

POWERLINE

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

November 2014

Support Affordable Energy

At Corn Belt Energy, we work hard to keep your electricity affordable and reliable. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to limit carbon dioxide at new power plants. This is concerning because these regulations, along with the ones the EPA has in store for existing plants, have the potential to drive up electric bills for our co-op members.

Illinois electric co-ops are in favor of a clean environment as a part of their commitment to the communities they serve. They have long promoted a variety of energy efficiency measures to benefit co-op member-owners, such as home energy audits, smart grid automated meters, demand-side management programs, and energy conservation programs. Generation and transmission cooperatives already produce power from a wide variety of sources including solar, landfill gas-to energy, anaerobic digesters, hydro, wind, and natural gas power projects. However, the vast majority of our state's co-op power production (like that in other Midwestern states) remains coal-fired.

Electric cooperatives support an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, one that incorporates nuclear, natural gas, renewable energy AND coal. Although this strategy was endorsed by President Obama in his January 2012 State of the Union Address, the EPA was subsequently directed to issue proposed rules for both new and existing power plants designed to force a shift away from coal. Since coal has traditionally been the most cost-effective (not to mention reliable) source of power, we expect the shift from coal could result in substantially increased power costs.

Together, we can tell the EPA that support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive. Together, we'll remind regulators and lawmakers that the rules they write have an impact in the real world – where we live.

Please raise your voice in support of affordable energy. Visit our website at cornbeltenergy.com and click on "Tell EPA you need affordable energy".



RENEWABLE ENERGY



NUCLEAR POWER



NATURAL GAS



CLEAN COAL

America needs an **ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY** to keep electric bills affordable

**URGE EPA TO RECONSIDER
ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH**

TAKE ACTION

Nicor customers, choose Corn Belt Energy as your natural gas supplier by November 30 and receive \$20!

Natural Gas Plans from Corn Belt Energy

Seasons are changing, which means it's time to think about your natural gas heating costs during the upcoming winter months. If you're a Nicor Gas customer, you can choose Corn Belt Energy to supply your natural gas. Corn Belt offers two competitive therm rate plans and convenient billing options to help you minimize fluctuation in your natural gas costs.

Market Advantage Plan

By selecting this plan, your natural gas therm cost will fluctuate according to current market conditions. You will benefit from this plan if it's a mild winter and market prices remain stable or decline.

Winter Protection Plan

With this plan, the goal is to protect you from the volatility of the winter market. You'll benefit from this plan if it's an extremely cold winter causing higher market prices.

Visit our website at countoncornbelt.com to sign up and view current rates per therm for each of the above plans.

There are no monthly fees or termination fees and no equipment to install. The Corn Belt Energy therm cost will be conveniently included on your Nicor Gas statement, so you only receive and pay one bill.

Plus, when you enroll by November 30, we'll send you a \$20 check after your first bill! Use promo code **PLAN** during the online enrollment process.

Smart Ways to Stay Warm DURING THE COOLER MONTHS

Heating your home uses a lot of energy, so making a few changes can add up to noticeable savings on your energy bills. Your electric cooperative is here to help with these money-saving tips:

Heating your home can account for over

50%

of your energy use during the winter.

Take advantage of sunny days

Take advantage of the sun's radiant heat energy and open your blinds and shades during sunny days. Let your home make use of those rays!

Adjust your thermostat

Program or adjust your thermostat to no higher than 68 degrees during the winter months for maximum cost savings. And make sure to turn down the temperature a few more degrees when you're sleeping and when you leave the house.

Utilize ceiling fans

Hot air travels upward. If you have high ceilings, use your ceiling fans on a low, clockwise setting to circulate that heat back down.

Close off unoccupied rooms

Close the heat registers and doors of unoccupied rooms during the winter months.

Close fireplace damper

Make sure to close your fireplace damper when not in use; you don't want your warm air leaking out through the chimney!

Prevent drafts

Check around your windows and doors for drafts. A tube of caulk and some weather stripping can go a long way to seal your home from blustery winds.

Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home. Sadly, it's also where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during what's supposed to be the happiest time of the year – the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve hold a tradition of cooking, and safety should always be considered in the kitchen. As we embark on the holiday season, Corn Belt Energy and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urge you to use these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
- Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- Remember to clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles, such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- Always wear short or close-fitting



- sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.
- Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.

- Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.

For more important safety tips to keep you and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit www.esfi.org.

The above safety tips were provided by Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is a 501(c) (3) organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home, school, and workplace. ESFI proudly engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.

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 cornbeltenergy.com where you can view a live outage map of Corn Belt's service territory from your computer or mobile device.

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





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



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Recycle Your Old Refrigerator

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 your old fridge be hauled away and recycled, but you will also receive \$35!

To schedule your free pick-up through our vendor, call 877-395-5535 or visit 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.
- The pick-up address must be a residence served electrically by Corn Belt Energy.
- Limit two units per residential address per calendar year.
- A \$35 check will be mailed to participants within 6-8 weeks after the appliance collection.



Scholarship Applications Now Available

In spring 2015, ten scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

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 posted at cornbeltenergy.com under "Community" and must be submitted online by 12/31/14.

