

# POWERLINE

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

September 2014

## USDA Celebrates Co-op Partnership

Representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) visited Corn Belt Energy's headquarters on July 16 to present a symbolic check in the amount of \$4.1 million which represented recent collaborative investments in rural business. Lillian Salerno, USDA Administrator for the Rural Business - Cooperative Service, commented on the importance of USDA's partnership with cooperatives like Corn Belt Energy and formally presented the symbolic check. Based out of USDA's Washington DC office, Salerno was in Bloomington-Normal for the Illinois Renewable Energy Conference at Illinois State University where she remarked on renewable energy policy and how USDA is helping finance the bio-economy.

The \$4.1 million encompasses Corn Belt Energy's involvement in several projects funded by USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program that directly benefitted the Central Illinois economy. The USDA's REDLG program provides funding to rural projects through local utility organizations. Ten jobs were created through two separate projects with Patriot Renewable Fuels and Patriot Biodiesel in Annawan, IL. "There is enormous potential for economic growth in rural America through the emerging bio-based industry; today there are more than 3,000 bio-based companies in operation. And we'll be able to make even more investments in the bio-economy thanks to the new Farm Bill, which provided renewed support for USDA renewable energy programs," said Salerno.



*Don Taylor, President/CEO of Corn Belt Energy, receives a symbolic check from Lillian Salerno, USDA Administrator for the Rural Business - Cooperative Service, and Colleen Callahan, USDA Rural Development State Director.*

## THE KING OF CAULK & TALK

Get valuable home efficiency advice from nationally renowned architect and home energy expert, Doug Rye. Tune in for an hour of energy saving ideas every Saturday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the Bloomington-Normal area.



"Home Remedies" Saturdays 9-10 AM

# Is Your Home Protected?

Seasonal storms can bring an increased threat of power surges, which are defined as sudden, short-lived increases in voltage.

Your cooperative can help protect your home from the threat of power surges which could damage your valuable electronics and appliances.

### INTERNAL SURGES

80% of temporary power surges come from *inside* the home; protect your equipment with surge protector devices like power strips. Make sure to look for the UL 1449 label, which guarantees it meets tested and approved standards. Surge protectors carry a "joule" and/or a "surge-current" rating; the higher the rating of these two categories, the higher the quality of internal surge-stopping components. Corn Belt carries several surge strips and outlet receptacles that may fit your needs.



### EXTERNAL SURGES



Whole-house protection is recommended for more severe surges, including lightning strikes. Corn Belt can install a surge protector on your exterior electric meter for \$6.95/month (200 amp meter) and a

\$25 installation fee. 400 amp meter protection is available for \$8.95/month with a \$25 installation fee.

**Sign up in September and we'll waive the \$25 installation fee AND give you a complimentary surge kit valued at over \$35!**

Inside your home, a panel-mounted circuit panel or service entrance suppression device (TVSS) forms a second layer of defense by greatly reducing harmful surges entering your home. A qualified electrician can ensure proper installation.

For more information, contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email him at: [justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com)

## Treat Power Tools with Care

Before you fire up that power tool for your next do-it-yourself home project, remember that these electrical devices must be treated with care. Even though many tools are equipped with safety mechanisms, it's still important to heed precautions.

Keep in mind these tips from the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) when using power tools:

- Pull the cord out of the outlet by the plug, not by pulling on the cord.
- Ensure that all extension cords are not worn or frayed.

- Do not carry tools by their cords.
- Do not use in a wet or damp job sites, unless the tool is specifically approved for those conditions. Store them in a dry place when not being used.
- While carrying a tool, do not touch the switch or trigger that operates it to avoid accidental starts.
- Unplug tools when cleaning or fixing, while changing other parts of the tool such as blades or bits, and when not in use.
- Wear proper clothing – no ties, jewelry, or other loose items that could get caught.



Whether you're on the job or working at home, staying safe around power tools is a must. Following a few rules could mean the difference between a successful project and an accident.

Source: U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration

# RECYCLE YOUR OLD FRIDGE FOR CASH!

Corn Belt announces a new fridge recycling program aimed at removing old, inefficient refrigerators and encouraging the use of energy efficient models. Not only will we haul away your old fridge and recycle it, but we'll give you \$35!

To schedule your free pick-up through our vendor, call 877-395-5535 or visit [www.powermoves.com/haulfree](http://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.*
- *Limit two units per residential address per calendar year.*
- *The pick-up address must be a residence served electrically by Corn Belt Energy.*
- *A \$35 check will be mailed to participants within 4-6 weeks after the appliance collection.*



## 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

**NOTE:** To receive a water heater rebate, co-op members must also agree to allow Corn Belt to place a load management switch on the water heater (at no cost), which is eligible for bill credits of \$4.50/month for June - September bills. The load management switch will turn your water heater off periodically during peak load times during the summer, typically in the late afternoon on very hot days. This load management switch minimally affects your hot water while allowing the cooperative to reduce electric load during peak usage times which saves money by avoiding peak power charges from our power supplier.

## Pay by Text

Corn Belt co-op members can now opt to pay their bills via text! To register your cell phone and payment information, go to <http://bit.ly/153RS5H> to get started. Questions? Call us during business hours at 1-800-879-0339 and we'll walk you through the process!

## Outage Map

Visit [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) from your computer or mobile device to view a new and improved live outage map of Corn Belt's service territory. To protect the privacy of our co-op members, outages are displayed by county or zip code only.



## 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](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com)  
[www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com)



## ELECTRIC HEAT RATE

If your home utilizes an electric heat source - including geothermal - you can take advantage of Corn Belt's Electric Heat Rate of 4.45 cents/ kWh (plus any additional current cost of power as indicated by the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment on your monthly statement).

This rate is applicable when a home is heated electrically from a hard-wired 240 volt electric heat source. All electric heat is sub-metered through equipment supplied by Corn Belt Energy and the Electric Heat Rate is applied to your sub-metered usage from Oct. 1 through April 30.

To see if you're already receiving this rate, check for a Rate 10 or Rate 19 line item charge on your monthly statement. For more information contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at [justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com) or 1-800-879-0339 x235.

## MONITOR YOUR USE

Corn Belt Energy has several Kill A Watt™ usage monitors available for our members to purchase. Learn which appliances are costing you the most and identify those energy hogs.

To use, simply plug the Kill A Watt unit into an outlet and plug your appliance or electronics device into the monitor. The large LCD display will track the device's consumption by kilowatt-hour and you can calculate your electrical expenses by the day, week, month or annually. Purchase a Kill A Watt monitor for \$25 (plus \$5 shipping) by contacting Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at [justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com) or 1-800-879-0339 x235.



## 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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