

# POWERLINE

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

March 2012

## More Convenient Options



Paying bills can be a hassle; that's why we offer several convenient ways for our co-op members to make payments each month:

- **NEW:** Pay in person at twenty-five pay stations, starting March 1<sup>st</sup>. Go to [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) to view a map of walk-in locations where you can make payments by check or cash. There is a \$1.25 convenience fee for this service.
- Pay your bill online 24/7 through our account access portal. We'll give you \$10 for opting to receive electronic statements and get another \$10 if you set up automatic payments!
- Drop off your payment at our office or use our drop box after-hours for non-cash payments (*located on the northeast side of our office*). Payments deposited into our drop box will be collected by the next business day.
- Make a payment over the phone by calling a Corn Belt member account representative at 1-800-879-0339 during normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Mail your payment to our processing center:  
Corn Belt Energy  
P.O. Box 2571  
Decatur, IL 62525-2571

Corn Belt Energy cooperative member-owners can now walk in to these local businesses and pay their electric bills with cash or check. A convenience fee of \$1.25 will be applied to walk-in payments at these locations:

- BLOOMINGTON** Bloomington All Mart, 1804 S. Hershey Rd.  
Bloomington Food Mart, 807 S. Main St.  
D and G Coins and Sports Cards, 1511 Morrissey Dr.  
Market Street CX, 1401 W. Market
- CLINTON** Clinton IGA, 220 E. VanBuren St.
- DECATUR** 1st Currency Exchange, 855 N. Fairview  
Cub Foods, 1450 E. Pershing Rd.  
Hourans on the Corner Flowers, 1106 W. Pershing Rd.
- EAST PEORIA** Couri License Service, 1300 E. Washington St.  
General Store Bayview, 1520 Spring Bay Rd.
- GALESBURG** Hi-Lo Galesburg, 931 S. Seminary St.  
Hy-Vee, 2030 E. Main St.  
Hy-Vee, 1975 National Blvd.  
Midwest Bank of Western Illinois, 2558 N. Seminary St.
- GIBSON CITY** County Market, 415 E. 1st St.  
Hood's Ace Hardware, 119 N. Sangamon Ave.
- GRANVILLE** Corner Store, 202 S. McCoy St.
- HEYWORTH** First State Bank of Heyworth, 117 E. Main St.
- KEWANEE** Peoples National Bank, 207 N. Tremont St.
- LACON** Jim's IGA, 202 N. Washington
- LINCOLN** Lincoln IGA, 713 Pulaski
- OTTAWA** Ottawa Main Street CX, 424 W. Main St.
- PEKIN** County Market, 2111 Court St.  
Schnucks, 1001 Court St.
- PERU** Hy-Vee, 1651 Midtown Rd.

## 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

## 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.



"Home Remedies"  
Saturdays 9-10 AM

## ELECTROCUTION HAZARDS ON THE FARM

Every year, dozens of farm workers in the United States are killed by electrocution.

Portable grain augers, oversized wagons, large combines and other tall or cumbersome equipment can easily contact overhead power lines. The result is electrocution of anyone on the equipment.

Follow these safety tips during the planting season:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- Keep all objects at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Know where all overhead power lines are located on your property and inform all workers about them.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Plan your route between fields, to bins and elevators, and on public roads so that you avoid low-hanging power lines.
- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line.
- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- If equipment gets hung up on a power line, the operator should NOT get off the machinery unless in immediate danger. If the operator touches the ground and the equipment at the same time, he or she will become a channel for electricity.
- If you must leave the equipment, jump as far away from the machinery as possible. Never get back on machinery that touches a power line until the utility company disconnects the line.
- Be sure you and everyone else in your operation knows what to do in an emergency.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.



*This information has been provided by Safe Electricity. Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy Education Council, a registered 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, and operated from within the University of Illinois Extension. The Council's mission is educational. For more information, visit their website at [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).*

# New Energy Efficiency Videos

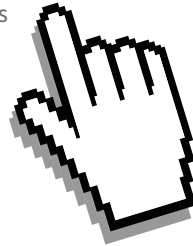
Utilizing marketing funds from our power supplier, Corn Belt Energy has created a series of energy efficiency videos designed to help our cooperative members make little changes around the house that can add up to big savings.

“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](http://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



## 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](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 31 and the grants will be awarded in late spring.

# CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/cornbeltenergy](http://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!

### Twitter

[twitter.com/cornbeltenergy](http://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](http://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!

### LinkedIn

[www.linkedin.com/company/corn-belt-energy-corporation](http://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.

# look up as you head outdoors



## 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](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com)  
[www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com)

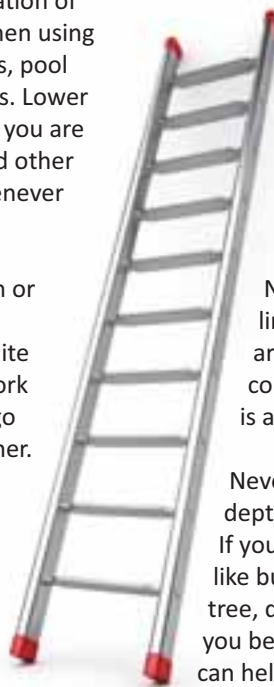


Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower your long equipment when you are moving it. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.

Be careful when working on or around your roof, installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes, doing roof repair work or cleaning gutters. Never go up on the roof in bad weather.

Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines.



Never trim trees near power lines – leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.

Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, dial 811 to call JULIE before you begin. This service is free and can help you avoid serious injury.

## 2012 B-N Home Show

Come out and see us at the 2012 Bloomington-Normal Home Show from March 9 - 11 at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum. We'll provide free literature on money-saving programs and energy efficiency tips for your home. Corn Belt employees will be on hand to answer your questions.



## Prescription Discounts

Use your free Co-op Connections card to save 10% to 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](http://www.connections.coop) to search for participating pharmacies. Need a card? Call us at 1-800-879-0339.

## Outage Reports

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