had always known it... without the modern conveniences of electric power.

But as the nation was reeling from the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl in the 1930's, rural electrification would become a very bright spot in an otherwise hopeless era for rural Americans. Rural electrification was based on the belief that affordable electricity would improve the standard of living and the economic competitiveness of the family farm.

As part of the New Deal initiatives, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037 in 1935, establishing the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) which would allow federal funding for rural electrification. In

1936, Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act into law, providing official status to the REA as a lending agency for electric cooperatives. With financing ready to go, REA representatives visited rural communities across the landscape to help people band together to bring much-needed electricity to their lives.

By 1938, rural areas in Central Illinois and elsewhere were still dark. That's when a group of local rural leaders organized a meeting in rural El Paso in Woodford County. At that meeting, leaders from three counties decided to organize a rural electric cooperative and they set a September 22 organizational meeting in Bloomington. "We knew we had to take the initiative ourselves. We couldn't count on a power company doing the job for us," recalled Ivan Snow of El Paso.

Stay tuned... the Corn Belt story continues next month!

Rural electrification was key to improving the quality of life for millions of Americans.



Before electricity, "wash day" was back-breaking work for women in rural America. Literally taking all day, water had to be hand-pumped then heated by wood or coal stove (or outdoor fire). Clothes were hand washed, rung out, and pinned on the clothesline for drying. After that, clothes had to be ironed with heavy "sad irons" that were heated on the stove.

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 us, making sure the receipt indicates the size of the water heater. Include your Corn Belt account number and send to:

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

NOTE: To receive a water heater rebate, co-op members must also agree to allow Corn Belt to place a load management switch on the water heater (at no cost), which is eligible for bill credits of \$4.50/month for June - September bills. The load management switch will turn your water heater off periodically during peak load times during the summer, typically in the late afternoon on very hot days. This load management switch minimally affects your hot water while allowing the cooperative to reduce electric load during peak usage times which saves money by avoiding peak power charges from our power supplier.

Outage Map

Visit www.cornbeltenergy.com from your computer or mobile device to view a live outage map of Corn Belt's service territory. To protect the privacy of our co-op members, outages are displayed by county or zip code only.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES RETURN!

In 2011, the electric cooperatives of Illinois received \$2.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's State Energy Plan. Those funds were distributed as rebates to co-op member-owners for energy efficiency projects. Corn Belt was able to process over \$300,000 in rebates to nearly 450 co-op members in 2011.

The "homeE" (pronounced "home-e") energy efficiency rebate program was so successful that it's back for a second time, but on a more limited basis. "homeE lite" rebates are available until June of this year or until funding runs out.

These rebates, in addition to the federal income tax credits that are available for some of the projects, make this a great time for energy efficient improvements.

As before, a walk-through audit will be required before a rebate can be issued. New this time around, three of the rebates will be available to new construction homes, not just for retrofit or replacement circumstances. For more information, contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 309-664-9235 or email justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com.

Pay by Text

Corn Belt co-op members can now opt to pay their bills via text! To register your cell phone and payment information, go to our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com and click the link under "Latest News." Questions? Call us during business hours at 1-800-879-0339 and we'll walk you through the process!



AVAILABLE REBATES:

- **GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM***
\$1,500 rebate
- **AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP***
(16 SEER or higher) \$1,000 rebate
- **INSULATION AND WEATHERIZATION**
Rebate for 50% of total project cost, up to \$1,000
- **HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER***
\$250 rebate
- **ENERGY AUDIT (by BPI certified auditor)** Rebate up to \$300
- **COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS**
\$500 rebate per ton of capacity (up to a maximum of \$10,000) for geothermal and air source heat pumps

* Rebates available for new construction as well as retrofit

Prescription Discounts



Use your free Co-op Connections card to save 10%-60% on prescriptions not covered by insurance at participating

pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more! Simply present your card with your prescription at any participating pharmacy and pay the discounted price; no additional forms or paperwork are needed. Visit www.connections.coop to search for participating pharmacies. Need a card? Call us at 1-800-879-0339.

education GRANTS program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2013 Education Grants Program. To celebrate our 75th anniversary, *five* schools that serve children of Corn Belt electric members will each be awarded \$1,500 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 \$1,500. 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 29 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 trip to Washington D.C. in June!

Corn Belt Energy cooperative members (*anyone who currently receives electricity from Corn Belt Energy*) 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 Illinois Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield on April 17, 2013.

From that group, two students will be chosen to represent Corn Belt Energy by attending the Youth to Washington Tour, an all-expense-paid trip to

Washington D.C. from June 14 - 21, with other statewide winners.

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 representatives 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 received by March 1.



Contact Us

1-800-879-0339

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

LOCATION

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 

Now Accepting Director Nominations

The terms of the following Corn Belt Energy Directors will expire at the 2013 Annual Meeting on June 21:

- Rob Angus, District 9
- Laverne Malone, District 5
- Steve Schertz, District 3
- Ralph Steiger, District 2
- Bob Whitwood, District 1

The Board of Directors has appointed the following persons to the Nominating Committee. 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 by January 16:

- 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, 12202 Middle Creek Road, Clinton 61727
- Brad Johnson, 1499 N 2550th Road, Ottawa 61350
- Kim Kannaday, 2106 Longwood Lane, Bloomington 61704
- Terry Longman, 1478 County Road 2600 East, El Paso 61738
- Alan Peters, 3316 E. 3rd Road, LaSalle 61301
- 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 for 1/16

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Corn Belt Energy office near Downs at 11 AM on Wednesday, January 16, 2013.

Any cooperative member who is interested in being nominated to the Board of Directors should contact a committee member (*listed above*) prior to the meeting. The committee can nominate no more than two individuals for each expired Directorship (*also 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 April 23, 2013. The election to fill the Director seats will occur at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Friday, June 21, 2013 at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 13 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, which can be found at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "About Us."