

# POWERLINE

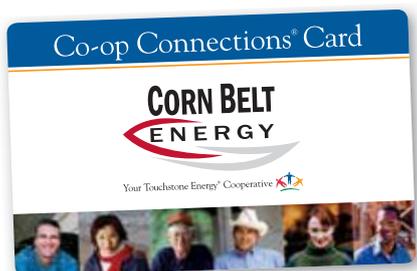
NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: APRIL 2017

## Spring into savings with the Co-op Connections Card from Corn Belt Energy

Did you know Corn Belt Energy has a program in place to help you save on a variety of goods and services, from hotel discounts to fitness club memberships?



The Co-op Connections® Card is a free program that saves Corn Belt Energy members money on everyday expenses. The card also gives you access to Cash Back Mall, where you can get money back for shopping online at over 3,000 leading online retailers. Your Co-op Connections Card gives you access to discounts from tens-of-thousands of retailers because it taps into a national business community. But it doesn't just help you save at big box stores and chains. The card also provides discounts for businesses right here in our local community. In fact, it was created specifically to help local businesses on our nation's Main streets!

For example, Bard Optical offers Co-op Connections Card holders an eye health exam for only \$48.00 as well as a 25% discount off the retail price of eyeglass frames and sunglasses. And the program consistently adds new retailers to help improve our members' experience.

One of the most popular features in the prescription discount benefit. Even if you don't have insurance, the card will help you save up to 85 percent on your medications at more than 60,000 pharmacies across the country.

We know how important it is to save, and we want to make sure that you are taking full advantage of the programs we offer. The Co-op Connections Card is an easy way to see the value of being an electric cooperative member. So plan a trip for the family, get fit with a discounted gym membership or take advantage of other deals available to you.



You can learn more about the discounts we offer by visiting [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop), by downloading the Co-op Connections app, or by calling our office at 800-879-0339.

**Need a new card?**  
Contact us at 1-800-879-0339 or complete the card request form online at [cornbeltenergy.com](http://cornbeltenergy.com).



# GEOCENTS

MAKING GEOTHERMAL AFFORDABLE

## Corn Belt Energy helps to make geothermal more affordable for members with GeoCents

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 for our members.

As a part of this program, Corn Belt Energy 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.

Participating members will receive:

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

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 is focused on serving our members while promoting overall energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. The GeoCents program is an example of this focus.

For additional information about the Corn Belt Energy GeoCents program or for the most up-to-date GeoCents certified HVAC and looper contractor list, please contact Blake Kleaving at [blake.kleaving@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:blake.kleaving@cornbeltenergy.com) or by phone at 800-879-0339 x221.

### CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS

- Certification of general liability insurance for \$1,000,000
- Proof of manufacturer training
- International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) certification of a minimum of one company representative
- Active membership in the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois (GAOI)

### GEOCENTS CERTIFIED CONTRACTORS\*

- AAA Northgate Inc.
- Bratcher Heating and Air Conditioning
- C&E Heating & Air Conditioning
- Dougs Heating & Air Conditioning
- Garber Heating & Air Conditioning
- Grassers Plumbing & Heating Inc.
- Hardesty Heating & Cooling, Inc.
- Hinrichsen Heating & Air Conditioning
- Hoveln Heating & Cooling, Inc.
- J&R Herra Geothermal
- Kickapoo Drilling Company
- Popejoy, Inc.
- PROAir HVAC/Electrical
- The Hole Deal
- Town & Country Services
- Tri-County Irrigation & Plumbing, LLC
- Wirth Mechanical

*\* Please note: the GeoCents certified contractor list is always being updated. Contact us for the most updated list.*

## Energy efficiency rebates

Find energy efficiency rebates and incentives that may apply to your home, business, farm or school. Rebates include lighting, HVAC, geothermal, heat pump water heaters, commercial and industrial. These savings are available in conjunction with Corn Belt Energy's power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association.

Pictured to the right and below are examples of recent LED lighting rebates received by one of our members. Retrofit or new construction projects qualify for rebates similar to this.



Learn more about the rebates available to Corn Belt Energy members by visiting [www.powermoves.com](http://www.powermoves.com) and entering your zip code or by calling us at 800-879-0339.



## Protecting your home from power surges

Bad weather can really change our plans, even causing schools and businesses to close. It used to be that when Mother Nature gave us a storm, you'd be rushing around the house, unplugging the television and the computer. As you know, when Mother Nature gets a little wild, she can cause damaging power surges over your electric lines, phone lines and even TV cable.

Corn Belt Energy can help protect your home from the threat of power surges which could damage your valuable electronics and appliances.

For more information, please visit our website at [cornbeltenergy.com](http://cornbeltenergy.com) or call us at 800-879-0339.





## Always call 811 before you dig

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those warm summer evenings. If any of your projects require digging—such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts—remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local “one call” center. Tell the operator where you're planning

to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified. In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of “Call Before You Dig” services, the majority doesn't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an

**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury.

For more information about local services, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

## Save the date

Mark your calendar for Corn Belt Energy's 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting!

Join us at Central Catholic High School off of Airport Road in Bloomington on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Complimentary lunch, educational

workshops and activities for kids will be provided. More details will appear in next month's issue and an annual report book will be mailed to co-op members with a complete agenda.

If you receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, you're a member-owner of the cooperative and invited to attend.

### CONTACT US

1-800-879-0339 | [cbec@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com) | [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) |    
1 Energy Way, Bloomington IL 61705 | Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

