

POWERLINE

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

January 2014

Your Co-op Now Offers Energy Audits

Are you experiencing high utility bills or uncomfortable areas within your home? Or maybe you live in an older home and want to know what fixes you can make to improve energy efficiency and save on your energy costs. Corn Belt Energy is here to help you identify energy efficiency concerns and we'll offer unbiased advice on how to fix them.

To kick-off our new service of providing home energy audits to co-op members, Corn Belt is offering a discounted rate for energy audits scheduled in January.

We're offering a home energy audit (including a blower door test and infrared thermal imaging) at a reduced rate of \$150 (normally \$300).

To lock in the discounted rate, contact our Energy Advisor, Justin Stuva, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email him at justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com during January to schedule your energy audit. A typical home energy audit can take 2-4 hours depending on the member's concerns, and the homeowner must be present during the audit.

Not in the market for an energy audit? Co-op members can now track their hourly electric use through their new SmartHub online account. Once you've successfully logged in, you can track your use down to the hour, see how average daily temperatures affect your heating costs, and compare monthly usage data so you can make informed energy choices. Go to cornbeltenergy.com and click on "Account Log-in" at the top of the webpage to get started.

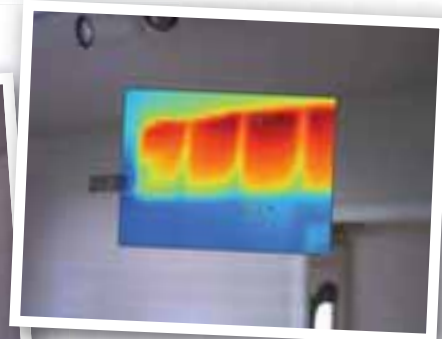
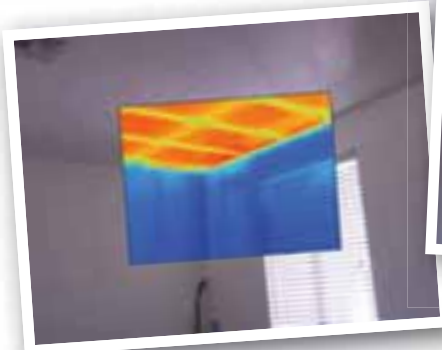
Photos at right: Thermal imaging can reveal possible insulation and air infiltration issues in your home.

**Save
50%**

for a limited time



Energy Advisor Justin Stuva checks for potential gas leaks (above) and runs diagnostics on a blower door test (left) during a recent home energy audit.



Nicor Gas Customers: You have a choice!

Winter is in full swing, but it's not too late to think about your natural gas heating costs. If you're a Nicor Gas customer, you can choose who supplies your gas through their Customer Select program.

Nicor will continue to *deliver* your gas, but you can select Corn Belt Energy to *supply* your natural gas. We offer two competitive variable therm rates and convenient billing options. There are no monthly fees or termination fees and no equipment to install. The Corn Belt Energy supplier cost will be conveniently included on your Nicor Gas statement, so you only receive and pay one bill.

Enroll by January 31 and we'll send you a \$20 check after your first bill! Use promo code WINTER during the online enrollment process.



GREAT RATES • NO FEES • LOCAL SERVICE

Current Rates per Therm:

44¢
Market Advantage Plan

45¢
Winter Protection Plan

Market Advantage Plan

By selecting this plan, your natural gas therm cost will fluctuate according to current market conditions. You will benefit from this plan if it's a mild winter and market prices remain stable or decline.

Winter Protection Plan

With this plan, the goal is to protect you from the volatility of the winter market. You'll benefit from this plan if it's an extremely cold winter causing higher market prices.

\$20 Switch now and get \$20!
www.countoncornbelt.com

Connect with your Co-op

Keep in touch with Corn Belt throughout the year for safety information, energy efficiency tips, outage updates and more. If you have a Quick Response Code app on your smartphone, simply scan these QR codes to connect with us online.



Watch us on YouTube
[/CornBeltEnergy](https://www.youtube.com/CornBeltEnergy)



Find us on Facebook
[/CornBeltEnergy](https://www.facebook.com/CornBeltEnergy)



Follow us on Twitter
[@CornBeltEnergy](https://twitter.com/CornBeltEnergy)

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.



education GRANTS program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2014 Education Grants Program. 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 families within our footprint in Central Illinois. 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 31 and the grants will be awarded in late April/early May.



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!

Those who currently receive electricity from Corn Belt are welcome to nominate a child or grandchild to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Up to 10 applicants will be selected by an impartial panel of judges to attend Illinois Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield on April 2.

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 13-20 with other statewide and national 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. 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 February 28.



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 2014 Annual Meeting on June 20:

- Dennis Fredrickson, District 6
- Albert Hagenbuch, District 8
- Rae Payne, District 1
- Jerry Starkey, 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 14:

- 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

- Tom Guth, 23511 Ron Smith Highway, Hudson 61748
- Robert D. Haas, 3173 Hilltop Drive, Clinton 61727
- 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 January 14

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Corn Belt Energy office near Downs at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

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 22, 2014. The election to fill the Director seats will occur at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Friday, June 20, 2014, 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 cooperative bylaws, which can be found at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "About Us."