

# POWERLINE

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

February 2013



## The Rural Electrification Story...

*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 was presented in last month's member newsletter.*

The Farm Bureau provided temporary office space for headquarters and meetings. 150 men and women began visiting fifty townships to kick-start the sign-up process. It wasn't a hard sell; the rural people understood the value and benefits of electricity and gladly paid the \$5 membership fee. Within a mere six weeks, 2,400 members were on board, resulting in one of the quickest and most thorough co-op sign-ups on record.

### CHAPTER 2 - THE RACE IS ON!

With assistance from Farm Bureau leaders and farm advisors, rural electrification planning began in the fall of 1938. The following rural leaders were selected to serve as the cooperative's incorporators:

*Front row:*

Forrest Lemons, Congerville  
Ruth Otto, Bloomington  
Walter Risser, Danvers  
Ethel Moon, Towanda  
W.B. Ellis, Downs

*Back row:*

Ivan Snow, El Paso  
M.J. Cleary Jr., Gridley  
Harry Miller, Saybrook  
Homer Jeckel, Delavan



at Kappa substation, turning on the lights to 101 farms just 11 months after that first co-op meeting.

*Stay tuned! The story continues next month...*

*One of Corn Belt's early substations*

Incorporator W.B. Ellis is credited with suggesting the new co-op name: Corn Belt Energy Cooperative. At the September 22 meeting at Bloomington High School, the local leaders were joined by Charles Falkenwald, one of the Rural Electrification Administration's main leaders, described as "the sparkplug for rural electrification." More than 1,000 farmers and families attended the meeting. Falkenwald told the group that the REA would reserve \$1 million for the project if the sign-up was completed in 45 days. The drive for members was on!



# education GRANTS program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2013 Education Grants Program. To celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) under "Community." Applications must be received by March 1.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES



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.

The "homE" (pronounced "home-e") energy efficiency rebate program was so successful that it's back for a second time, but on a more limited basis. "homE 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 it 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](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com).

## 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*

## MONITOR YOUR USAGE

Corn Belt Energy has several Kill A Watt™ usage monitors available for our members to purchase. Learn which appliances are costing you the most and identify those energy hogs.

To use, simply plug the Kill A Watt unit into an outlet and plug your appliance or electronics device into the monitor. The large LCD display will track the device's consumption by kilowatt-hour and you can calculate your electrical expenses by the day, week, month or annually.



Purchase a Kill A Watt monitor for \$25 (plus \$5 shipping) by contacting Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email [justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com).

## 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 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 contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email [justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com).

## SECURITY LIGHTS

Winter might be a good time to consider a security yard light, available to our members for a low monthly rate. The price includes maintenance and electricity for an automatic dusk-to-dawn 100-watt sodium vapor light.

Corn Belt can install these lights for members in an overhead area on a Corn Belt-owned pole where there is currently a service. There is no installation fee, but we do require that you keep the light for at least twelve months.

Contact our Engineering Department at 1-800-879-0339 for more details.





## 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 

## CAN WE HAVE YOUR NUMBER?

In order for our automated outage reporting system to work efficiently, we need to have your current phone number(s) on file. When you call in to report an outage, our automated system takes the phone number you are calling from and checks it against phone numbers we have on file in our account management system. If your number is on file, it makes outage reporting faster and more efficient.

Check your most recent bill stub to see if we have your current phone number(s) on file.

To update your phone number(s), simply call us at 1-800-879-0339, email us at [cbec@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com), or correct the info on your next bill stub. We can record up to three numbers to associate with your account, including cell phones.

## THE KING OF CAULK & TALK

Get valuable home efficiency advice from nationally renowned 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.



## Connect with your Co-op!

Keep in touch with your electric cooperative 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.



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