

# POWERLINE

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

November 2012

## Are You Prepared?

It will soon be that time of the year where weather conditions are ripe for ice and wind, which can create a disastrous situation for power lines. Take time *now* to prepare your family and your home for any extended outages that may occur this winter:

- Establish an alternative heat source and stockpile fuel in case your primary heat source is cut off. How would your family stay warm during a multi-day power outage?
- Purchase a food thermometer to test the temperature of refrigerated/frozen foods during extended outages.
- Keep charged cell phone batteries or portable phone chargers on hand.
- Review the process for manually operating an electric garage door.
- Know the location of your fire extinguishers and check to make sure they are usable.
- Make sure you have a battery-operated radio and plenty of fresh batteries.
- Familiarize yourself with your main electrical panel; You may be required to turn off the main breaker or have to reset circuit breakers. Make sure you know how to shut off your water and gas valves.



If you have advanced notice of a winter storm approaching, we encourage you to take these precautions:

- Locate your disaster preparedness kit (learn more at [ready.gov](http://ready.gov))
- Charge your cell phone(s).
- Stock up on fuel for your generator or alternative heating source.
- Make sure flashlights and emergency radios have fresh batteries.
- Turn your refrigerator to its coldest setting and leave the door closed in case your power goes out.
- Purchase necessary food items and additional medication if time allows; Stock up on extra diapers and formula for infants.
- Fill up your vehicle's gas tank if time allows.
- Stock up on cash and coins as ATMs may not be functional during extended outages.

## POWER OUTAGE?

- Check your electrical panel to confirm the outage.
- Report your outage at 1-800-879-0339. Call from the phone associated with your account if possible to make the reporting process faster for you and our automated system.
- Disconnect or turn off appliances that were on when the power outage occurred. Leave a light on so you will know when power is restored.
- Visit our website, call us, or listen to the radio for updates on major outages.
- Check on neighbors who may need assistance.

## STAY INFORMED!

- Visit our website at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) for outage updates and to view a live outage map.
- Follow us on Twitter or find us on Facebook for updates on major outages.
- Call us at 1-800-879-0339 to hear prerecorded status updates.
- Listen to local radio stations for periodic status updates.

# Energy Efficient Rebates for Homes and Businesses

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

To learn more, contact our Energy Advisor, Justin Stuva, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email him at [justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com). Visit [www.powermoves.com](http://www.powermoves.com) for the appropriate rebate form(s).

## RESIDENTIAL REBATES: HVAC

### Air Source Heat Pump Rebate

REPLACING RESISTANCE HEAT

Rebate: \$1,500/unit

Replaced natural gas or propane systems are not eligible

### Air Source Heat Pump Rebate

REPLACING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP with ELECTRIC BACK-UP

Rebate: \$250/unit

Replaced heat pumps with natural gas or propane back-up are not eligible

### Ground Source Heat Pump (Geothermal) Heat Pump Rebate

REPLACING RESISTANCE HEAT

Rebate: \$1,500/unit

Units replacing an existing heat pump/geothermal unit are not eligible

### Dual Fuel Heat Pump Rebate

REPLACING RESISTANCE HEAT

Rebate: \$1,500/unit

Units replacing an existing dual fuel heat pump are not eligible

## RESIDENTIAL REBATES: WATER HEATERS

### Heat Pump Water Heater

Rebate: \$400

Upgrade your electric tank water heater to a heat pump water heater

## SCHOOL REBATES:

This program is targeted to energy-savings projects specific to school buildings. We're offering a 20% higher incentive in this program than in our general commercial programs. Incentives are available for:

- linear fluorescent lighting
- incandescent lighting upgrades
- lighting controls
- LED lighting
- HVAC

## FARM/AG REBATES:

This program is targeted to items frequently found on farming operations. An energy audit can also be arranged to identify and reduce the largest energy users. The cost for an audit is \$250 but will be reimbursed if you implement the recommendations provided within the audit report. Agricultural rebates are available for:

- linear fluorescent lighting
- incandescent lighting upgrades
- lighting controls
- LED lighting
- miscellaneous

## COMMERCIAL REBATES: LIGHTING

Replace specific high-energy use bulbs, ballasts or fixtures with specific low-energy use items and receive incentives. Rebates available for:

- compact fluorescent lamps
- ceramic metal halide lamps
- lighting occupancy sensors
- linear fluorescent
- signs & signals
- LEDs

## COMMERCIAL REBATES: HVAC

Replace specific high-energy use HVAC equipment with specific low-energy use HVAC equipment and receive incentives. Rebates are available for:

- air cooled unitary packed AC & split systems
- air source heat pumps
- ground source heat pumps
- packaged terminal heat pumps
- miscellaneous

## COMMERCIAL REBATES: CUSTOM OPTIONS

This program can be used for energy-saving projects that do not fit into the prescriptive lighting, HVAC, schools or farming/ag programs. All projects will be reviewed for their energy savings and a payment made based on a flat amount per kWh saved in the first year. Pre-approval is required.

# POWER MOVES

Download rebate forms and learn more at [www.powermoves.com](http://www.powermoves.com)

## SURVEY OF MEMBERS

From now through January, Corn Belt will be conducting a survey of residential cooperative 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.

Co-op members will be randomly selected and the survey will be conducted by Oppenheim Research, a Florida firm with experience in a wide variety of research methods. The phone 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.

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 us at 1-800-879-0339.

## Scholarships for High School Seniors

This year, eight scholarships of \$1,500 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 members 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. The application is available at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) under "Community" and must be submitted online by 12/31/12.



## Portable Generator Safety

Portable electric generators come in handy during prolonged outages, but 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.





## 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)



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## 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).

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 a home is heated electrically from a hardwired 240 volt electric heat source.

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 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email [justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com).

## MONITOR YOUR USAGE

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 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email [justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com).

## 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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