

POWERLINE

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

June 2015

Beat the heat with these tips

When temperatures soar in the summer, utility bills can do the same. There are several small ways to manage your energy use this summer – and Corn Belt Energy is always happy to help you with those simple, no- or low-cost ways to save – but for those who are considering remodeling or making larger purchases, here are a few ideas that may help keep your energy use in check and keep your wallet cool.

If you are making esthetic changes to your home, consider products that will also make it work more efficiently. The biggest energy users in our homes are heating and cooling systems, so if you are making upgrades to your floors and cabinets, consider making some energy efficient upgrades to your HVAC system, too.

If you're making additions to your home or converting attics or basements into living spaces, a ductless heating and cooling system is a great option. A ductless system does not require adding pipes or ductwork to a home's existing system, making it a more affordable upgrade for many. Ductless systems tend to be more efficient, meaning homeowners will use less energy and save on their electric bills.

If making changes to your heating and cooling system doesn't seem like the right upgrade for now, consider installing a smart thermostat. These "cool" devices learn your behavior and adjust heating and air conditioning settings with a goal to save energy. Smart thermostats also have the capability to connect to the Internet, allowing homeowners to manage energy use via a smart phone app. There are several smart thermostat options available on the market, and they typically cost between \$200 and \$400.

If you are considering purchasing new appliances that will use less energy, but may not have the budget for a complete appliance overhaul, visit energystar.gov and check out their "Most Efficient 2015" list to help you determine which products – from windows and HVAC systems to televisions and washers – are the most efficient for your home.

Don't forget that Corn Belt Energy is your partner in energy savings. From energy efficiency programs to energy efficiency experts trained to help you make good decisions for your home, we've got your needs covered!

Attend our 77th Annual Meeting!

Central Catholic High School | Bloomington, IL

Save the date for Corn Belt Energy's 77th Annual Meeting of co-op members! Join us at Central Catholic High School in east Bloomington on the afternoon of Friday, June 19. Bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon of great entertainment and prizes!

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

Complimentary lunch and activities for all ages will be provided in the school from Noon to 2:30, including an entertaining music performance from American Classic Entertainment and new informational break-out sessions with topics such as gardening, energy efficiency and McLean County history.

An Annual Report book will be mailed to every co-op member by early June with a complete agenda and RSVP postcard for lunch. Simply mail back the prepaid postcard to pre-register!

NICOR GAS CUSTOMERS - Choose Corn Belt Energy as your Natural Gas Supplier

Supplying affordable energy is our goal. If you are a Nicor Gas customer, you can choose Corn Belt Energy to supply your natural gas.

Corn Belt has been supplying natural gas since the Customer Select pilot program began in 1998. As a local business, we understand the importance of personal service. We pride ourselves in providing our customers with the highest level of customer service. We've been rooted in this community for over 70 years, and you'll always have access to local professionals who can answer your questions promptly.

Our therm rate is all-inclusive; we don't charge any additional service or maintenance fees. While other suppliers may quote attractive therm rates, read the fine print for monthly service fees. There are no monthly fees or termination fees and no equipment to install, and we'll notify Nicor of the supplier change on your behalf. The Corn Belt Energy therm cost will be conveniently included on your Nicor Gas statement, so you only receive and pay one bill.

Check out our affordable natural gas rates today!

Visit our website at countoncornbelt.com or call us at 800-879-0339 to sign up today and find out about current rates per therm.

Save with the LED Lighting Rebate

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 rebate only covers the cost of the bulb up to \$7.50 for LED bulbs and \$1.50 for CFL Bulbs.**
- To qualify for the rebate, applicants must be a cooperative member and receive electric service from Corn Belt Energy.
- **Bulbs can be purchased anywhere that qualifying ENERGY STAR CFL and LED bulbs are available.**
- **The shape and size of bulb does not matter.** CFLs and LED bulbs come in a variety of shapes and sizes.
- **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.
- 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 cornbeltenergy.com or call us at 800-879-0339.

Summer Safety Tips

AVOID POWER LINES

Overhead wires enter houses and buildings at places called service drops. Service drops are not insulated, so never attempt to touch these wires.

Storms or accidents can sometimes cause power lines to fall to the ground. Assume any wire lying on the ground is carrying electricity and stay away from it. If you spot a downed wire, immediately call your local police and Corn Belt Energy; Keep others from getting near the downed wire until help arrives.

TREE SAFETY

Tree limbs that grow up near power lines can be unsafe. If you climb such a tree, you could get hurt from

electrical shock. Never trim trees near power lines – if you see a tree growing too close to power lines, contact Corn Belt to report it.

HOT TUBS AND POOLS

Water and electricity never mix! Keep electronics like radios away from pools and hot tubs, and watch for overhead power lines when cleaning pools, sailing or fishing. Never install pools underneath or near power lines. Never touch an electrical appliance if you are wet; always dry off completely.

OUTDOOR ELECTRONICS

Be careful when using electrical appliances outdoors. Whether it's a bug zapper, an electric charcoal

lighter, or a radio or CD player, use outlets that have weatherproof covers and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) to prevent serious shock injuries. Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them.

KITES AND BALLOONS

Since overhead power lines are not insulated, a kite or balloon string can conduct electricity to the ground. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that is near power lines, do not climb up to get it. Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

To avoid personal injury and damage to underground lines, state law requires you to contact Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE) before any digging project,

regardless of the project size or depth. The call is free, and so are the services.

According to state law, the person doing the digging is required to call JULIE with the locate request information at least 48 hours (*two working days, excluding weekends and holidays*) in advance of the start of excavation. You must begin your project within 14 days from the time you call and if you want to start your project over the weekend, remember to contact JULIE by Wednesday at 4:00 PM.

In order to help the utility locator properly identify your project area, JULIE recommends that you mark the area where you will be digging with white paint and/or flags.

Each JULIE utility member is responsible to mark their own underground facilities with paint or flags within the two working day period required by law (*excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays*).

Visit www.illinois1call.com to learn more about the process.



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 

Levelized Billing Option

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 consistent 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 even easier.

With Levelized Billing, your monthly electric bill becomes a “rolling average” of your electric usage for the most recent 12 months. 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 significantly higher. Our Levelized Billing program is completely free for members with accounts in good standing and with at least 6 months of service history.

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.

Recycle your old refrigerator

Corn Belt Energy 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. 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.

Connect with your co-op

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

