

POWERLINE

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

February 2012

Home Heating Tips

Heating your home uses a lot of energy, so making a few changes can add up to noticeable savings on your energy bills. Your electric cooperative is here to help with these money-saving tips:

Take advantage of the sun's radiant heat energy and open your blinds and shades during sunny days. Let your home make use of those rays!

Program or adjust your thermostat to no higher than 68 degrees during the winter months for maximum cost savings. And make sure to turn down the temperature a few more degrees when you're sleeping and when you leave the house.

Hot air travels upward. If you have high ceilings, use your ceiling fans on a low, clockwise setting to circulate that heat back down.

Close the heat registers and doors of unoccupied rooms during the winter months.

Make sure to close your fireplace damper when not in use; you don't want your warm air leaking out through the chimney!

Check around your windows and doors for drafts. A tube of caulk and some weather stripping can go a long way to seal your home from blustery winds.



Heating your home can account for over 50% of your energy use in the winter.

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Have questions about your energy use?

Contact Corn Belt's Energy Advisor, Justin Stuva, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email him at: justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com

The Cold, Hard Truth about Space Heaters

Each winter, we receive a lot of calls asking about space heaters. If properly used, they *can* keep your heating costs down. You can save significantly if you use space heaters this way: turn the thermostat down considerably, then place the space heater in a room occupied by your family and close off the rest of the home. Space heaters are intended for zone heating, which may be impractical for most households; they're not meant to replace your whole-house heating system.

Only use a space heater when you are in the room with it; never leave a space heater on with unsupervised children or pets or when you are sleeping.

Don't be fooled by the misleading claims of some brands. All 1,500 watt space heaters use the same amount of electricity.



Connect with Your Co-op: JOIN US ONLINE!

Facebook

www.facebook.com/cornbeltenergy



Follow us on Facebook to keep up with what's happening at Corn Belt! Don't worry; if you "like" us, we can't view your profile info, so your personal life is still personal!

LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/company/corn-belt-energy-corporation



If you're networking with colleagues on LinkedIn, make sure to find "Corn Belt Energy Corporation" for company updates.

Twitter

twitter.com/cornbeltenergy



If you've got a Twitter account or just want to subscribe to our RSS Twitter feed, check out our official Twitter page.

YouTube

www.youtube.com/CornBeltEnergy



YouTube's not just for keyboard cats and skateboarding dogs! Check out Corn Belt's customized YouTube channel for videos on energy efficiency, learn how a cooperative works and more!

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

New Energy Efficiency Videos

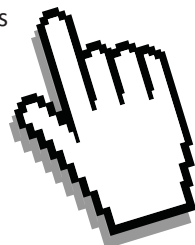
Utilizing marketing funds from our power supplier, Corn Belt Energy has created a series of energy efficiency videos designed to help our cooperative members make little changes around the house that can add up to big savings.

"The series is called 'emPOWER' with the goal of helping our co-op members use energy wisely," says Erin Campbell, Communications

Coordinator at Corn Belt. Each video is two minutes or shorter, and features Campbell and Energy Advisor Justin Stuva showing viewers how to find actionable, easy ways to reduce their energy bills.

A total of six videos were produced, and they have been uploaded onto Corn Belt's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/CornBeltEnergy. Video titles include:

- Winter Preparedness Tips
- Winter Heating Tips
- Save Energy in the Laundry Room
- Save Energy in the Kitchen
- What are Phantom Loads?
- Lighting Facts



Electric Heat Rate

If your home utilizes an electric heat source - including geothermal - you can take advantage of Corn Belt's Electric Heat Rate of 4.45 cents/ kWh (plus any additional current cost of power as indicated by the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment on your monthly statement).

All electric heat is sub-metered through equipment supplied by Corn Belt Energy and the Electric Heat Rate is applied to your sub-metered usage from Oct. 1 through April 30. This rate is applicable when at least 50% of the square footage of a home is heated electrically from a hardwired 240 volt electric heat source.

To see if you're already receiving this rate, check for a Rate 10 or Rate 19 line item charge on your monthly statement. For more information, call Justin Stuva at 1-800-879-0339 x235.

education GRANTS program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2012 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 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 Wednesday, March 28, 2012.

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 15 - 22, 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, U.S. government and history 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 received by February 17.**



Corn Belt Accepting Board Nominations



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 

The Nominating Committee met recently on January 30 to review potential candidates to Corn Belt Energy's Board of Directors. The terms of the following Directors will expire at the 2012 Annual Meeting on June 22:

- James E. Adams – District 1
- Janice Reimer – District 1
- Charles Meisenheimer – District 7
- Gary Archey – District 4

The committee can nominate no more than two individuals for each expired Directorship. 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, 2012.

The election to fill the Director seats will occur at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2012, at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington. The detailed procedure for choosing a Director is stated in our cooperative bylaws, which can be found at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "About Us."

Thank you to the following cooperative members for serving on the 2012 Nominating Committee:

- 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, 1202 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
- Gary Moncelle, 20401 PJ Keller Highway, Lexington 61753
- 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

THE KING OF CAULK & TALK

Get valuable home efficiency advice from nationally renown architect and home energy expert, Doug Rye. Tune in for an hour of energy saving ideas every Saturday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the Bloomington-Normal area.

