

# POWERLINE

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

March 2015

## SAVING ENERGY *Saves Money*

Looking for ways to save energy and money at home? Corn Belt Energy is now offering rebates to members for the purchase of energy efficient CFL and LED light bulbs. This rebate program rewards our members when they invest in new, energy efficient lighting.

Some of the highlights of this program include:



ONLY **ENERGY STAR®** RATED CFL AND LED BULBS QUALIFY FOR THE REBATE.

**THE SHAPE AND SIZE OF BULB DOES NOT MATTER.** CFLs and LED bulbs come in a variety of shapes and sizes.



**BULBS CAN BE PURCHASED ANYWHERE THAT QUALIFYING ENERGY STAR CFL AND LED BULBS ARE AVAILABLE.**

**THE REBATE ONLY COVERS THE COST OF THE BULB UP TO \$7.50 FOR LED BULBS AND \$1.50 FOR CFL BULBS.** If the purchase price of the LED bulb is less than \$7.50, the member will be reimbursed for the total purchase amount paid for the LED bulb. If the purchase price is greater than \$7.50, only \$7.50 will be reimbursed per LED bulb.



**YOU MUST BE A COOPERATIVE MEMBER TO QUALIFY.** To qualify for the rebate, applicants must receive electric service from Corn Belt Energy.



**DOWNLOAD OR PICK UP YOUR REBATE FORM TODAY!** Rebate applications are available for download at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) or can be picked up at one of Corn Belt Energy's office locations.

Other information: Limit 25 bulbs per member account per calendar year. Include with the application a copy of the original receipt. Rebates cannot be issued for products that are not Energy Star qualified. Please retain bulb packaging until the rebate is received.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) or call us at 800-879-0339.



## Use caution when working around overhead power lines

As the weather gets nicer and you start outdoor projects, always be aware of the location of power lines. In particular, you should be cautious when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles near power lines. Lower your long equipment when you are moving it and carry long items such as ladders horizontally whenever possible.

Be careful when working on or around your roof doing roof repair work, installing satellite dishes or cleaning gutters and keep yourself at least 10 feet from power lines attached to your house. Never go up on the roof in bad weather.

Safety around trees that are near power lines is also important. 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 trim trees near power lines – leave that to the professionals.

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.

## Ongoing vegetation maintenance improves reliability

Fallen trees and branches are a primary cause of electric power outages. Power lines broken by falling branches are extremely dangerous and may cause fire, shock or electrocution.

Trees growing near Corn Belt Energy electric lines occasionally need to be pruned or sometimes cut down in order to minimize outages and to maintain reliable, safe electricity at a low cost.

If your area is scheduled to be pruned, you will be notified with a postcard approximately 3 to 4 weeks prior to trimming.\*

If you request the removal of a tree that could endanger Corn Belt Energy lines, the entire tree will be taken down and cut up for your use or disposal. In clearing the right-of-way for our electric lines, trees will be cut up and brush and wood will be piled separately. If tree pruning is required, tree branches will be chipped and the larger wood will be cut up and left for your use or disposal.

If you notice a dead or dying tree near power lines, a tree with branches growing very close to or touching power lines, please contact us immediately and do not attempt to remove the tree branch(es) yourself.

When planting trees, your trees should be properly placed to avoid collisions with power lines and buildings, and the aesthetics will increase your property value.

Please contact Corn Belt Energy at 1-800-879-0339 for more information.

*\*All tree pruning is done in accordance with American National Standards Institute recommendations (A 300, part 11-2001) and Dr. Alex L. Shigo's pamphlet, Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines.*

# Payment assistance

If your home utilizes electric heat or if you've been supplementing with electric space heaters, your recent electric bills may have been higher than anticipated because of the unusually fierce winter weather.

If you need to make payment arrangements, please don't hesitate to contact a Member Account Representative at 1-800-879-0339. We're here to help our co-op members and we're willing to work with you to keep payments within your budget.

Some co-op members may qualify for the state's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is designed to help eligible low-income households pay for energy services. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the state of Illinois, energy assistance is provided by local community action agencies or not-for-profit agencies throughout the state. You must contact the agency provider in your area to make an appointment to apply for assistance; visit [www.liheapillinois.com](http://www.liheapillinois.com) for a complete list of agencies.

LIHEAP will provide a one-time benefit to eligible households to be used for energy bills. The amount

of the benefit is determined by income, household size, fuel type and geographic location. An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not required. You do not have to own your home or pay energy bills directly to be eligible. Assistance for reconnection will only be provided to households that have made a good faith effort to maintain their energy services, or that can pay a portion of the amount owed for reconnection.

### LIHEAP income eligibility:

You may be eligible to receive assistance under LIHEAP if your household's combined income for the 30 days prior to application is at or below the levels shown on below. If you rent, and your heat and/or electric is included in the rent, then your rent must be greater than 30% of your income in order to be eligible.

Family Size	30 Day Gross Income
1	\$1,459
2	\$1,966
3	\$2,474
4	\$2,981
5	\$3,489
6	\$3,996
7	\$4,504

*\*For each additional family member, add \$508 to the 30 Day Gross Income. This program ends in May 2015 and restarts in September 2015.*

# Help us keep our records up-to-date

If you have changed your phone number or disconnected your landline phone and are now using a cell phone number, Corn Belt would like for you to help us keep our records updated.

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.

By having your current phone number(s) on file, it will also help our automated outage reporting system to work efficiently. 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.



# 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](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, 2015, and the grants will be awarded in late April/early May.



## 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 

## Recycle your old refrigerator

Corn Belt offers a 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](http://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.



## Come see us at 2015 home shows!

**Bloomington-Normal Home Show**  
March 6-8 at the Interstate Center

**Decatur Home, Lawn and Garden Show**  
March 14-15 at the Decatur Civic Center

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.

## Connect with your co-op

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

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[/CornBeltEnergy](https://www.facebook.com/CornBeltEnergy)



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