

POWERLINE

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

October 2016



CORN BELT ENERGY CELEBRATES NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Being part of a cooperative means being part of something special. Corn Belt Energy is celebrating National Cooperative Month in October, along with 40,000 other cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people nationwide.

“Cooperatives Build” is the theme of this year’s National Cooperative Month. Cooperatives build in many different ways.

COOPERATIVES BUILD TRUST

Most co-ops strive to adhere to seven key cooperative principles, which combine to help build trust between the co-op, its members and the community. For example, the first principle is Voluntary and Open Membership, which means that we are a voluntary organization open to all people to use our services and

willing to accept the responsibility of membership. The second principle, Democratic Member Control, gives members a voice in the cooperative’s policies and decisions. Through the fifth principle, Education, Training and Information, we enable members to contribute to the development of our cooperative.

COOPERATIVES BUILD COMMUNITY

The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community. Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable contributions to community efforts and through support for schools.

COOPERATIVES BUILD JOBS

Cooperatives generate jobs in their

communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

COOPERATIVES BUILD A BETTER WORLD

The seven cooperative principles include: Membership; Democratic Member Control; Member Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for the Community. These principles bind these unique and diverse businesses together and demonstrate that co-ops truly do build a better world.



education **GRANTS** program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2016 Education Grants Program. Five schools that serve children of Corn Belt electric members will each be awarded a \$1,500 grant and one school will be awarded the \$2,000 Jeff Reeves Memorial Education Grant to fund innovative programs that enrich students' education.

Teachers and administrators of public or private K-12 schools may apply; the facility does not need to receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, but must serve families within our footprint in Central Illinois. Multiple projects within the same school can be combined to a total of the awarded grant amount. Applications and further details can be found online at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Community."

An impartial panel of judges will review the grant applications and preference will be given to projects and programs that enhance learning and are not currently being funded through the school's budget.

The application deadline is December 31, 2016, and the grants will be awarded in February 2016.

2017 scholarship applications now available

In spring 2017, ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

The fund was designed to financially assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family," while also providing a means for co-ops and individuals to honor deceased members of the co-op family through memorial gifts.

Five scholarships will be awarded to students who are children of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative, including Corn Belt Energy members. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The remaining three scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are children of Illinois

electric cooperative members, employees or directors. The tenth scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will be awarded to help pay for costs associated with lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Military veterans and relatives of cooperative members, employees and directors are eligible to apply.

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives. Applications are available at cornbeltenergy.com under "Community" and must be submitted online by December 31, 2016.

Geothermal is now more affordable than ever with rebates and incentives from Corn Belt Energy

Whether you are in the process of new construction, updating HVAC systems or just looking into geothermal as a heating and cooling alternative, Corn Belt Energy's GeoCents program makes geothermal more affordable.



Corn Belt Energy will pay to have the geothermal loops (the outside loops that go into your yard) installed at your home. In turn, you will pay a monthly fee to be able to utilize the loops.

Corn Belt Energy will do an initial face-to-face meeting explaining all of the program details and a review of the interested participant's current

heating and cooling system. All participants must utilize a certified HVAC contractor and geothermal looper for installation. Both new construction or retrofits qualify for the program.

Corn Belt Energy will provide the following as a part of this program:

- \$1,100 per vertical ton and the member will pay \$7 per ton per month on their electric bill
- \$900 per horizontal ton and the member will pay \$6 per ton per month on their electric bill
- Corn Belt also has a \$1,500 rebate for the installation of a geothermal that utilizes electric as the backup

For additional information about Corn Belt Energy's GeoCents program and for the most up-to-date GeoCents certified HVAC and loop contractor

list, please contact Blake Kleaving at blake.kleaving@cornbeltenergy.com or by calling 309-664-9221 or 800-879-0339 x221.

Current geothermal incentives include:

- 30% federal tax credit
- \$1,500 rebate from Corn Belt Energy
- \$1,100/vertical ton or \$900/horizontal ton GeoCents incentive

ACT FAST!

The 30% federal tax credit is set to expire on December 31, 2016.

YOU HAVE OPTIONS!

Choose a natural gas supplier and plan that fits your needs

Selecting a natural gas supplier can seem confusing, which is why Corn Belt Energy strives to make the process as simple as possible. If you are a Nicor gas customer, you can purchase your gas from Corn Belt Energy, your trusted energy partner. We help you determine which plan may work best for you.

Corn Belt Energy supplies natural gas to Nicor customers through the Customer Select® program and offers two competitive therm rate plans and convenient billing options to help you minimize fluctuation in your natural gas costs.

Selecting a natural gas supplier can seem confusing, which is why Corn Belt Energy strives to make the process as simple as possible. We help you determine which plan may work best for you and your budget.

Corn Belt Energy offers the following plans:

Market Advantage Plan

By selecting this plan, your natural gas therm cost will fluctuate according to current market conditions.

Winter Protection Plan

With this plan, the goal is to protect you from the volatility of the winter market and provide you with more stable per therm prices.

Corn Belt Energy does not have any hidden charges or fixed monthly fees.

Plus, you'll always have access to local professionals who can answer your questions promptly.

For more information or to sign up today, contact us at 800-879-0339 or visit www.countoncornbelt.com.



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



Member survey in progress

From September 2016 through January 2017 Corn Belt Energy will be conducting a survey of residential co-op members. This telephone survey is conducted every two years, and helps our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power, determine how much power we'll need in the near future.

The survey will be conducted by Oppenheim Research, a Tallahassee, Fla., firm with experience in a wide variety of research methods as well as a strong history of satisfied customers. Co-op members will be randomly selected, and 300 completed surveys will be done for our co-op. The survey is designed to last approximately 10-12 minutes and will primarily focus on the appliances and items in and around your home that consume electricity. The calls will take place Monday through Friday, beginning mid-afternoon and running until about 9:00 pm. Please remember, we will not ask you for any personal information such as your bank account, credit card or social security number over the phone.

If you are called and don't wish to participate, you will not be pressured to do so. We greatly appreciate those who do take the time to help us plan better for the future. If you have any questions about the process, please call the office at 800-879-0339.

Outage information

Corn Belt Energy makes every effort to prevent power outages. However when outages do occur, we strive to keep our members informed.

Details on major outage events are available on our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com where you can view a live outage map of Corn Belt Energy's service territory from your computer or mobile device.

You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter for current outage updates.



Connect with your co-op

Find us on Facebook
[/CornBeltEnergy](https://www.facebook.com/CornBeltEnergy)



Follow us on Twitter
[@CornBeltEnergy](https://twitter.com/CornBeltEnergy)



Watch us on YouTube
[/CornBeltEnergy](https://www.youtube.com/CornBeltEnergy)

