

POWERLINE

A monthly newsletter for member-owners of Corn Belt Energy

June 2011

Are You Ready for Fun?



73rd Annual Meeting of Members

Central Catholic High School, Bloomington
Friday, June 24

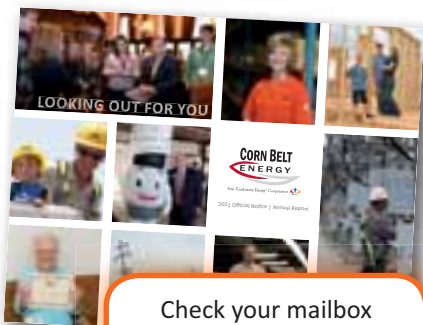
Mark your calendar for Corn Belt Energy's 73rd Annual Meeting! Join us at Central Catholic High School off of Airport Road in Bloomington on the afternoon of Friday, June 24th. Bring the family over for an afternoon of great entertainment and prizes.

Complimentary lunch and activities for kids will be provided, as well as great bluegrass music provided by the River Ramblers. Make sure to stop by the booths of Co-op Connections businesses, too!

More details will appear in our Annual Report book which will be mailed to every member by early June. Inside, you'll find a complete agenda along with proposed bylaw changes and RSVP details for lunch.



Grilling apron for each household that registers!



Check your mailbox for our Annual Report, which includes an RSVP postcard for lunch!

Grand Prize Giveaway:

iPad 2



* Grand prize winner must be present to win.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Noon - 2:30: Complimentary lunch

Noon - 3:00: Registration, Co-op Connections booths

Noon - 4:30: Free activities for kids: Face painting, bucket truck rides, bouncy houses, balloon animals, open gym and much more!

2:00 - 2:50: River Ramblers Bluegrass

3:00 - 4:30: Business Meeting, iPad 2 grand prize winner announced

Going on Vacation? *Save Energy at Home*

Before you head out the door for your summer vacation, follow these simple steps to give your electric bill a vacation, too!

Turn down the temperature on your water heater. Heating water can account for 15% or more of the energy consumed in your home. If you're not home, you don't need to have hot water on standby.

Set your thermostat at a higher temperature than usual. Again, if you're not home, then there's no reason to air condition the space until you return.

Keep your shades drawn. Not only is this practical for security reasons, but you prevent sunlight from entering the home and heating things up.

Make sure all lights are turned off. Don't forget to check your closets!

Unplug those energy vampires - electronics that still draw power even when turned off. These types of devices (*battery chargers, TVs, computers, coffee makers, etc.*) still use a small amount of electricity, called phantom loads, unless they are completely unplugged.



Clothes Washer REBATES

Corn Belt members with electric water heaters may qualify for a \$50 rebate if they have purchased an ENERGY STAR clothes washer after April 15, 2010.

Call Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 800-879-0339 or find the rebate form at www.cornbeltenergy.com > Programs & Services > Energy Efficiency Programs.

LOOKING FOR CONSISTENT ELECTRIC BILLS EACH MONTH?

Levelized Billing gives you a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bill, without ever having to play “catch-up” at the end of the year. The program is designed to keep your electric bills affordable every month of the year, as long as you remain on the plan. It's the ideal way to accurately anticipate your monthly electric bill, which makes budgeting your expenses that much easier.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

With Levelized Billing, your monthly electric bill becomes a “rolling average” of your electric usage for the most recent 12 months. For example, this month's bill would be the average electric usage of the previous 11 months, plus the current month. By averaging your changes in usage over a 12-month period, your bill will remain fairly consistent every month, even in very cold or hot months when usage may be unusually high.

If you have at least 6 months of service with us, we can still calculate a “rolling average” and enroll you in the program.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Corn Belt's Levelized Billing program is completely free. Members with accounts in good standing and with at least 6 months of service history can call us at 1-800-879-0339 to enroll.

Members can deactivate the Levelized Billing program at any time by contacting our Billing Department. If a member on Levelized Billing becomes delinquent or enters into a delayed payment agreement, they will be removed from the program.



Supporting Innovation in Local Schools

Area educators receive \$1,000 Education Grants for their classrooms

Corn Belt Energy is pleased to announce the four recipients of our 2011 Education Grants program, which aims to support innovation in the classroom. We received 39 applications from public and private schools throughout our service area. The applications were reviewed and ranked by three impartial judges and these schools each received a \$1,000 grant to fund their project:



Regional Alternative School, Bloomington

APPLICANT: Ron Folkens, Technology Coordinator

REQUEST: To purchase online accounts to ixl.com to track and assess students' math skills over a three-year period



Fieldcrest South Elementary, Minonk

APPLICANT: Barbara Baumann, 4th Grade Teacher

REQUEST: To purchase maps, a globe, and GPS devices for geography curriculum



Hartsburg-Emden School District

APPLICANT: Dr. Mary Ann Manos, Superintendent

REQUEST: To cover expenses for a NASA traveling exhibit in November



Bloomington School District 87

APPLICANTS: Linn McDonald (Bloomington Jr. High) and Kristi Sutter (Sheridan Elementary)

REQUEST: To purchase fourteen document cameras for use in BJHS and Sheridan classrooms

Celebrating Arbor Day

Each year on Arbor Day, Corn Belt Energy partners with a local school to plant a tree on their grounds and to educate students on the importance of trees and safety.



On Friday, April 29, employees from Corn Belt's forestry department met with 6th graders from Kingsley Junior High in Normal. The students helped plant a young white oak tree near the east entrance of the school. Corn Belt employees assisted with planting and watering the tree in addition to adding mulch and answering questions from the group.

Learn more about proper tree planting and landscaping at www.arborday.com/trees/righttreeandplace

Tree Line USA Award

Corn Belt Energy has been named a Tree Line USA Utility for the 5th time in recognition of training workers in quality tree-care practices and helping members plant appropriate trees near utility lines. Tree Line USA is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters.



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 

CAPITAL CREDITS ALLOCATIONS TO APPEAR ON JUNE STATEMENTS

Your June electric statement will include important information regarding your capital credits account. If you received electric service from Corn Belt in 2010, look for the special message which indicates the amount being allocated to your capital credits account. This is not a charge you owe nor a notice of credit balance in your billing account; it is a statement of your equity in Corn Belt Energy Corporation for 2010.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Corn Belt Energy is owned by the member-consumers we serve. When you pay your electric bill, you are accumulating equity in your cooperative. Margins in excess of the cost to serve members are utilized as operating capital. When Corn Belt

realizes a positive margin (*excess of income over expenses*), the margins are allocated through a capital credits system according to your usage. Each member is assigned a separate capital credit account, separate from their billing account. Capital credits are refunded when Corn Belt Energy's board of directors determines that it will not jeopardize the financial condition of the cooperative to do so. To date, Corn Belt Energy has returned over \$11 million to members, including more than \$4 million that was returned in 2010.

To learn more about capital credits, visit our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com and look under "Member Services."