

POWERLINE November 2010

COUNT ON CORN BELT! » Your Local Energy Resource

Together We Save Even More New tools and resources now available online

Looking for information on how to lower your energy bills this winter? Corn Belt Energy has you covered as part of a nationwide energy efficiency campaign known as Together We Save.

The campaign's mission is to motivate co-op members like you to make small changes in behavior that add up to big savings. Together We Save offers an unprecedented collection of resources and advice on simple energy efficiency steps you can take in your home.

We've recently recharged the Together We Save website with even more tips and ideas to help you save on your energy bills. Simply visit www.togetherwesave.com for everything from videos and interactive applications to an energy savings forum.

Touchstone Energy® Web TV (found under the "Watch and Learn" tab) is a compilation of more than 50 short how-to videos on topics such as lighting, heating/cooling, insulation, and many other energy efficiency topics. The library recently added dozens of new videos.

Got an old refrigerator in your basement or garage? It's probably costing you more than you think. Click on the "Energy Savings Applications" tab and scroll down to find out how much you could save by saying goodbye to that old refrigerator.

Another new application demonstrates how to

Free Calculators

Make informed decisions for your home or business with free calculators available at: www.cornbeltenergy.com > Community > Energy Efficiency

save even more with ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances.



Take the Energy Savings Home Tour ("Add Up Your Savings" tab) and discover how all of these small changes add up in a big way. The Home Tour guides you through each room in a typical home and recommends several energy-savings tips. Areas highlighted in yellow prompt you to take various interactive energy-saving steps, demonstrating how these changes can translate to real savings on your utility bill.

Helping our members save money is important to us. It's just one more way Corn Belt is looking out for you.



Nicor Gas Customers: You have a choice!

With the heating season just warming up, now is the perfect time to evaluate your natural gas costs. If you're a Nicor Gas customer, you can choose who supplies your gas through the 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 continue to receive and pay only one bill.

Enroll online at countoncornbelt.com and you can qualify to receive up to \$20!



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

Rates per therm as of 10/15/10

50¢
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

Portable Generator Safety

Portable electric generators come in handy during prolonged outages. However, things could turn deadly if they're not used properly. Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Follow manufacturers' directions for installation and operation.
- To prevent electric shock, make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Operate electric generators or other fuel-powered machines outside where deadly carbon monoxide fumes cannot enter the home.
- Do not overload the generator by operating more appliances and equipment than it can handle.
- Individual appliances should be plugged directly into the receptacle outlet of the generator using appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Never connect generators directly to your home's wiring or household outlet.
- Do not refuel a generator while it is running. Store fuel outside of living areas and away from heat sources like water heater pilot lights.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.



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Scholarships for High School Seniors

In 2011, eight scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four 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 fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee.

The sixth and seventh 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.

A new eighth 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. Relatives of cooperative employees or directors are eligible, as are individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

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 will be posted at www.cornbeltenergy.com > Community > College Scholarships until December 31. Applications must be postmarked by January 1, 2011.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS

From October through December, Corn Belt Energy will be conducting a survey of residential members. This telephone survey is conducted every two years and helps our power supplier determine how much power we'll need in the near future.

The survey will be conducted by Preston-Osborne Research out of Lexington, KY. Members will be randomly selected with the goal of completing 300 surveys. The survey is approximately 10-12

minutes long, and will primarily focus on the appliances other electrical devices around your home.



The calls will take place Monday through Friday, starting mid-afternoon and ending around 9:00 PM. 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 our office at 1-800-879-0339.



Security Lights

As the days grow shorter, it might be a good time to consider a security yard light, available to our members for a low monthly rate. The price includes maintenance and electricity for an automatic dusk-to-dawn 100-watt sodium vapor light.

Corn Belt can install these lights for members in an overhead area on a Corn Belt-owned pole where there is currently a service. There is no installation fee but we do require that you keep the light for at least 12 months.

Contact our Engineering Department at 1-800-879-0339 for more details.

OUTAGE REPORTS

View our monthly outage reports online at: www.cornbeltenergy.com > Outages > Resources



Happy Thanksgiving!

Please note that our office will be closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 so our employees may celebrate Thanksgiving with their families.

electric HEAT RATE

If your home utilizes an electric heat source, take advantage of our Electric Heat Rate of 4.45 cents/kWh. 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.

This rate is applicable when at least 50% of the square footage of a home is heated electrically from a hard-wired 240 volt electric heat source. For more information contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 309-664-9235 or 800-879-0339.

THE KING OF CAULK & TALK

Get valuable home efficiency advice from nationally renown architect and home energy expert, Doug Rye. Tune in for an hour of energy saving ideas every Saturday from 7:00 to 8:00 AM in the Bloomington-Normal area.



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

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Monday - Friday

cbec@cornbeltenergy.com
www.cornbeltenergy.com



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

water heater REBATE

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, send a copy of your receipt to:

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

Make sure the receipt indicates the size of the water heater and include your Corn Belt account number so we can mail you a rebate check.

Prescription Discounts

Use your free Co-op Connections card to save 10% to 60% on prescriptions not covered by insurance at participating pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more!

Simply present your card with your prescription at any participating pharmacy and pay the discounted price; no additional forms or paperwork are needed. Visit www.connections.coop to search for participating pharmacies. Need a card? Call us at 800-879-0339.



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