

POWERLINE

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

March 2016

GeoCents is a win/win for members and local contractors

Whether you are in the process of new construction, updating the HVAC systems or just looking into geothermal as a heating and cooling alternative, Corn Belt Energy's GeoCents program makes geothermal more affordable for our members.

The GeoCents program is an added value to our members helping to offset the initial cost of installing geothermal.

As a part of this program, Corn Belt Energy will pay to have the geothermal loops (the outside loops that go into a member's yard) installed at a members home. In turn the member will pay a monthly fee to be able to utilize the loops. Participating members will receive:

- \$1100/vertical ton & the member will pay \$7/ton/month on their electric bill
- \$900/horizontal ton & the member will pay \$6/ton/month on their electric bill
- Corn Belt also has a \$1500 rebate for the installation of a geothermal that utilizes electric as the backup

GeoCents allows us to partner with local contractors' that share a similar vision on improving energy efficiency, helping members reduce heating and cooling costs, as well as creating a greener environment by harnessing the power of renewable energy. It is with this in mind that Corn Belt Energy requires that members participating in the GeoCents program use one of our certified contractors.

Corn Belt Energy requires all HVAC and geothermal looper contractors to meet the following qualifications prior to becoming a certified GeoCents contractor:

- Certification of general liability insurance for \$1,000,000

- Proof of manufacturer training
- International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) certification of a minimum of one company representative
- Active membership in the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois (GAOI)

You'll want to choose a qualified and experienced contractor you'll enjoy working with. Below is a list of the Corn Belt Energy GeoCents certified contractors.*

- Bratcher Heating and Air Conditioning
- Grassers Plumbing & Heating Inc.
- Hardesty Heating & Cooling, Inc.
- Hinrichsen Heating & Air Conditioning
- Kickapoo Drilling Company
- Meyer Climate Control – Peoria HVAC Services
- PROAir
- The Hole Deal
- Town & Country Services
- Tri-County Irrigation & Plumbing, LLC

Corn Belt Energy is focused on serving our members while promoting overall energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. The GeoCents program is an example of this focus.

For additional information about the Corn Belt Energy GeoCents program or for the most up-to-date GeoCents certified HVAC and looper contractor list, please contact Justin Stuva at 309-664-9235 or 800-879-0339 x235.

** Please note: the GeoCents certified contractor list is always being updated. Contact us for the most updated list.*



Check out what local HVAC contractors and loopers are saying about the GeoCents program.

Surge protection for your entire home

Spring storms often bring an increased threat of power surges which could damage your valuable electronics and appliances.

Many people think a blink in power is a surge, but these are generally caused by something such as a tree contacting a line. When a blink occurs, Corn Belt Energy's protective devices work, causing an interruption to protect the wires and other components.

What is a power surge? A power surge is defined as sudden, short-lived increase in voltage. Power surges can enter the home in a variety of ways including power lines, telephone lines, cable/satellite connections and any other metallic system that connects to your home.

Corn Belt Energy can help protect your home from the threat of power surges which could damage your valuable electronics and appliances.

Internal Surges

80% of temporary power surges come from inside the home; protect your equipment with surge protector devices like power strips. Make sure to look for the UL 1449 label, which guarantees it meets tested and approved standards. Surge protectors carry a "joule" and/or a "surge-current" rating; the higher the rating of these two categories, the higher the quality of internal surge-stopping components. Corn Belt carries several surge strips and outlet receptacles that may fit your needs.



External Surges

Whole-house protection is recommended for more severe surges, including lightning strikes. Corn Belt can install a surge protector on your exterior electric meter for \$6.95/month (200 amp meter) and a \$25 installation fee. 400 amp meter protection is available for \$8.95/month with a \$25 installation fee.

Inside your home, a panel-mounted circuit panel or service entrance suppression device (TVSS) forms a second layer of defense by greatly reducing harmful surges entering your home. A qualified electrician can ensure proper installation.

For more information, please visit our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com or call us at 800-879-0339.

Stop by our booth at the home show!

Visit us at the Bloomington-Normal Home Show on March 4-6, 2016, at the Interstate Center in Bloomington.

Stop by our booth to learn more about the GeoCents program, rebates and energy efficiency tips for your home. Plus, Corn Belt Energy members who visit our booth can receive up to three FREE LED light bulbs.*

**Some restrictions may apply. Limited quantity. LED bulbs only available while supplies last.*



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Corn Belt Energy's GeoCents program has allowed us to introduce customers that wouldn't have necessarily been a geothermal customer to the technology and allowed us to get a price point competitive to other fossil fuels. We can show them the energy savings and cost payback that wouldn't necessarily be there without it.

- Brian Huchinson owner of Bratcher Heating and Air Conditioning



GeoCents is a win/win for both Corn Belt Energy members and us. It is not only good for the environment but it's a no-brainer. GeoCents makes it more affordable to purchase geothermal.

- Chad Mayes, owner of PROAir

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GeoCents makes the process of deciding to go with geothermal easier since people do not have to come up with all of the money up front. ... It is a good program with a lot of potential to expand geothermal in the area.

- Dan Crowe, The Hole Deal



GeoCents is a great program. I don't see that there are any drawbacks to the program.

- Joe Barth, Tri-County Irrigation & Plumbing, LLC

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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 

Safety around power lines

Our natural instincts urge us to flee from danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that involve utility poles and bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, call 911 and remain in your vehicle and wait until the local electric utility arrives on the scene and ensures that lines have been de-energized. Likewise if you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the scene.

Only in the rare instance of fire or other life threatening emergency should you exit a vehicle. Then, you must know how to do so safely, jumping free and clear, landing with feet together, and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why one should get out only if it is an absolute emergency.



Other important safety tips to keep in mind:

- A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized
- Vehicles or equipment near power lines can also be energized and dangerous
- Lines that appear to be "dead" can become energized as crews work to restore power, or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.
- If you see a downed or sagging line, call 911 and contact the local electric utility such as Corn Belt Energy.
- Never drive over a downed line as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.

For more detailed electric safety information, visit our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com or call us at 800-879-0339. Corn Belt Energy also offers more detailed electric safety education through our Live Line Demo program.

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