

POWERLINE

A monthly newsletter for member-owners of Corn Belt Energy

February 2011

Help us Return Money to Former Members

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, Corn Belt Energy periodically returns equity to our members in the form of capital credits.

In the summer of 2010, Corn Belt's Board of Directors announced a \$4.1 million retirement of capital credits

for those who were members of the cooperative during 2009 and for those who were members at any time from 1963 - 1971 in our central region (*Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Livingston, Logan, Macon, McLean, Piatt, Tazewell and Woodford counties*) and those who were members of

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative (IVEC) from 1955 - 1961 in Corn Belt Energy's current northern region (*Bureau, Henry, Kendall, Knox, La Salle, Marshall, Putnam and Stark counties*).

To date, over \$3 million of the \$4.1 million retirement in 2010 has been disbursed, but we need the public's help in returning the remaining \$1 million. Sometimes members move out of our service area and forwarding addresses aren't updated. Without a

current address on file, many capital credit refund checks are undeliverable and we then consider the funds "unclaimed."

We've created a searchable database on our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com which lists former members who have unclaimed capital credits waiting for them. We invite the public to search our database to see if they or someone they know is listed. If we are able to track down the current address of a former member or locate an heir, we can then reissue the check and mail it out.

If you are unable to go online to search our database, please call us at 1-800-879-0339 to check if you or someone you know might be listed.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us locate former members so they can receive their capital credits refunds.

**Visit us online at
www.cornbeltenergy.com
and search our unclaimed
capital credits database.**



Resources for Geothermal Heating and Cooling



Valuable SAVINGS

Use your free Co-op Connections card for valuable savings at over 185 local businesses!

Need a card?

Call us at 1-800-879-0339 and we'll mail you a new one. Check out these new offers:

Carl's Ice Cream

Buy one soft-serve sundae, get one of equal or lesser value free!

www.carlsicecream.com

1700 W. College Ave., Normal
601 W. Locust, Bloomington
(Blm location closed during winter)

Midwest Equipment

Save \$200 on an installed Generac automatic standby generator.

www.midwestequip.com

309-454-6800
2150 W. College Ave., Normal

If you're replacing an old HVAC system or building a new home, you should consider installing a geothermal heating and cooling system. A single piece of equipment has the ability to heat and cool your home quietly, while also providing some or all of your hot water.

While there is a higher installation cost compared to a traditional HVAC system, you'll see immediate savings on your heating and cooling bills, by as much as 30% to 70%!

Geothermal systems use the relatively constant temperature

of the earth to heat and cool businesses with 40% to 70% less energy than conventional systems. While outdoor air temperatures fluctuate greatly throughout the seasons, ground temperatures about 4 to 6 feet below the earth's surface remain fairly consistent year-round. Taking advantage of the constant underground temperature, a geothermal system circulates a water-based solution to transfer heat energy through a buried loop system.

To learn more about geothermal systems, visit www.gaoi.org, the official website of the Geothermal

Alliance of Illinois. On the site you can search for local geothermal dealers, see which tax incentives might be available to you and more.

Corn Belt Energy homes that use geothermal systems also qualify for our Electric Heat Rate of 4.45 cents/kWh. Contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 for more information.



Outage Report

Monthly outage reports are available online at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Outages." To request a printed copy, simply call us and we'll mail or fax it to you.

Correction

In our January newsletter, the date for our 2011 Annual Meeting of Members was incorrect; it should have read *Friday, June 24, 2011.*

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.

Rebates Available to Corn Belt Homeowners



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

The homE 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.

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.

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

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.

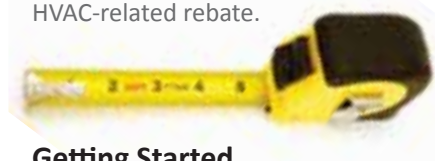
Eligibility

Homeowners who are Corn Belt Energy electric members are eligible to participate in the homE 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 HomE 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 homE program online at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Member Services" and "Energy Efficient Programs."