

POWERLINE

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

July 2012

Supporting Innovation in Local Schools

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

Your electric cooperative is pleased to announce the four recipients of our 2012 Education Grants program, which aims to support innovation in the classroom. We received 26 applications from public and private schools throughout our service area this spring.

The applications were reviewed and ranked by three impartial judges and each of these schools received a \$1,000 grant to fund their specific project. Congratulations to our recipients and we encourage local educators to apply in the spring of 2013 for one of five grants for \$1,500 each!



Olympia High School

APPLICANT: Chris Embry Mohr, Science Department Chair

REQUEST: To purchase materials for aqua-culture projects where student raise and harvest tilapia



Heyworth Elementary School

APPLICANT: Anna Hanrahan, 3rd Grade Teacher

REQUEST: To purchase materials for a "vermicomposting" worm farm project



Midland Middle School, Sparland

APPLICANTS: Ginny Moore & David Hoshaw, Science Teachers

REQUEST: To purchase supplies for an alternative energy science fair

In photo: Corn Belt Energy North Region Manager Patrick Griggs, David Hoshaw, Ginny Moore, and Midland Principal Peg Frey



Normal Community West High School

APPLICANT: Barb Bush, Family & Consumer Sciences Chair

REQUEST: To purchase several indoor grills to teach students healthy cooking options

In photo: NCWHS Principal Tom Eder and Barb Bush

Live Online Outage Map

A great outage resource is available to our co-op members online! Visit our website at cornbeltenergy.com to see a live map of our service territory and view any current reported outages. The map is automatically updated



every 5 minutes and graphically represents the number of outages being reported through our outage management system.

In order to protect the privacy and security of our members, we only show county and zip code boundaries which are color-coded depending on the number of current reported outages. The map is also functional on most mobile devices, making it possible to track outages online even if you're experiencing an outage.

As a reminder, always call us at 1-800-879-0339 to report your outage.

WHY WE NEED YOUR NUMBER

In order for our automated outage reporting system to work efficiently, we need to have your current phone number(s) on file. 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.

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 two numbers to associate with your account, including cell phones.

Energy Efficient Rebates Now Available

Wabash Valley Power Association, the cooperative that supplies power to Corn Belt Energy, is offering several rebates to our residential and commercial member-owners through a program called Power Moves. The incentives are designed to promote energy efficiency upgrades in homes, businesses, schools and farms.

Visit www.powermoves.com to view available rebates and to print the appropriate forms. For more information, contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email him at justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com.

WATER HEATER REBATES

If you're purchasing a new *electric* water heater, Corn Belt can help defray the cost.

Buy an electric 40-gallon water heater and you'll receive a \$100 rebate; purchase a 50-gallon or larger unit and we'll give you a \$125 rebate. You can purchase your water heater from any retailer, and we encourage you to buy an energy efficient model with good insulation.

To claim your rebate check, send a copy of your receipt to us, making sure the receipt indicates the size of the water heater. Include your Corn Belt account number and send to:

Corn Belt Energy
Attn: Justin Stuva
1 Energy Way
Bloomington, IL 61705-6356

Just for Kids!

If you're looking for a great way to entertain and educate your kids on a rainy day, then check out www.kidsenergyzone.com!

The website promotes energy efficiency and electric safety, designed specifically for grade school kids. CFL Charlie welcomes kids with a number of activities including

videos, coloring pages, and online games that scroll across the screen.

The site also has links to resources for educators and parents including lesson plans, activities and energy efficiency programs.



kidsenergyzone.com

Lending a Helping Hand

Corn Belt linemen Jerry Daugherty and Brian Felker recently helped out with a project that was a little out of the ordinary.

The Barn Quilt Heritage Trail of McLean County contacted the co-op several weeks ago seeking assistance with installation of their 8' x 8' wood quilts. Area farmers and businesses work with the organization to design and create the 150 pound barn quilts, which are then hung on barns or other outdoor structures. Other counties and rural communities throughout the Midwest have active barn quilt societies as a way to draw attention to agriculture and barn preservation.

Jerry and Brian have volunteered their time after the long workday to help install three barn quilts so far.

Their construction knowledge and the heavy duty equipment has been greatly appreciated by the barn quilt organizers.

The group's goal is to install ten quilts per year for the next few years. To learn more about the program or to apply for a barn quilt for your farm or business in McLean County, contact Kay Henrichs at 309-662-5883.



Barn quilt at Ropp Dairy Farm northwest of Normal



Barn quilt at the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington



Barn quilt at Rader Family Farm northwest of Normal

SET IT AND FORGET IT

Use a programmable thermostat to save on cooling costs

Did you know that properly using a programmable thermostat in your home is one of the easiest ways you can save energy and money?

The average household spends more than \$2,000 a year on energy bills — nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. Homeowners can save about \$180 a year by properly setting their programmable thermostats and maintaining those settings.

An ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat makes it easy for you to save by offering four pre-programmed settings to regulate your home's temperature in both summer and winter — when you are asleep or away. These pre-programmed settings are intended to deliver savings without sacrificing comfort.

Depending on your family's schedule, you can see significant savings by sticking with those settings or adjust them as appropriate for your family. The key is to reduce heating and cooling in your home when you don't need as much.

Once you find the right thermostat, make sure to install it on an interior wall away from vents and any other sources of heat or drafts. The EPA recommends these temperature guidelines: In the winter, set the temperature to drop by 8 degrees when you're away and when you're sleeping. In the summer, set the temperature to go up by

7 degrees when you're away and 4 degrees when you're sleeping.

Properly using a programmable thermostat at home is one of the easiest things you can do to lower your energy costs. To learn more, visit www.energystar.gov/pts.





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 

Freeze Your Cooling Costs

Heating and cooling your home uses more energy than any other system in your house. Typically, 50% or more of your utility bill can be attributed to heating and cooling. Now that we're in the midst of the summer season, here are a few things you can do to lower your cooling costs:

Program your thermostat and set a higher temperature when you'll be away from your home. *(Refer to article on page 16j.)*

Whole-house fans help cool your home by pulling cool air through the house and exhausting warm air through the attic, which is useful in the early morning and after sundown. Run your whole-house fan only when the AC is not running and put it in AUTO mode.

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Draw the shades to prevent solar gain during the day.



Use ceiling fans and make sure they're blowing air down for maximum comfort; turn them off when you leave the room or house.

Have your HVAC system serviced annually by a certified technician for optimal performance and change your air filter frequently.



Plug air leaks: make sure windows and doors are properly weather-stripped.

Grill outside whenever possible to reduce the load on your air conditioner; use the microwave instead of the oven.

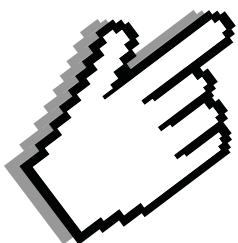
Make sure your water heater thermostat is turned down to 120 degrees, which will also help prevent scalding.

Turn off your pool pump and/or heater when not in use.

Use the air-dry option instead of heat-dry when using your dishwasher.

CONNECT WITH YOUR CO-OP!

Keep in touch with your electric cooperative throughout the year for safety information, energy efficiency tips, outage updates and more! If you have a Quick Response Code app on your smartphone, simply scan these QR codes to connect with us online.



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