

POWERLINE

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

March 2013

Local Business Receives Grant

A GeoAlliance grant in the amount of \$45,767 was recently presented to Meadows Mennonite Retirement Community to help offset the installation cost of a geothermal heating and cooling system in their new Mercy Creek facility located in northeast Normal. The grant program is funded by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) and administered by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Corn Belt Energy assisted in the grant application process.

Robert Bertsche, President and CEO of Meadows Mennonite Retirement Community, said he was pleased that the facility was awarded the GeoAlliance grant, which enabled it to install a “green” heating and cooling system that minimizes electric costs.

The purpose of the grant program is to encourage the use of clean and efficient geothermal systems to heat and cool not-for-profit and public facilities that receive electric service from Illinois electric cooperatives. The grants are awarded for one-third of the incremental difference between the cost of a traditional fossil heating and cooling system and a geothermal heating and cooling system, up to \$50,000 per installation.

Geothermal heat pump systems use the earth’s natural energy and constant temperature below ground for efficient and inexpensive operating costs. During cooling months, heat and humidity from inside a building is transferred into the earth through tubing in the ground. During the heating months the process is reversed. There is no combustion with a geothermal heating system, but a modest amount of electricity is used to operate the circulating pumps, fans, controls and compressor, which along with the heat exchangers are the major components of the geothermal heat pump.

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation invests in clean energy development and land preservation efforts throughout Illinois. Facilities not serviced by electric cooperatives can apply directly to ICECF for geothermal system funding. Information on the foundation’s other grant programs can be found online at www.illinoiscleanenergy.org.

GeoAlliance grant funding will be available until June 30, 2013, or until the funding has been depleted prior to that date. For more information about the GeoAlliance grant program, contact Nancy McDonald at (217) 241-7954 or via email at nmcdonald@aiec.coop. A list of application criteria and a downloadable grant application can be found online at www.aiec.coop.



Robert Bertsche, MMRC CEO; Kevin McCarthy, Normal Town Council member; Paul Watkins, MMRC Board Member; Roger Hasler, MMRC CFO; John McDonald, MMRC Board Chairperson; Nancy Rhoads McDonald, AIEC Marketing Administrator; Don Taylor, VP of Utility Services, Corn Belt Energy; Tim Boisseau, MMRC Administrator; Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, Corn Belt Energy; State Representative Dan Brady; and Jill Weathers, Staff Member of State Senator Jason Barickman.

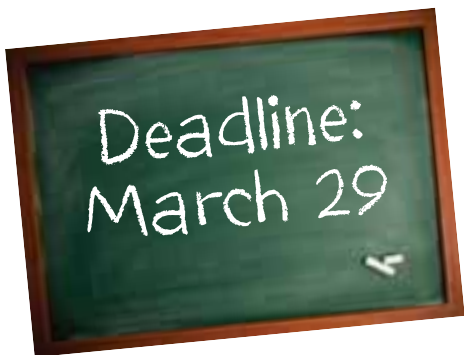
education GRANTS program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2013 Education Grants Program. To celebrate our 75th 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 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.



2013 B-N Home Show

Come out and see us at the 2013 Bloomington-Normal Home Show from March 8 - 10 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.

Outage Map

Visit www.cornbeltenergy.com from your computer or mobile device to view a live outage map of Corn Belt's service territory. To protect the privacy of our co-op members, outages are displayed by county or zip code only.



Prescription Discounts

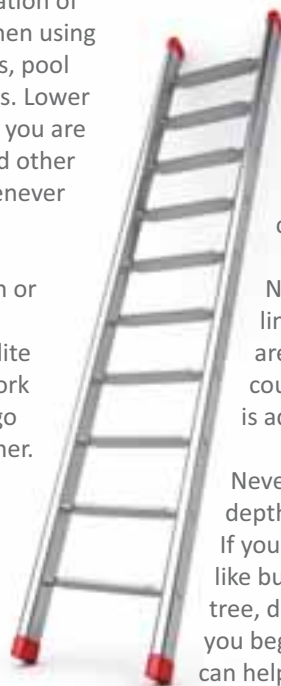
Use your free Co-op Connections card to save 10% to 60% on prescriptions not covered by insurance at participating pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more! Simply present your card with your prescription at any participating pharmacy and pay the discounted price; no additional forms or paperwork are needed. Visit www.connections.coop to search for participating pharmacies. Need a card? Call us at 1-800-879-0339.

look up as you head outdoors

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 8-1-1 to call JULIE before you begin. This service is free and can help you avoid serious injury.

Just for Kids!

If you're looking for a great way to entertain and educate your kids on a rainy day, then check out www.kidsenergyzone.com!

The website promotes energy efficiency and electric safety, designed specifically for grade school kids. CFL Charlie welcomes kids with a number of activities including videos, coloring pages, and online games that scroll across the screen.



The site also has links to resources for educators and parents including lesson plans, activities and energy efficiency programs.

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, which 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.

75 Years of Cooperative Values

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. Chapters 1 and 2 were printed in January and February.



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 

CHAPTER 3 - A NEW ERA

Once farms in Central Illinois experienced the benefits of electricity, there was no going back. Life on the farm changed dramatically: refrigeration increased food safety. Electric pumps provided fresh well water, which increased sanitation. The drudgery of housework faded quickly with the end to "sad irons" and wood cook stoves. Radios became sources of education and entertainment, and electric lights provided safe, ample illumination for house and barn.

The changes in farm work were no less remarkable: a simple one-horsepower motor became the farmer's right-hand man, operating grain grinders, hay lifts and so much more. Truth be told, there never has been anything to improve the lives of farmers like rural electrification.

Soon, the new cooperative set up its first office in Downtown Bloomington at 508 North Main Street. In 1939, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative moved into the

former McLean County Farm Bureau office at 109 West Monroe, then moved again in 1943 to 315 East Front Street (see photo below).

Ted Hafer was Corn Belt's first general manager, taking the job on interim for two months, but ultimately staying with the co-op for three decades. He was a fiscally conservative man and a strong manager who led by example. Employees recall that he was very conscious of the fact that the co-op couldn't spend money that was hard to come by from the members.

In the early nineteen forties, most line construction halted due to World War II. The co-op dealt with supply

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shortages and supported the war effort through scrap drives and purchasing war bonds. Electric power

enabled many farms to keep on with livestock and dairy production while so many young men were off serving their country.



315 East Front Street office, 1943-1953