

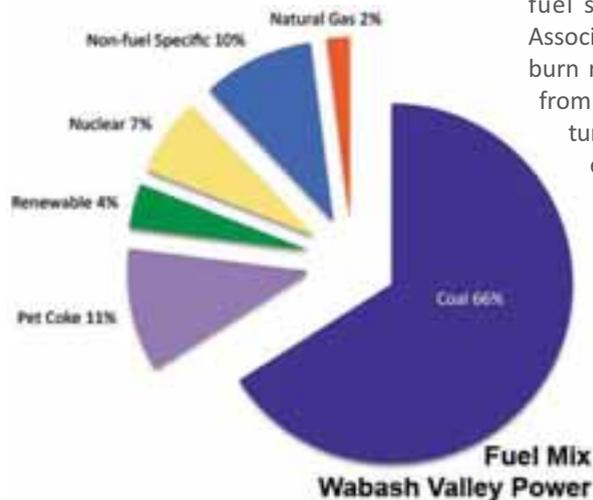
POWERLINE SEPTEMBER 2010

Count on Corn Belt! » Your Local Energy Resource

Getting Electricity from Here to There Where your power comes from and how it gets to you

Have you ever wondered where your electricity comes from?

Corn Belt Energy distributes power to over 33,000 homes and businesses in Central Illinois, but we receive our power from Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative based in Indianapolis. G&Ts are wholesale power suppliers owned and governed by electric distribution co-ops. They produce electricity directly and/or buy it in bulk from other companies, then ship the power over high-voltage transmission lines



(whether owned or leased) to local distribution co-ops.

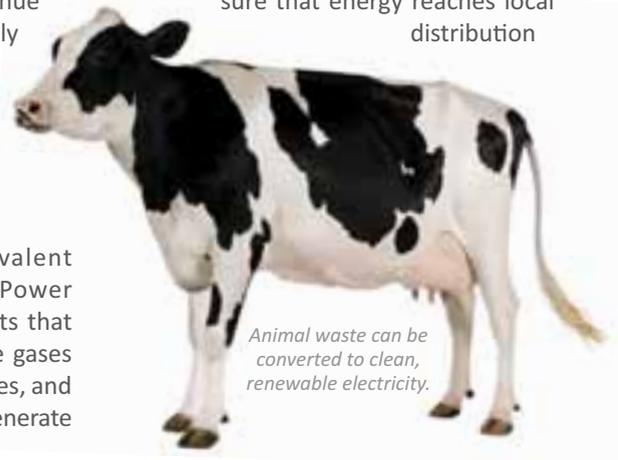
Founded in 1963, Wabash Valley Power Association has grown to 28 distributive cooperatives (including Corn Belt Energy) that provide electricity to over 800,000 people. To continue providing a reliable power supply at favorable prices, WVPA works to control as much of the power supply as possible through investments in generation assets.

While coal is the most prevalent fuel source, Wabash Valley Power Association also operates plants that burn refinery wastes, methane gases from landfills and animal wastes, and turbines driven by wind to generate electricity.

The first G&Ts were created shortly after the birth of rural electrification in the late 1930s and early 1940s by groups of distribution co-ops and other publicly owned utilities. The idea was simple: by forming G&Ts, distribution systems could reduce costs

by collectively negotiating power supply arrangements and achieve a better price without being held captive by other power generators.

Once generated, electricity can't be stored efficiently so G&Ts make sure that energy reaches local distribution



co-op systems over high-voltage transmission lines. Once power reaches its destination, distribution co-ops like Corn Belt Energy use transformers at substations to reduce the voltage before sending it over their lines to your home or business. To learn more about our power supplier, visit www.wvpa.com.



Looking for memorabilia...

We'll be celebrating Corn Belt Energy's 75th anniversary in 2013, so it's time to start searching for documents, photographs, stories, and other memorabilia from our early days in the '30s and '40s.

Do you have a relative who remembers life on the farm before electricity? Do you possess old documents relating to Corn Belt Electric Cooperative or the Rural Electrification Administration (REA)? Are you a retired employee who has some great stories to share?

If you have materials or stories you'd like to share related to Corn Belt's beginnings, please contact Erin Campbell at 1-800-879-0339 x250 or send her an e-mail at erin.campbell@cornbeltenergy.com. We thank you for helping us document our early days!

ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR: *Which efficiency upgrades have the best payoff?*

This question is asked of me quite often when I'm meeting with members. To maximize your resources, I suggest implementing any of these three efficiency upgrades for immediate savings on your energy bills.

1. Compact Fluorescent Lights

My advice is to pick the most used lighting fixtures in your home or office and replace those incandescent bulbs with CFLs.

An ENERGY STAR rated CFL will save about \$30 over its lifetime and pay for itself in about 6 months. It uses 75% less energy and lasts about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb.



2. Seal Air Leaks

The largest portion of a home's energy bill is usually related to heating and cooling; so you can make the biggest impact on savings by keeping cool air inside during the summer and retaining your heat in the winter months.

Walk around your living space and seal up any leaks you may find, especially around windows, doorways, and outlets. Make sure your attic is sufficiently insulated as well.

3. Programmable Thermostat

Homeowners can save over \$180 a year by properly setting and using a programmable thermostat. The key is to reduce heating and cooling in your home when you don't need it as much.

Many of these thermostats now come with pre-programmable settings, making it easier than ever to save money on your energy bills.



Looking for sound energy advice? Send your question to Justin Stuva, Corn Belt's Energy Advisor, and it may show up in a future issue. Please e-mail your queries to justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com.

WWW.

Did you know we have a mobile version of our website available?

Simply visit www.cornbeltenergy.com from your mobile device to check on an outage status or to learn more about our member programs and services.

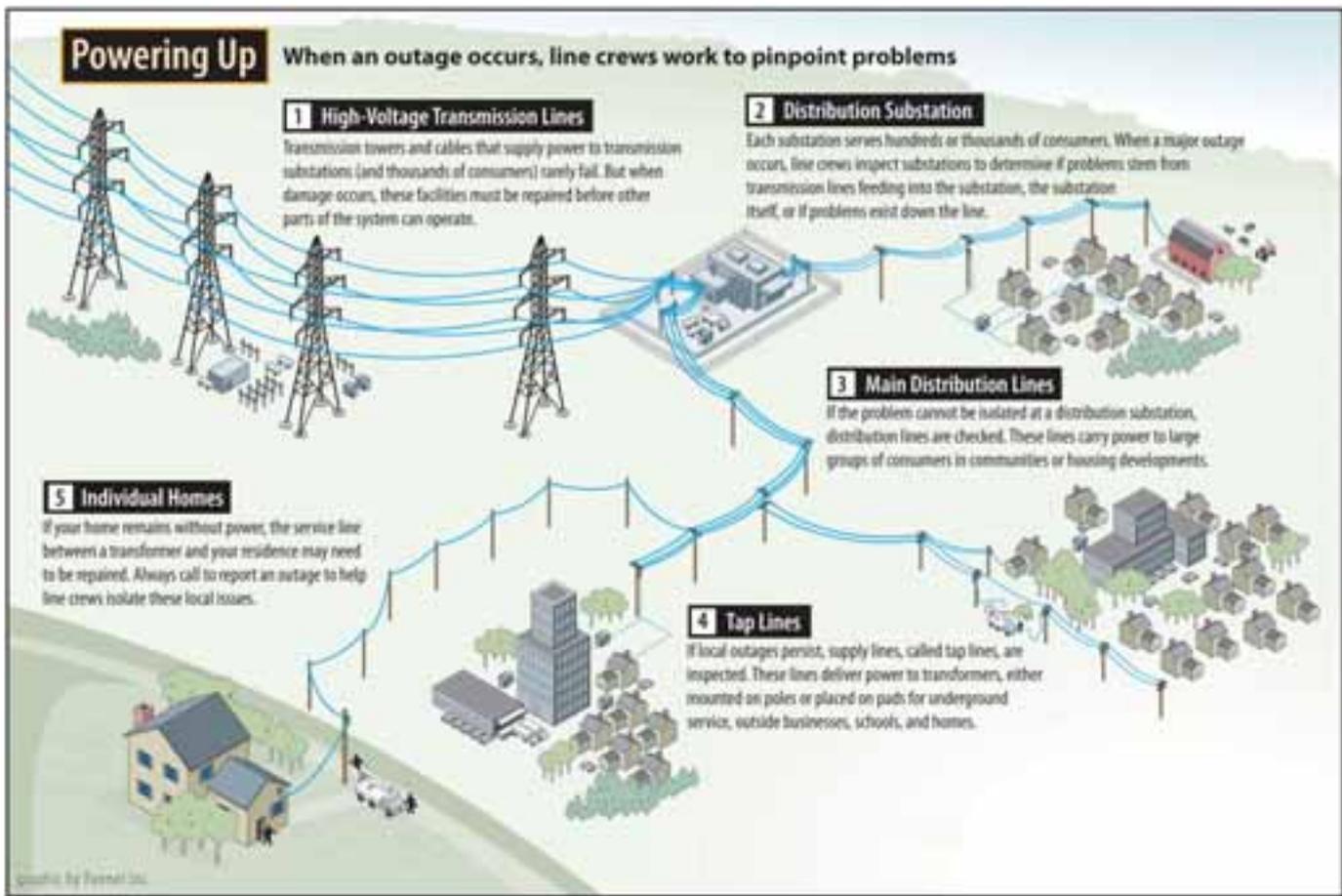


WE WANT YOUR NUMBER!

Check your most recent bill stub to see if we have your current phone number(s) on file.

We need accurate information for our automated outage reporting system to work most efficiently. To change your information, call us at 1-800-879-0339, send us an e-mail at cbec@cornbeltenergy.com, or simply jot down your new number(s) on your bill stub.

We can record up to two phone numbers to associate with your account, including cell phones.



When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

closed on LABOR DAY

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day. We hope you enjoy the holiday weekend and reflect



on the social and economic achievements of American workers.

CommUniversity

Make sure to visit the Corn Belt Energy booth for free kettle corn during ISU's CommUniversity, scheduled for 1:00-6:00 PM on Saturday, September 25, north of Hancock Stadium.

In its seventh year, CommUniveristy is a family-friendly tailgating event hosted by the McLean County Chamber of Commerce and Illinois State Athletics, held in conjunction with the first Saturday home game of the Redbird football season.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Contact Us

800-879-0339

Call this number to report an outage and call from the phone associated with your account if possible.

Main Office:

1 Energy Way
Bloomington IL 61705

Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm
Monday - Friday

cbec@cornbeltenergy.com
www.cornbeltenergy.com

Nicor Gas Customers: You have a choice!

It may be hard to believe, but cooler weather is just around the corner which means it's time to think about your natural gas costs. If you're a Nicor Gas customer, you can choose who supplies your gas through their Customer Select program.

Nicor will still deliver your gas as always, but you can select Corn Belt Energy to supply your natural gas. We offer two competitive variable therm rates and convenient billing options. There are no monthly fees or termination fees and no equipment to install. The Corn Belt Energy supplier cost will be conveniently included on your Nicor Gas statement, so you only receive and pay one bill.

Enroll online and you can qualify to receive up to \$20!



As a not-for-profit cooperative, our mission is to provide our member-owners with competitive rates and local service.

Current Rates per Therm:

49¢

Market Advantage Plan

53¢

Winter Protection Plan

Market Advantage Plan

Based on your historic usage, approximately 30% of your gas is purchased in the summer (*per Nicor storage requirements*) with the remainder purchased monthly at market prices. You will benefit from this plan if it's a mild winter and market prices remain stable or decline.

Winter Protection Plan

Based on your usage history, the cooperative will purchase up to 80% of your gas requirements before winter, with the goal of protecting you from the volatility of the winter market. You'll benefit if it's an extremely cold winter causing higher market prices.

\$20 *Enroll online and get up to \$20!*
www.countoncornbelt.com

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