

# POWERLINE

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

November 2015

## 2015 regional **MEMBER MEETINGS**

Corn Belt Energy recently invited members to regional member meetings to learn more about their electric cooperative and hear how we're looking out for their long-term needs. We served 165 members and guests a complimentary dinner, and gave away gifts and prizes. Dinner was served from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., with an informative presentation to follow.

This fall, Corn Belt Energy hosted regional member meetings in the following areas: Hopedale (September 22), Oak Run (September 28) and Norway (September 29). We hope to continue to reach out to our members by moving the regional member meeting locations throughout our service territory annually.



# Corn Belt Energy announces GeoCents

## A NEW PROGRAM THAT MAKES GEOTHERMAL AFFORDABLE



Corn Belt Energy is excited to announce our new GeoCents program. This program will pay to have the geothermal loops (the outside loops that go into a member's yard) installed at a member's home. In turn the member 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:

- \$900/horizontal ton & the member will pay \$6/ton/month on their electric bill
- Corn Belt also has a \$1500 rebate for the installation of a geothermal that utilizes electric as the backup
- \$1100/vertical ton & the member will pay \$7/ton/month on their electric bill

# GEOCENTS

MAKING GEOTHERMAL AFFORDABLE

For additional information and a complete list of certified HVAC contractors, please contact Justin Stuva, Marketing & Member Services Coordinator at 309-664-9235.

## Freedom to pay as you go for electricity

Corn Belt Energy Prepaid Electric Service is a pay in advance service that can help you plan more accurate monthly budgets and make smaller, incremental payments.

You can sign up to receive daily email or text message alerts to notify them when your balance gets below a certain threshold and payment confirmations. In addition, you can

view your usage online. Payment options include: online, in person during regular business hours, over the phone, or by mail.

The rates are the same as traditional electric service offered from Corn Belt Energy but deposit requirements are very minimal or zero for Corn Belt Energy Prepaid Electric Service. Please note

because this is a prepaid service, disconnection will occur year round if the balance falls below \$0 and a minimum \$20 balance will be required to reconnect service.

For more information, contact us at 800-879-0339.

## Why do we plan outages?

Have you ever received a notification from Corn Belt Energy informing you of a “planned outage?” You may have wondered, “what is a planned outage?” and “why does my electric utility need to perform one?” Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced, so we often perform planned outages during

school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand these are peak times of the year when you depend on running your heating and cooling units the most.

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to maintaining public safety. If older

lines need to be replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace it, and that keeps everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. At Corn Belt Energy, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.

## TIPS TO STAY WARM DURING 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. Corn Belt Energy is here to help by providing you with these money-saving tips:

### 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.





## 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 

## Nicor customers, choose Corn Belt Energy as your natural gas supplier!

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 [www.countoncornbelt.com](http://www.countoncornbelt.com) to sign up and view current rates per therm for each of the above plans.

## Scholarships Applications Now Available

In spring 2016, ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

For more information and to download the application, visit our website at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com). Applications must be submitted online by 12/31/15.

## 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](http://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.

