

POWERLINE

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

February 2015

NEW REBATE PROGRAM! Upgrade your lighting today

Making your home more energy efficient can help to reduce high energy bills, improve comfort and help to protect the environment. One of the ways that you can do this is by upgrading to energy efficient lighting.

There are lots of reasons to make the switch to compact fluorescent light (CFL) or Light-Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs —like the amount of money that just one bulb saves in energy costs over its lifetime. It takes about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs, or eight to ten CFLs, to last as long as one LED. For example, traditional incandescent bulbs have a typical lifetime of 1 year, CFL bulbs have a typical lifetime of 10 years, and LEDs have a lifetime ranging from 15-25 years.


CFLs and LEDs use much less energy than the traditional incandescent bulbs, which helps you recoup your money very quickly. For example, the 10W LED bulb and a 13W CFL will produce approximately the same amount of lumens as a traditional 60W bulb saving you energy when using the LED or CFL bulb instead of the traditional incandescent bulb. *(For more information on how different light bulbs compare, refer to page 9.)*

CFL and LED bulbs do cost a little more up front, but with their long life and energy savings, the true value lies in the lifetime of the bulb. In addition, CFL and LED bulbs are readily available and you can buy them at just about any store where home goods are sold.

In order to help offset the initial outlay for CFL and LED bulbs, Corn Belt Energy is excited to announce a new rebate program to add additional incentives for you to switch to CFL or LEDs.



Below are the guidelines of the rebate program.

- Only ENERGY STAR listed CFL and LED bulbs qualify for the rebate. Look for the U.S. Department of Energy's blue ENERGY STAR logo for guaranteed color quality over time, steady light output over the lifetime, high efficiency, and a warranty. 
- Rebate amounts are as follows:
 - CFL: Up to \$1.50/bulb or the purchase price of the bulb whichever amount is less.
 - LED: Up to \$7.50/bulb or the purchase price of the bulb whichever amount is less.
- All CFL purchases in 2015 qualify. Only LED purchases after January 15, 2015 qualify.
- Limited to 25 bulbs per member per year.

For more information go to www.cornbeltenergy.com or contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 800-879-0339 x235.



education GRANTS program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2015 Education Grants Program. Five schools that serve children of Corn Belt electric members will each be awarded a \$1,500 grant and one school will be awarded the \$2,000 Jeff Reeves Memorial Education Grant 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 the awarded grant amount. 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, 2015, 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 March 25.

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 12-19

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 27.

Connect with your co-op

Keep in touch with Corn Belt throughout the year for safety information, energy efficiency tips, outage updates and more.

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



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



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





What to do when there is a power outage

Power outages can be caused by many things; ice accumulation weighs down power lines, tree limbs break off into the lines, an animal gets too close to a warm transformer, or maybe a vehicle hits a utility pole. Here are some steps to take if you experience an outage:

Step 1: Make sure the outage is on our end; check your fuses and breakers and see if your neighbors have lights.

Step 2: Report your outage by calling our automated outage reporting system at 1-800-879-0339. You can also report your outage from your mobile device through our free SmartHub app. These two reporting mechanisms tie directly into our outage management system (OMS) for efficient and cost-effective reporting. Some members are concerned when they call in and don't speak to a live person; if the automated phone system tells you that we've recorded your outage, our dispatch center has been immediately notified through the OMS.

To make the outage process even more efficient, make sure we have your current phone number(s) associated with your account. When you call in to report an outage, our automated system takes the phone

number you are calling from and checks it against the phone numbers we have on file in our account management system. Check your latest bill stub or log in to your online SmartHub account to see which number(s) are currently linked to your account. To update your phone number(s), simply call us at 1-800-879-0339 or email us at cbec@cornbeltenergy.com, or correct the information on your next bill stub. Don't worry - we won't sell or share your contact information with anyone else.

Please do not report your outage to us via Facebook or Twitter as these outlets are not manned 24/7 and are not directly linked to our OMS.

Step 3: Be patient. As our outage management system is predicting the extent of the outage, our dispatch center assigns crews to investigate the issue and make necessary repairs. If your outage occurs after business hours, keep in mind that often times linemen need to stop what they're doing and grab necessary gear and supplies before heading out to the outage location to restore power, usually in adverse weather conditions. A little bit of patience goes a long way as our linemen work as quickly and as safely as possible.

Step 4: Check our website, Facebook account or Twitter account for updates on major outages. We usually post status updates for larger outage events (those affecting 250 co-op members or more). View a live outage map at cornbeltenergy.com to check the extent of the outage. If you don't have internet access, we also post status updates on our main phone greeting at 1-800-879-0339 during major outages.

If you experience a power outage, rest assured that we're doing everything in our power to restore yours as quickly as possible. Our co-op member-owners are our ONLY priority; that's the cooperative difference.

.....



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.





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 

When temperatures drop, energy costs rise

You don't need to be a meteorologist to know that winter can be blustery and fierce. This winter sub-zero temperatures and wind chills have become the norm. Many of us will feel an extra chill when we receive our winter energy bills since most of a home's energy use is related to heating during the winter.

The extremely cold weather means our heating systems have been running a lot harder to keep us warm. Chances are you've been stuck at home more often than usual, too. Staying home using lights, TV's, and appliances will also add to your electric bill.

To view your own electric usage compared to previous months, log in to your SmartHub account at cornbeltenergy.com. You can also overlay temperature data with your usage to see how the weather plays a significant role in your energy use.



<< To access SmartHub from your desktop, simply click "Account Log-in" at cornbeltenergy.com and log in with your email address and password.

Recycle your old refrigerator

Corn Belt announces a new fridge recycling program aimed at removing old, inefficient refrigerators and encouraging the use of energy efficient models. Not only will your old fridge be hauled away and recycled, but you will also receive \$35!

To schedule your free pick-up through our vendor, call 877-395-5535 or visit www.powermoves.com/haulfree. This energy efficiency incentive is available to Corn Belt Energy co-op members through our power supplier's Power Moves® program. Our appliance vendor will recycle more than 95% of the materials from your old appliance and dispose of any hazardous materials according to EPA guidelines.

Before you schedule your free fridge pick-up, please read these requirements:

- Refrigerators and freezers must be clean, empty, defrosted, and in working condition. Each unit must measure between 10-30 cubic feet in size, using inside measurements.
- The pick-up address must be a residence served electrically by Corn Belt Energy.
- Limit two units per residential address per calendar year.
- A \$35 check will be mailed to participants within 6-8 weeks after the appliance collection.

