

POWERLINE

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

May 2015

Make **SAFETY** the top priority

May is National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, Corn Belt Energy is focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and 1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.



- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition – not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

BE PREPARED

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year – or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit www.cornbeltenergy.com or check out our YouTube channel for informational videos on electrical safety.



Pictured left to right: Jon Yaklich, Sarah Widener, Shea Dougherty, Hanah Widener, Jyotsna Bitra, and Maci Pfeffer.

Illinois Cooperative Youth Day

Six students attended Illinois Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield, Ill., on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 with Corn Belt Energy. The students attending with Corn Belt Energy included: Jyotsna Bitra (Bloomington), Shea Dougherty (Ottawa), Maci Pfeffer (Minier), Hannah Widener (Normal), Sarah Widener (Normal), and Jon Yaklich (Princeton).

More than 250 students representing 26 cooperatives gathered to tour the State Capitol and view government in action. While at the State Capitol, students met with elected officials including Representative Keith Sommer and Senator Jason Barickman and were invited to the office of

Secretary of State Jesse White. Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti and Wyatt Reid, 2014-2015 NRECA Youth Leadership Council Representative, were the guest speakers at the luncheon.

Government officials encouraged the students to take an interest in the political process and to learn more about issues that interest them. Students also toured the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and the Old State Capitol.

At the end of the day, students interviewed for the Youth to Washington trip.



Pictured above from left to right: Jon Yaklich, Jyotsna Bitra, Shea Dougherty, David Nance (Abraham Lincoln presenter), Sarah Widener, Maci Pfeffer, Hannah Widener



On the Senate Floor, (pictured from left to right) Sen. Jason Barickman, Sarah Widener, Jon Yaklich, Shea Dougherty, Hannah Widener, Jyotsna Bitra, Maci Pfeffer, Rep. Keith Sommer



Youth to Washington Tour

All six students who attended Illinois Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield applied for the Youth to Washington Tour. Two winners were selected on to attend as Corn Belt Energy's student representatives at the Youth to Washington Tour on June 12-19, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

The 2015 winners are Jyotsna Bitra and Shea Dougherty. Jyotsna is the daughter of Dayanandam Bitra from Bloomington, Illinois, and currently attends Illinois Math and Science Academy. Shea is the daughter of Shaun and Christina Dougherty from Ottawa, Illinois, and currently attends Ottawa Township High School.



Pictured left to right: Jyotsna Bitra and Shea Dougherty

Hannah Widener has also been selected as the alternate.

LED Lighting Rebate

Corn Belt Energy is offering rebates to members for the purchase of energy efficient LED light bulbs. This rebate program rewards our members when they invest in new, energy efficient lighting. Some important things to remember about this rebate program are as follows:



ONLY ENERGY STAR® RATED LED BULBS QUALIFY FOR THE REBATE. Look for the ENERGY STAR logo on the packaging.

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



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

THE REBATE ONLY COVERS THE COST OF THE BULB UP TO \$7.50 FOR LED 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 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 or call us at 800-879-0339.



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 

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, 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar for Corn Belt Energy's 77th Annual Meeting! Join us at Central Catholic High School off of Airport Road in Bloomington on the afternoon of Friday, June 19th.



Complimentary lunch and activities for kids will be provided as well as entertainment. Make sure to stop by the booths, and stay for the co-op member meeting!

An Annual Report book will be mailed to co-op members in late May with a complete agenda.

If you receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, you're a member-owner of the cooperative and invited to attend.

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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