

JANUARY 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

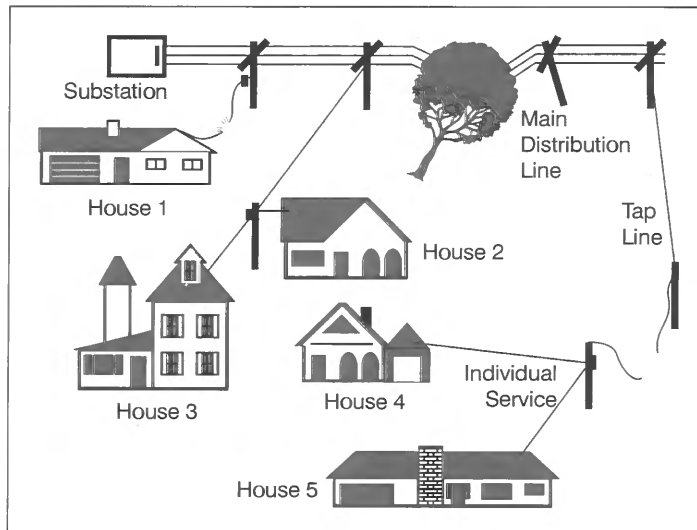
E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Service Restoration Priorities

Here in the Prairie State, any day of the year can bring severe weather followed by widespread outages. Bear in mind that we don't like outages any more than you do. And often, we can't effect a total restoration of electricity to our system because a transmission line owned by another utility that supplies power to our substations has not been repaired yet.

When our system is affected we have a prioritizing policy we follow to do the repairs that will restore service to critical loads and to the greatest number of accounts as quickly as possible. After more than 60 years in the business, this method has proven to be the most logical, the most economical and the most accommodating. To the best of our knowledge, this is the industry standard for outage restoration.

The accompanying sketch depicts one out-of-service three-phase circuit downstream from a substation. This circuit will run for miles through the countryside. Single-phase tap lines will lead from this circuit to serve individual neighborhoods. The fallen tree has snapped all the lines. This scene may be repeated many times along the length of the circuit. Crews would remove the trees and splice the lines. When all three phase lines are again intact, the circuit would be energized. The subdivision represented by Houses 2 and 3 would have power. Crews would then patrol the single-phase tap lines, repair the damage, and Houses 4 and 5 would have electricity. The broken service drop at House 1 would then be repaired.



Assuming the substation was still receiving power from the transmission line, all members served from that particular circuit would now have electricity. Meanwhile, crews would have been working on other circuits radiating from the substation. If the damage was extensive enough, crews from other cooperatives in the state would be called in to assist. After major storms in the past, we have had co-op crews from as far away as Virginia and investor-owned utility crews out of Chicago and St. Louis working to restore our system. Of course, we send crews to neighboring utilities and to other states to help out too.

One important factor in restoring service quickly is to know where the problem lies and what caused it. This is where you, as a member, truly do help not only by phoning to let us know you're out of power but also by letting us know if a line is down, a tree is across the line, etc. During a major storm your call will usually be

answered by our computerized outage handling machine instead of an employee because the machine can handle the calls faster and more accurately. You'll give it the same information though. Now, through the magic of computers, the data from each caller is entered into the individual account number, matched to the circuit that feeds that home or business and the dispatcher will instantly know how many members are out of power on any particular single- or three-phase circuit. With this information a crew can easily find the site of the problem.

A note of caution however, before you report an outage, check your own breakers or fuses and also check to see if your neighbors' electricity is off. If your house is the only one with no electricity, the cause is likely on your side of the meter. Don't call to have our employees repair your property because there is now a \$50 charge if a crew is dispatched under those circumstances.

How to use the net

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Source: Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway by Reid Goldsborough

On our web site

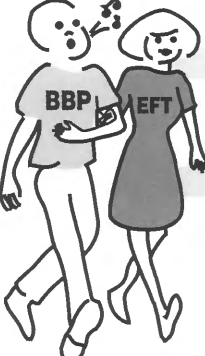
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- Billings and payments - who, what, when, where and why.
- Investigate the geothermal heating and cooling concept. Much cheaper for heating than propane or natural gas and about half the cost of cooling with a standard air conditioner. And, heats most of the domestic hot water for free!
- Or, look at the many other ways to heat electrically. Almost always cheaper than propane.
- How to call or e-mail Corn Belt Energy.
- Learn about our many Easy Pay Ways - E-mail, EFT, BBP, etc., etc.
- How to solve bill-paying difficulties.
- Some CBEC programs of interest.
- Frequently asked Questions — and the Answers.



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HOME SHOW 2001**

**Interstate Center
Bloomington
March 9, 10, 11**

Annual Meeting of Members
Normal Community West High School
March 10, 2001



EASY PAY WAYS

Balanced Budget Program
Join at any time — No zero balance required
No "catch-up" month — Each bill is a 12-month average —
No high summer bills on the Balanced Budget Program!

Electronic Funds Transfer
Pay your electric bill the effortless way with Electronic Funds Transfer. On the DUE DATE each month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never write another check to CBEC!

BBP and EFT go arm-in-arm

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CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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As gas prices climb to record levels, consumers currently enrolled with Corn Belt Energy for gas supply are enjoying significant savings on their monthly cost of gas. Corn Belt Energy's fixed therm rate contracts were offered during the 2000 *Customer Select* enrollment period January 6- March 31, 2000. Corn Belt Energy's maximum per therm contract price offered during enrollment was \$.30 per therm.

Corn Belt Energy's fixed therm rate, guaranteed each month for gas usage from May 2000-April 2001, has allowed Nicor Gas customers a change from the utility's variable therm rates. Nicor Gas' variable rates have been \$.37 (May), \$.45 (June), \$.495 (July), \$.495 (August), \$.515 (September), \$.63 (October), \$.65 (November) and \$.70 (December) per therm.

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Enrollment for *Customer Select* Year 4 will begin January 8, 2001 through March 31, 2001. Eligible consumers will be allowed to select an alternate gas supplier for natural gas usage from May 2001 through April 2002. Nicor Gas customers who do not wish to participate simply do not select an alternate supplier in the 2001 enrollment period. Nicor Gas will continue to provide gas supply to all customers not participating in this program.

Current Corn Belt Energy participants who wish to join Year 4 of the program will be required to select a supplier during the 2001 enrollment period. **All Corn Belt Energy contracts expire in April 2001, coinciding with the scheduled closing of the three-year program. Corn Belt Energy will not automatically re-sign participating customers for Year 4.**

As Corn Belt Energy plans participation in Customer Select Year 4, pricing information and contract details will become available no sooner than January 8th, 2001. With gas costs at record-high levels, 2001 CBEC contract prices will be adjusted accordingly. Call toll-free 1-800-879-0339, ext 259, for contract/pricing information updates.

Selecting a supplier is your choice - we hope that Corn Belt Energy will be your choice again.

Switch Cover Thermometers

A Great Gift Idea

Only **\$9.95** each
(includes tax and shipping)

Available in White or Ivory for Standard or Decorator switches.

Put them on your electric bill or use a credit card.

Phone 800-879-0339 then press #2 on your touchpad

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SAFETY QUIZ

True or False?

A downed power line can be safely picked up and moved off a body by using a broom stick or any piece of wood.

Unfortunately, that's a false statement. You couldn't possibly know the moisture content of any piece of wood. Chances are it has enough moisture to conduct electricity and you would become a victim too. You will have to accept the fact that all you can do is call 911 quickly and wait for the power to be shut off.

Scholarship money here!

Noon, Friday, February 9th
is the entry deadline for
Corn Belt's 42nd annual

Youth to Washington Essay Contest.

Plenty of time for your high school junior or senior daughter or son to join the competition for the expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C. and the \$4,000 in scholarships being offered.

Call Corn Belt Energy at
800-654-1088 or 800-879-0339
Extension 222 for details.

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Blue Bill
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Central Region
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CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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There is little energy usage information on well pumps as there has been no coordinated monitoring program and hardly any anecdotal data. Electricity use depends on the depth of the water table, the operating pressure, and the volume of water consumed. Houses requiring water for a yard or a garden will, obviously, use more.

When well pumps and their associated equipment operate correctly, they draw only a few hundred kilowatt-hours per year. On the other hand a leak in the pressure tank or a faulty switch can quickly double electricity use. Water leaks – even as insignificant as a dripping faucet – may cause excessive pump cycling.

The owner should probably leave pump repairs to a professional. However, he or she can detect inefficient operation. Turn off all water users and listen for the pump. If it cycles, check for water

leaks inside the house and outside. Leaky toilets and faucets are the usual culprits and are easily and cheaply repaired. Pay particular attention to the pipe that brings the water from the well to the house. A leak in this line will cause an increased cycling rate and has been the cause of many complaints of high electric bills.

If there are no leaks inside or outside the house, then the problem may be in the pressure tank, the pressure switch, or the pump controls. Visit the pump house to check the winter heating system. Many have a thermostatically controlled heater to prevent freezing. If the heater is on when the outside temperature is above freezing or in the middle of the summer, the control is probably defective (or was never installed).

Water conservation, both hot and cold, is especially cost-effective when water is supplied by a well pump. Low-flow showerheads and low-volume toilets should be high priorities. All faucets should have aerators, which can cut flow by up to 40 percent and often improve the quality of the flow. Some washing machines (notably the horizontal axis models) and dishwashers manufactured today use significantly less water per load and occupants should consider this feature at the time of new purchases. Water conservation devices for the garden such as flow meters and drip irrigation systems, will also pay back handsomely.



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flameless, ventless, odorless, silent, clean, safe, child-proof, low-priced, produce no carbon monoxide

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For your health



Decongestants and Blood Pressure

If you have high blood pressure and catch a cold, beware of decongestants. Not only do they reduce swelling in your sinuses and nose, they can also constrict blood vessels throughout the body – which can raise your blood pressure. In some cases, decongestants interfere with blood pressure-lowering medicines as well. The American Heart Association advises that you talk with your doctor about this potential problem – preferably before you ever need to use a decongestant.

Olive Oil

Olive oil is a heart-friendly, mono-unsaturated fat. But extra-virgin olive oil is more heart-protective than refined virgin or “light” varieties. Extra-virgin oils undergo less processing and retain more of their beneficial compounds than refined olive oils.

These compounds help prevent “bad” LDL cholesterol from oxidizing, a process that can cause plaque to build up in the arteries.

Source: *Hope Health Letter*

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

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NORTHERN REGION
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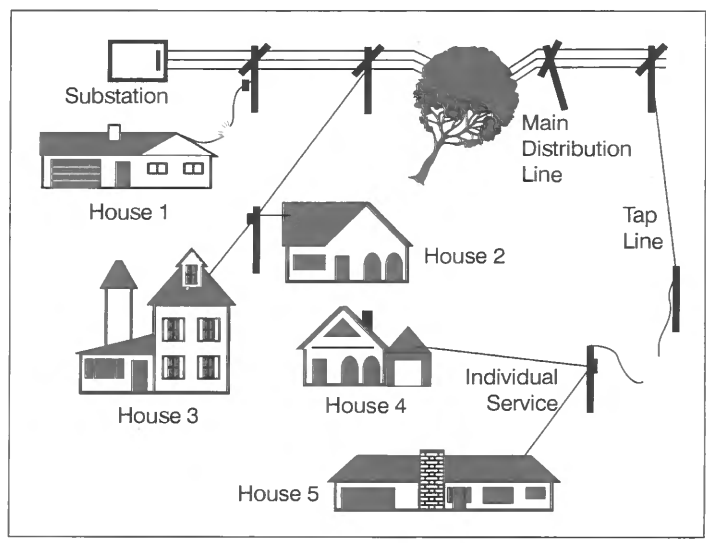
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NEWS

Mailing address: P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816
Street address: 1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, IL
E-mail address: cornbeltenergy.com
Web address: www.cornbeltenergy.com

PHONE NUMBERS	
DAY OR NIGHT	
Northern	800-654-1088
Central	800-879-0339
FAX: 309-663-4516	
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm – Monday thru Friday	

FEBRUARY 2001

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E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Corn Belt Energy invites you to attend the.... *63rd Annual Meeting of Members*

Corn Belt Energy Corporation will hold its 63rd Annual Meeting on March 10, 2001 at Normal Community West High School, Normal, Illinois. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and continues until 10 a.m. The Annual Meeting of Members begins at 10:00 a.m. and is scheduled to last until noon.



The program will include reports from the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the President and the Treasurer of Corn Belt Energy. Also scheduled is the election of board members, entertainment, and drawings for prizes. Coffee, tea, milk, donuts and rolls will be served during morning registration and an "Early Bird" prize raffle is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Following the meeting, a complimentary lunch will be served in the cafeteria and free Home Show 2001 admission passes for the Interstate Center will be available (limit two passes per membership).

The Nominating Committee met at the Corn Belt Energy office on December 19, 2000 to nomi-

nate candidates for five board positions to be filled by election at the Annual Meeting.

The committee nominated the following members for election: Gary Frankeberger, District 1; Ralph Steiger, District 2; Stephen

Schertz, District 3; Laverne Malone, District 5 and Robert Angus, District 9.

Corn Belt Energy members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of Members as the cooperative's annual meeting is an opportunity for those who receive CBEC service to participate and keep informed of developments affecting the cooperative. Each member has voting rights and part ownership of the cooperative.

Corn Belt Energy has been in business over 60 years and is currently a provider of electric energy to nearly 26,000 services in a 19-county service territory. In addition to providing electricity, CBEC participates as a natural gas supplier in the Customer Select pilot program and is also a propane provider. Visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com for more details.

Natural gas choice available

Corn Belt Energy is currently participating in its fourth year as a natural gas supplier in the Nicor Gas *Customer Select* pilot program. Selected customers in Nicor Gas' service territory have the opportunity to buy natural gas from CBEC for consumption beginning May 2001 through April 2002. The enrollment period for participation in this program is January 8, 2001 through March 31, 2001. Bloomington/Normal residential customers currently receiving Nicor Gas service are eligible to participate in this program.

As gas prices climb to record levels, current Corn Belt Energy gas customers are enjoying significant savings on their monthly cost of gas. Corn Belt Energy's fixed therm rate contracts were offered during the 2000 *Customer Select* enrollment period January 6- March 31, 2000. Corn Belt Energy's maximum per therm contract price offered during that enrollment was \$.30 per therm.

Corn Belt Energy's fixed therm rate, guaranteed each month for gas usage from May 2000-April 2001, has allowed Nicor Gas customers a change from the utility's vari-

able therm rates. Nicor Gas' variable rates have been \$.37 (May), \$.45 (June), \$.495 (July), \$.495 (August), \$.515 (September), \$.63 (October), \$.65 (November) and \$.70 (December) per therm.

Selected residential customers who were eligible for the pilot program last year will continue to be eligible for the extended fourth year of the program. All commercial and industrial customers in the Nicor Gas service territory are eligible for Year 4 participation.

Nicor Gas customers who do not wish to participate simply do not select an alternate supplier in the 2001 enrollment period. Nicor Gas will continue to provide gas supply to all customers not participating in this program.

Call toll-free 1-800-879-0339, ext 259, or visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com for contract information updates.

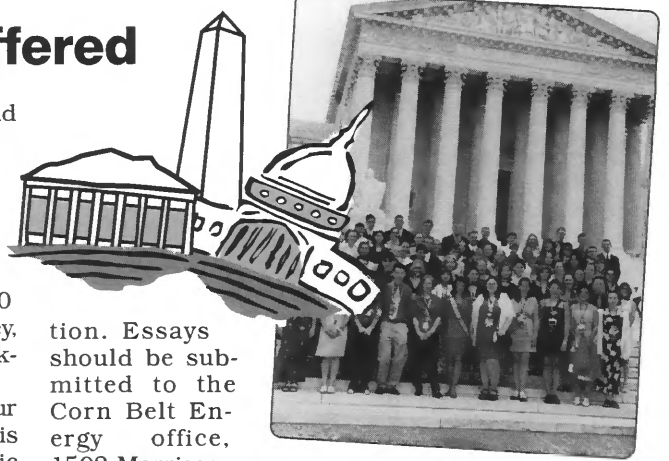
SELECTING A GAS SUPPLIER IS YOUR CHOICE – WE HOPE THAT CORN BELT ENERGY WILL BE YOUR CHOICE.

Scholarship money offered

Three thousand dollars in scholarship money and a trip to Washington, D.C. is offered to high school juniors and seniors competing in the **42nd Youth to Washington Scholarship Competition**. The contest is available to those junior and senior students whose parents are Corn Belt Energy members. The contest offers a \$2,000 scholarship to the winner, and two runners-up will receive \$1,000 scholarships. In addition to the scholarship money, the winner also receives an all-expense paid, week-long tour of Washington, D.C. in June.

The exciting week-long Youth to Washington Tour includes meeting and having lunch with the Illinois congressional delegation and visiting the historic monuments, memorials and shrines of Washington, D.C. The tour also visits Gettysburg, Arlington Cemetery, George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, Historic Alexandria, the Supreme Court and the Capitol Building. A tour of the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian, the Holocaust Museum, tickets to a play at Ford's Theatre, and a twilight cruise on the Potomac River are also included.

To compete for the money and trip, students simply submit an essay explaining why they should be chosen to represent Corn Belt Energy on the Youth to Washington Tour. Students interested in competing please contact our office now to have more information sent to you or visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com to download the informa-



tion. Essays should be submitted to the Corn Belt Energy office, 1502 Morrissey

Drive, Bloomington no later than noon on February 9. The winners will be selected and announced the first week of March and winners will be invited to appear at our annual meeting of members on March 10 at Normal Community West High School.

Scholarship winners may use tuition money at accredited two-year or four-year colleges, universities or vocational/technical schools. High school sophomores, juniors, or seniors are welcome to join our Youth to Washington tour for only \$850 per person. The price includes transportation, meals, lodging, and event tickets. To receive an entry form and additional details, please call 1-800-879-0339 or 309-662-5330, ext. 250 or visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com.

The seven cooperative principles

Members who joined the cooperative this past year will have their first opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting of Members this March. New members may recall contacting our office to begin service at their new home or apartment and then receiving an **Agreement of Membership** from us in the mail shortly thereafter. The **Agreement of Membership** form that you completed and returned to our office ensures your status with Corn Belt Energy as a member. New members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting and learn what being in a cooperative is all about.

The International Cooperative Alliance, in Manchester, England, has produced a list of "The Seven Cooperative Principles" in an attempt to define what being a cooperative is all about.

1. VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

3. MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting activities approved by the membership.

4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organi-

(Continued on page 16c)

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

flameless, ventless, odorless, silent, clean, safe, child-proof, low-priced, produce no carbon monoxide

**WE'LL HELP YOU BUY ONE
WITH UP TO \$125 CASH!**

Call Member Services for details (Press #4 on your touchpad)

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

(Continued from page 16b)

zations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They in-

form the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Northern region news

As of March 20, Northern Region banks will no longer accept CBEC bill payments. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Our thanks to the management and employees of these participating banks: The Galva Bank; The Peoples National Bank of Kewanee; the First National Bank of Ottawa and their South Branch; Northfield Branch and Bank Plaza; The Citizens First National Bank of Princeton, their North and East Branches and their Peru, Oglesby, Spring Valley, Depue, Henry, Sandwich and Plano Banks.

We encourage you to select one of other Easy Pay Ways to handle your monthly Corn Belt Energy transaction.

Our newest Easy Pay Way is the E-bill Internet System – we bill you at your computer e-mail address and you pay us online using a check or credit card – all done from the privacy of your home and the convenience of your computer.

Our easiest Easy Pay Way is Electronic Funds

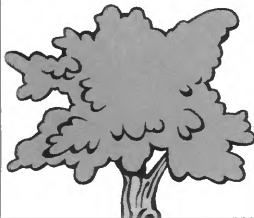
Transfer. On the due date of your CBEC bill each month, your bank pays your bill from your checking or savings account to ours – ensure on-time bill payments without spending money on stamps.

Our most helpful Easy Pay Way is the Balanced Budget Program – each monthly bill is an average of your past 11 month's billing, your current bill, plus or minus any outstanding balance. You may join at any time – no zero balance is required – no "catch-up" month. Balanced Budget eliminates high summer bills by leveling your payments year round.

Our 3 Easy Pay Ways are all optional and free of charge. Monthly statements will continue to provide a convenient self-addressed envelope to mail your payment to CBEC.

For details on any of our Easy Pay Ways, phone 1-800-879-0339 or 1-800-654-1088 and press "2" on your touchpad to be connected with our billing department. Or visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com

McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual spring tree



The McLean County SWCD's Annual Spring Tree sale begins the first of January and will continue through April 28th, 2001. A large variety of evergreens, hardwoods, and shrubs will be offered. Trees can be purchased bareroot in bundles of 25 or potted varieties can be purchased individually. Wildflower seed is also available. For additional information, contact the SWCD office at 309-452-0830, extension 3.



PROPANE PARTNERS



PROPANE GAS USERS!

Corn Belt Energy is partnered with FS, a long-time propane supplier, throughout our service territory to offer propane to you. For your convenience, propane charges are added to your existing electric bill.

Call our office toll-free for details 800-879-0339 or 800-654-1088 ext. 235 or ext. 250

SAFETY QUIZ

True or False?

Just like any other wire, overhead power lines are fully insulated and safe to touch.

False - there is NO insulation on overhead power lines. The bare wire is extremely dangerous - even for linemen. Birds can safely sit on the wires because the insulators that hold the wire off the pole or crossarm stops the electricity from going into the earth.

SEE YOU AT
HOME SHOW 2001
Interstate Center
Bloomington
March 9, 10, 11

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

SANDWICHES, BARBECUED CHICKEN DINNERS, PIES, RIB-EYE STEAK DINNERS, VILLAGES, DUTCH MARKET, CURLY FRIES, FISH DINNERS, FRESH STRAWBERRY

CHEESECAKE, COTTON CANDY, MEATS FROM THE BUTCHER SHOP, PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFASTS, DONUTS, WHEAT

ARTWORK, QUILTS, HANDICRAFTS, BOOK STORE, CARS AND T-SHIRTS, BABY THINGS, WEAVING, FLOWER BOX, POPCORN AND CIDER, ICE CREAM, NEEDLEWORK, CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRIES, BUTTERFLY PORK CHOP

43RD ANNUAL Mennonite Relief Sale

March 16 – 5 pm till 9 pm
March 17 – 6:30 am till 3 pm

At the
**Interstate Center
in Bloomington**

Exit I-55/74
@ Route 9 West

Free parking
Free admission
Lotsa Food – Lotsa Fun
Lotsa Fellowship
Lotsa Sharing

Proceeds used in local and world missions

NATURAL FOODS, KIDDIE CORNER, QUILT DISPLAY, TEN THOUSAND



DINNER RESERVATION FORM 63RD ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

There is no charge for the meal. Please mail the completed form to
P.O. Box 816 Bloomington, IL 61702-0816
before March 8th or reply via e-mail to
thomlinson@cornbeltenergy.com.

If you have questions, call 800-879-0339, ext. 232.

Please make dinner reservation for _____ people.

_____ member name (please print)

_____ city _____ map location number

_____ area code - telephone number _____

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THE SECOND SATURDAY IN MARCH
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU MARCH 10TH**

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with propane or natural gas. Cheap cooling too - about 1/2 the cost of a common air conditioner.

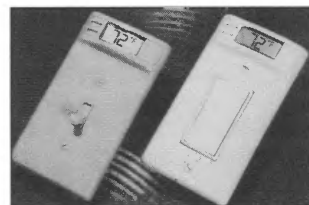
And, GT heats most of the domestic hot water for FREE! Another substantial savings. Do you honestly want low heating, cooling and water heating costs?

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Corn Belt Energy Corporation
1502 Morrissey Drive - Bloomington

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

MARCH 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)



Parkside substation monitored closely

Parkside substation, providing electric service to approximately 1,800 Corn Belt Energy members in Normal, Illinois, has been plagued by power outages over the past year. The substation, located off Gregory Street and I-55/74, has become a primary focus for the Corn Belt Energy Operations department and, unfortunately, a primary concern to the Corn Belt Energy members who have had power interrupted.

The Parkside substation serves the Pinehurst, Tramore, Carriage Hills, Parkside, The Pines, and Aspen Trails subdivisions; The Landings; the west side of the Ironwood subdivision, and a few other individual homes in that vicinity. Ten outages have occurred on this substation since May 30, 2000, ranging in duration from 15 minutes to over 3 hours. Six of the outages, reported in the summer of 2000, were related to a particular piece of equipment installed during a generation installation project to improve CBEC operations. The other four outages, reported in December 2000 and January 2001, were from different sources, such as weather and various equipment failures.

In the spring of 2000, Corn Belt

Energy planned installation of diesel generation at the Parkside substation in an attempt to minimize the cost of energy to all our members. In order to install the generator, our transmission provider required substation protective equipment. In May of 2000, when these alterations were being made, CBEC consumers experienced two outages. Following the completion of the installation, four additional outages were experienced due to the specific equipment setting problem.

During the generator project, Corn Belt Energy staff worked closely with the transmission provider that feeds power to the substation. Corn Belt was required to give responsibility of the main substation protective equipment to the transmission provider in connection with the generator project. In an effort to protect both the new Corn Belt Energy generator and their own transmission system, the transmission provider initiated installations of new equipment on May 30, 2000 at the substation.

During the process of commissioning the new equipment, it malfunctioned causing a 15-minute outage. Approximately two weeks later, on June 16, 2000, the

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 16a)

same area was without power for approximately an hour and a half after the transmission provider refined settings on their new equipment at the substation. Six weeks later, Corn Belt began to experience a different type of problem with the same piece of equipment.

Newly installed controls at the substation did not properly respond during storms. These highly sophisticated controls were designed to protect the integrity of the substation and the transmission source. However, when the transmission system temporarily lost power, the substation's new equipment was unable to react properly and service was interrupted.

During July and August, while CBEC staff was trying to solve the problem, a lineman was dispatched to the substation anytime a storm system was in the Bloomington-Normal area. The lineman was able to monitor the equipment's operation during the storm, report problems, and respond efficiently to restore power.

The four outages (July 28, August 2, August 22, and August 23) occurred after lightning affected transmission lines and the equipment did not respond appropriately. With the lineman posted at the substation, response time on all of these outages was quickened and power was restored within fifty minutes in each case. For example, August 2, 2000, lightning struck the transmission system feeding the Parkside substation, causing a momentary "blink". Voltage was returned within seconds to the transmission source but faulty settings on the substation equipment failed to restore power at the same time. The lineman was able to restore power in less than an hour.

Corn Belt Energy contacted the transmission provider, responsible for the protective equipment in the substation, and alerted them to the service problems. Corn Belt also enlisted the

assistance of independent engineering consultants to monitor the settings and installation of this equipment in the substation.

By early September 2000, engineering and programming issues were resolved and the system's equipment was properly adjusted and calibrated. These problems have not been responsible for any outages since that time.

On December 6, 2000 a three-hour outage occurred during a storm due to a broken cross-arm and wires being down. Ice and wind caused service problems for several hours on December 10, 2000. Transmission lines serving the Parkside substation were affected by ice buildup and salt spray off of I-55/74 causing a one-hour outage on December 30, 2000. Service was out for approximately one hour on January 14, 2001, due to a transformer failing on a feed line, assumed to be caused by previous lightning damage in the summer of 2000.

While all CBEC substations are routinely patrolled and maintained, additional crews are patrolling the lines and performing additional service checks at the Parkside substation. A heat-sensing infrared gun has been used to check for loose connections and other potential problems at the substation, as well. CBEC engineers are conducting studies regarding the placement of additional protective devices to increase reliability and reduce the number of areas affected due to equipment failure, storms, or accidents. Corn Belt has also been in contact with cooperatives who have substations located near salt water in order to derive solutions to the problems caused at the Parkside substation by salt.

To the members served by the Parkside substation - Corn Belt Energy apologizes for these inconveniences and extends sincere appreciation to the members for their patience. The cooperative's top priority is to provide safe and reliable service to our membership.

Northern region news

As of March 20, Northern Region banks will no longer accept CBEC bill payments. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Our thanks to the management and employees of these participating banks: The Galva Bank; The Peoples National Bank of Kewanee; the First National Bank of Ottawa and their South Branch; Northfield Branch and Bank Plaza; The Citizens First National Bank of Princeton, their North and East Branches and their Peru, Oglesby, Spring Valley, Depue, Henry, Sandwich and Plano Banks.

Electronic funds transfer and our new E-billing

Internet system are optional payment alternatives. Electronic funds transfer ensures on-time bill payments without spending money on stamps. The monthly bill payment is transferred from your bank to ours each month on the due date. E-billing allows you to visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com and pay us online using checking information or a credit card. Both alternatives are free of charge. Call 1-800-879-0339 or 1-800-654-1088 and press **2** on your touch pad to be connected with our billing department for more details.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Corn Belt Energy lineman volunteers in Dominican Republic

Jim Buggar, a Corn Belt Energy underground foreman and CBEC employee for over thirty years, recently spent two weeks in the Dominican Republic assisting the local utility as they worked to rebuild and replace infrastructure lost from damage caused by Hurricane George in 1998. Buggar traveled in December to a small rural community, San Rafael del Yuma, along with five other linemen as part of a program sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) International Programs Division. The linemen, from electric cooperatives in Illinois, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Texas, volunteered their time, while NRECA sponsored food, travel, and lodging expenses.

During the two-week program, December 2-16, the volunteering lineman worked side by side with local utility workers on a number of projects to improve service for the residents and businesses of San Rafael del Yuma. Projects included building Three-Phase overhead line, building approximately 2 miles of Single-Phase overhead line, constructing secondary lines, and straightening existing wiring in the community. The crew also hung ten new transformers, ranging from 50 KVA - 100 KVA, a dramatic increase from the three transformers that had previously served the community of approximately 1,500 residents.

Buggar and the other volunteers worked 10 hour days and provided on-the-job training to the local crews as they worked. Myk Maono, NRECA's job supervisor, helped overcome the language barrier between the cooperative lineman and the native Spanish-speaking crew by acting as a translator when necessary. According to Buggar, communication was possible in many instances by simply demonstrating ideas instead of attempting verbal communication.

The two major differences Buggar noticed between his work in the Dominican Republic compared to his regular work at Corn Belt Energy were the weather conditions and the workload. While the Midwest was experiencing below-normal winter conditions in December, San Rafael's weather was around 85 degrees, sunny, and low humidity. Buggar also noted that the workload scheduled for the visit was significantly lower than what he would normally be expected to do in an average two weeks at Corn Belt Energy.

For example, the project to build Three-Phase was scheduled to take a week, and the crew was able to complete the task in two days. The slower schedule in San Rafael gave Buggar a greater appreciation of the high volume of jobs he completes at Corn Belt.

Jim Buggar is the first lineman from Corn Belt Energy to participate in the NRECA International Program. Since his return from the December 2000 trip, NRECA offered Buggar an opportunity to return to the Dominican Republic as a crew leader for another project in February 2001, which he accepted. Buggar learned of the international program in an advertisement posted in the Rural Electrification News magazine about a year and a half ago. He responded to the ad and was selected in the fall of 2000 for his December trip.

NRECA's International Programs were launched in 1962 in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development. Today, NRECA works with the private sector, as well as USAID, the Departments of Energy and Agriculture and other organizations to provide technical advice and electrification assistance in developing countries around the world. According to the NRECA, more than 500 American electric cooperative specialists have been sent to 65 nations in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.



March 26 deadline for natural gas choice

Corn Belt Energy is currently participating in its fourth year as a natural gas supplier in the Nicor Gas 2001-2002 Customer Select pilot program. Selected customers in Nicor Gas' service territory have the opportunity to buy natural gas from CBEC for consumption beginning May 2001 through April 2002. The enrollment period for participation in this program closes March 31, 2001, however, Corn Belt Energy contracts are to be turned in no later than Monday, March 26. Bloomington/Normal residential customers currently receiving Nicor Gas service are eligible to participate in this program. All commercial accounts in Nicor Gas' service territory are eligible for participation.

Corn Belt Energy offers both residential and commercial contracts for the Customer Select

program. Although Corn Belt has traditionally offered fixed-term rate contracts, due to record-high gas prices in recent months, CBEC currently offers a one-year variable-rate contract only.

For more information, call toll-free 1-800-879-0339, ext. 259, or visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com.

Eligible Nicor Gas customers who do not wish to participate in this pilot program, need not select an alternate supplier in the 2001 enrollment period. Nicor Gas will continue to provide gas supply to all customers not participating in this program.

**Selecting a gas supplier is your choice
- we hope Corn Belt Energy
will be your choice.**

Saturday, March 10, 2001 Annual Meeting of Members

to be held at Normal Community West High School
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Registration - coffee, tea, milk, donuts and rolls served
10:00 a.m. Early Bird prize raffle

10:00 - Noon ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
Reports from the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the President and the
Treasurer of CBEC

Election of board members

Entertainment Drawing for prizes

Home Show 2001 passes available

Noon Lunch will be served in the cafeteria

PLEASE RETURN RESERVATION FORM BEFORE MARCH 8
Or reply via e-mail to thomlinson@cornbeltenergy.com
Attend the meeting via the internet at www.cornbeltenergy.com

Dinner Reservation Form

63rd Annual Meeting of Members

There is no charge for the meal. Please mail the completed form before March 8th or reply via e-mail to thomlinson@cornbeltenergy.com

Please make dinner reservations for _____ people.

Member name (please print)

City

Map location number

Area code - telephone number

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

APRIL 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Annual Meeting News—Lower rates coming soon



At Corn Belt Energy Corporation's 63rd annual meeting of members on March 10 at the Normal West Community High School in Normal, Illinois, board chairman Rae Payne of Bloomington, front center, reviews the annual meeting report with the co-op's re-elected board members. They are, back row from left: Laverne Malone of Maroa and Ralph L. Steiger of Delavan. Front, from left: Stephen S. Schertz of El Paso, Payne, and Robert Angus of Ottawa. Not pictured is Gary L. Frankeberger of Bloomington. Schertz is vice-chairman and Frankeberger is assistant secretary-treasurer of the board.

Five area men were re-elected to the board of directors of Corn Belt Energy Corporation at the member-owned electric cooperative's 63rd annual meeting Saturday, March 10, 2001, at Normal Community West High School. Re-elected were Robert Angus of Ottawa, Gary Frankeberger, of Bloomington, Laverne Malone of Maroa, Stephen Schertz of El Paso and Ralph Steiger of Delavan. Frankeberger is assistant secretary-treasurer and Schertz is vice-chairman of the board.

Rae Payne, Corn Belt Energy's board chairman, gave members news of a 10 to 20 percent rate reduction in the near future. Central Region members will experience lower rates beginning with their electric usage in October of 2001, and Northern Region members will see their rates decrease at the end of 2001. Co-op members will be divided into four rate classes, and rates will be determined based on the



Cal Williams, CBEC right-of-way superintendent, right, visits with members about the co-op's tree and brush control programs.

co-op's cost of service study.

Cooperative secretary-treasurer Albert Hagenbuch of Utica reported that net utility plant increased by \$12 million from 1998 through 2000. He stated that although there was a loss in total margins of \$45,000, debt associated with the co-op's former membership in Soyland Power has been paid down \$11 million over the past three years. He said, "Any and all available funds have been used to pay down the Soyland debt, which is down to just over \$9 million from the original debt of \$34.7 million." Continuing, he said that Corn Belt Energy has added more than 100 miles of line and 2,000 members during the past three years.

Because of the negative publicity surrounding California's energy shortage, both Payne and cooperative President/CEO Jeff Reeves addressed power supply issues. Reeves said California's power shortage was caused by poorly written deregulation legislation, growth in energy demand, lack of electrical generation, high natural gas prices and capped retail rates with unregulated wholesale energy prices. "In Illinois, our deregulation laws were well written, and we're in a far better position to address choice," said Reeves. He added, "We at Corn Belt Energy have a plan in place to safeguard our members from crises like the one in California."

Corn Belt Energy's plan ensures its members an ample supply of sound wholesale power for the next four years through a contractual agreement with Wabash Valley Power Cooperative and overlapping short-term contracts with Constellation Power Source, Illinois Power Company and Central Illinois Light Company. In the spring of 2000, the cooperative installed 10 megawatts (MW) of peaking generation in two of its largest substations, which will be used during the summer when demand for electricity is at its highest.

Finally, Corn Belt Energy has plans to construct a coal-fired power plant near Elkhart, at the mouth of the Turriss coal mine. The new plant will surpass stringent state and federal pollution standards, allowing it to burn Illinois coal. Because of this, Corn Belt Energy has received \$51 million of federal and state grants towards the \$137 million project, due to be completed in 2004.



Jerry Durflinger, left, manager of member services, chats with a member about a fluorescent light display.



The husband-wife team of Steve and Julie McClarey entertained. Here, Julie cuts loose with a jazz number from an unusual position.



As a convenience to members, especially the ones in the distant northern region, the meeting was webcast. Kevin Bernson, coordinator of video/internet productions for Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, provided the technical expertise.

The combination of these diversified measures will ensure Corn Belt energy members dependable power, and will reduce the co-op's reliance of buying power on the open market, keeping energy prices equal to or below market-based rates.

During the meeting, members adopted a by-law change allowing them the choice of selecting an alternative energy provider. Commercial members can begin exercising choice on April 1, 2001, and residential members and all others can choose

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

their energy provider beginning in May, 2002. Reeves pointed out that members would only be able to select their energy supplier. No matter which power supplier a co-op members chooses, the energy will continue to be distributed over Corn Belt Energy's lines. Co-op members will continue their Corn Belt membership, and billing and service will still originate from the co-op. If members don't select choice as an option, they will experience no change from their current service.

Reeves reported on the co-op's natural gas business, which is in its fourth year as a supplier for the Nicor Gas 2001-2001 Customer Select pilot program, which continues to grow. The co-op currently has natural gas customers in

Bloomington, Joliet, Rockford and selected Chicago-area suburbs. The co-op serves both residential and commercial accounts.

Corn Belt Energy Corporation serves some 26,000 members in parts of Bureau, Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Henry, Kendall, Knox, LaSalle, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Marshall, McLean, Piatt, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell and Woodford counties. The co-op is also a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of some 560 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country, committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Scholarship Winners Announced

The three winning essays from Corn Belt Energy's 42nd Youth to Washington Scholarship Competition have been selected. The winner of a \$2,000 scholarship and an all-expense paid, week-long tour of Washington, D.C. is Lisa Clark of Oreana, Illinois. Lisa is a senior at Argenta-Oreana High School. Elisabeth Peters of LaSalle, Illinois, is the second place winner and she will receive a \$ 1,000 scholarship. Elisabeth is a senior at LaSalle-Peru Township High School. This year's third place winner is Jessica Tucker from Normal, Illinois, and she will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Jessica is a junior attending Normal Community West High School. Congratulations to our three winners!

As the first-place essay writer, Lisa Clark receives a trip package in addition to the scholarship money. The exciting week-long "Youth to Washington" tour, June 15-22, includes meeting and having lunch with the Illinois congressional delegation and visiting the historic monuments, memorials and shrines of Washington, D.C. High school sophomores, juniors, or seniors are welcome to join the tour for \$850 per person. The price includes transportation, meals, lodging, and event tickets.

All three winners are invited to participate in "Youth Day" on April 4th in Springfield, Illinois. "Youth Day" gathers more than 250 high school seniors and juniors from downstate Illinois to participate in annual "Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day" activities. The students will tour the State Capitol and have an opportunity to meet various elected officials.

Students competing in the "Youth to Washington" Scholarship competition submitted essays explaining why they should be chosen to represent Corn Belt Energy on the "Youth to Washington" tour. The scholarship winners may use their money towards tuition at accredited two-year or four-year colleges, universities, or vocational/technical schools. The contest was open to all junior and senior students whose parents are Corn Belt Energy members. The entry deadline was February 9, 2001.

For additional details on the Youth to Washington tour in June, please contact Emily Anderson, 1-800-879-0339, ext. 250 or visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com to view pictures and articles on past trips. Entry forms and contest details for next year's competition should be available in the fall of 2001.

OFFICE CLOSING

The Corn Belt Energy Corporation office will be closed

Friday, April 13, 2001

in observance of Good Friday.

In the event of an electrical emergency, please call

NORTHERN REGION

800-654-1088

CENTRAL REGION

800-879-0339

McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Spring Tree Sale



The McLean County SWCD's Annual Spring Tree sale begins the first of January and will continue through April 28th, 2001. A large variety of evergreens, hardwoods, and shrubs will be offered. Trees can be purchased bareroot in bundles of 25 or potted varieties can be purchased individually. Wildflower seed is also available. For additional information, contact the SWCD office at 309-452-0830, extension 3.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Help with energy bills

If you anticipate difficulty paying your CBEC electric bill, contact our Member Services department, ext. 222, ext.253 or ext.228, to set up a payment arrangement.

If you would like to apply for assistance, contact the agency in the following list that serves your county. Ask about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Carver Community Action Agency 235 E Main Street Galesburg, IL 61402-0028 309-342-0158	Knox	Mid Central Community Action, Inc 923 E Grove Street Bloomington, IL 61701-4201 309-829-0691 (McLean) 815-844-3201 (Livingston)	McLean Livingston
Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation 1800 5 th Street Lincoln, IL 62656-9117 217-732-2159	DeWitt Menard Logan Piatt Mason	Project NOW Inc. 418 19 th Street Rock Island, IL 61204-3970 309-793-6391	Henry Mercer Rock Island
Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation 1122 E Marietta Street Decatur, IL 62521-1324 217-428-2193	Macon	Tazwood Community Services, Inc Field Shopping Center 2005 S Main Street Morton, IL 61550-2915 309-266-9941 309-694-4391	Tazewell Woodford
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency, Inc 56 N Vermilion Street Danville, IL 61834-1335 217-443-2705	Ford Iroquois Vermilion	Tri-County Opportunities Council 405 Emmons Avenue Rock Falls, IL 61071-0610 815-625-7830 800-323-5434	Bureau Carroll Putnam Lee LaSalle Ogle Stark Whiteside Marshall
Kendall-Grundy Community Action 500A Countryside Center Yorkville, IL 60560-1063 630-553-9100 (Kendall) 815-941-3262 (Grundy)	Kendall Grundy		



Clear Talk



Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc.

For All Your Two-Way Radio Needs

- Rural electric cooperative based, which means stability in your communications system/provider.
- Technology for wide-area communications, not just a single site area.
- Instant access, no waiting to communicate with your work force.
- Clear full quality analog audio.
- Low rates, pricing specific for your business's needs to increase the efficiency of your operations.




For More information Contact: Clear Talk Communications
R.T. 1 N. Box 1087 • Paris, Il. 61944
Toll Free, 1-888-400-4600




CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

MAY 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Welcome to our Website

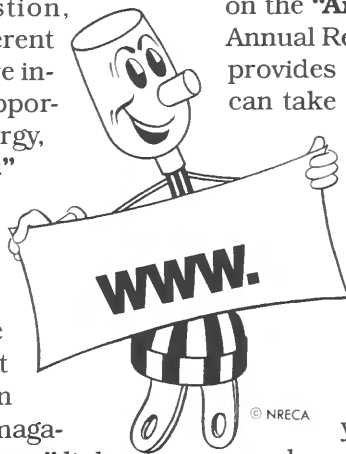
Corn Belt Energy's website www.cornbeltenergy.com has become a very popular place in the last couple of months. As a natural gas supplier in the Nicor Gas pilot program Customer Select®, Corn Belt Energy provided natural gas program information and contracts on our website. During January, February and March (the program enrollment period), our website averaged between 75 - 100 visitors everyday. Our

visitors were able to gather information on the website about our natural gas program, submit a natural gas contract online, and then print a copy of their contract for their own records.

In addition to CBEC natural gas information, there are currently 19 other links which provide information to our membership and other visitors to the website. You can choose from the following links on the "**Corn Belt Energy Links Page**"

CBEC general information	FAQ's (frequently asked questions)	Annual Report
Outages	Membership	Bill Assistance
E-Billing	EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)	AIEC
Electric Heat	Water Heater	Coal Fired Plant
Natural Gas	Propane	Energy.Gov
Products	Scholarships	Publications
Employment	Efficiency Building	

Our "**FAQ's**" link lists the most frequently asked questions from our membership and simple, straightforward answers to those questions. For example, information on deregulation is provided in response to the question, "When can I choose a different electric company?" If you are interested in employment opportunities at Corn Belt Energy, select our "**Employment**" link. Any current job postings can be found here and you can even submit your application online. To review our past Newline bill stuffers or the Corn Belt center section published in the Illinois Country Living magazine, click on the "**Publications**" link. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program agency addresses and phone



numbers can all be found in the "**Bill Assistance**" link. Members who were not able to attend the 63rd Annual Meeting of Members (March 10, 2001) or members who would like to review the meeting can click on the "**Annual Report**" link to read the Annual Report. The "**Water Heater**" link provides instructions on how members can take advantage of our Water Heater Rebate program. Click on "**E-Billing**" and register to pay your energy bill electronically. Once registered, you can view your bill, review your payment history and pay your bill - all from the convenience of your computer.

Corn Belt Energy invites you to visit our website and let us know what you think. Enter www.cornbeltenergy.com in the location
(Continued on page 2)

Welcome to our Website

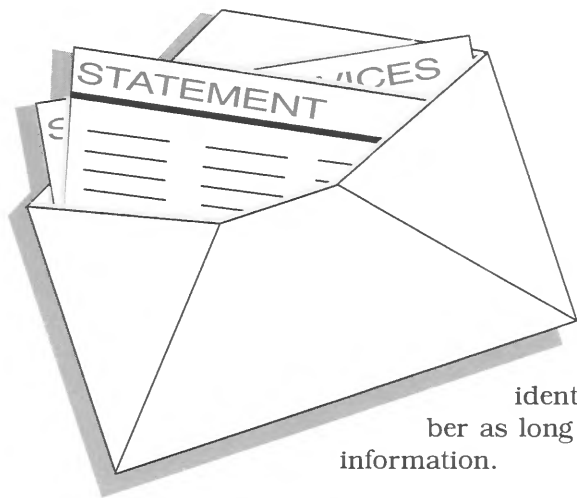
(Continued from page 1)

field or URL field to arrive at our website. Once you reach our website, our "Welcome" homepage will be displayed.

On the homepage, simply click on the "RELATED LINKS" box and the "Corn Belt Energy Links Page" will be displayed, listing our 20

links. If you have ideas about something you would like to see included on our website, please e-mail your thoughts to cbec@cornbeltenergy or call our office toll-free 1-800-879-0339, ext. 251. We hope that you'll find our website easy to navigate and fun to explore!

Before you mail your bill....



Please take a moment to review the payment stub

Your telephone number should be listed in the box in the left-hand corner of the payment stub. If your phone number is not listed (000-000-0000) or listed incorrectly, please write your telephone number (including the area code) in the box. We will update your account.

Our automated outage system can quickly identify your location when you enter your telephone number as long as your billing account has accurate phone number information.

Thank You!

Office closed Memorial Day

The Corn Belt Energy Corporation office will be closed
Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone:

Central Region

800-879-0339

Northern Region

800-654-1088



TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION
DAY OR NIGHT
Phone (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION
DAY OR NIGHT
Phone (800) 654-1088



PROPANE PARTNERS



PROPANE GAS USERS!

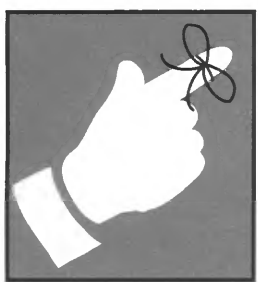
Corn Belt Energy is partnered with FS, a long-time propane supplier, throughout our service territory to offer propane to you. For your convenience, propane charges are added to your existing electric bill.

Call our office toll-free for details 800-879-0339
or 800-654-1088 ext. 235 or ext. 250

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Grain Dryer Installation Notice

Touchstone Energy® Update



If you are planning a grain dryer installation for your fall crop, remember to have your plans approved by Corn Belt's Engineering Department prior to July 1, 2001 in order to guarantee service to the dryer by harvest time.

Contact the Engineering Department before you purchase the dryer or add to your present system, toll-free 800-879-0339, then press "3" on your telephone touchpad.

Touchstone Energy® is a national alliance of local, cooperatively-owned utilities providing high standards of service to customers, large and small, and their communities. More than 560 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in 38 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 15 million customers everyday. Touchstone Energy®

Cooperatives are local, active members of their communities committed to serving commercial, industrial and residential customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement. Touchstone Energy®



Source: www.touchstoneenergy.com

Please dig safely this spring

Remember to contact JULIE before you begin your outdoor projects this year.

If you are starting a garden, building a deck or planting a tree, call JULIE 1-800-892-0123 at least 48 hours in advance so they can mark any underground lines that may be near the area where you plan to dig. By having your dig area marked, you will avoid serious injury and prevent any possible damage to the utility lines that could interrupt service to your own home and to the homes of others. JULIE is a service provided to you at no cost.



Northern Region: Phone 800-654-1088 day or night.

PLATE PALS

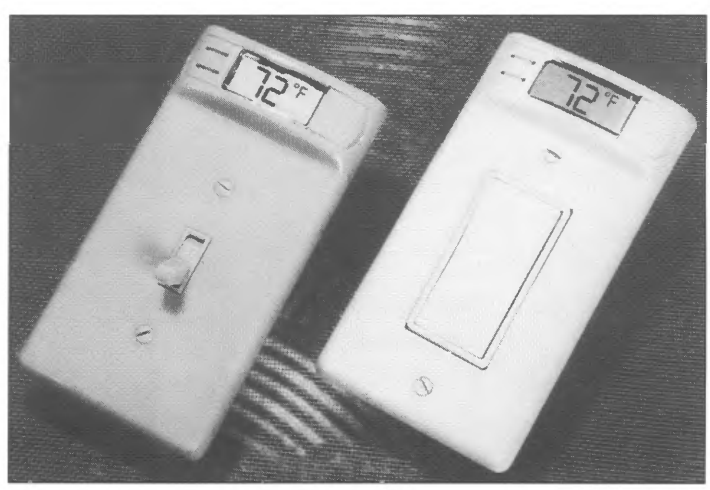
Switch Cover Thermometers

Only **\$9.95** each
(includes tax and shipping)

Charge it to your energy bill
Credit Cards accepted
Standard White or Ivory
Decorator White or Ivory

Phone: 800-654-1088
or 800-879-0339

Press #2 on your touchpad
Corn Belt Energy Corporation
1502 Morrissey Drive - Bloomington

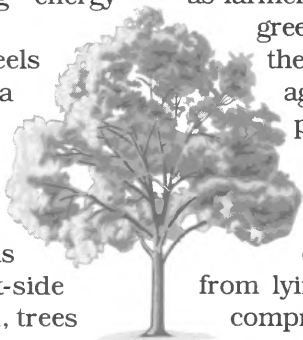


CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Plant for Beauty and Efficiency

Spring is here and that means it's time to get out in the garden and the yard. Before you select plants to beautify your home, consider another important benefit of good landscaping – energy efficiency.

Think about how much cooler it feels beneath the shade of a big tree on a hot day. A tree can provide several tons of cooling power – in air conditioning terms. If your property doesn't have big deciduous trees, give serious thought to planting some this spring. Planted on the south and west-side of the home to block the summer sun, trees can dramatically reduce the heat pouring into your home. The Department of Energy estimates that just three trees positioned correctly



around a house can cut the energy used for cooling by one-fourth.

Trees and shrubs can also provide windbreaks, as farmers have known for years. Rows of evergreen bordering fields were planted to keep the wind from blowing away soil and damaging and drying out crops. The same principle applies to diverting winds that blow directly toward your home.

Even shading the air conditioner compressor can make quite a difference. Although you want to keep plants from lying directly on or interfering with the compressor, a unit that's shaded doesn't have to work as hard (and as expensively) as one that is in the direct summer sun.

Source: Today's Homeowner web site

2001 Race for the Cure

The 16th Annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure has been scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2001 at Peoria's Metro Centre beginning at 8 a.m. Race registration forms have been mailed to participants in last year's event. For those that were unable to participate in previous races, registration forms and Race for the Cure merchandise will available on weekends at the Race Booth outside JC Penney's in Eastland Mall, Bloomington, Illinois. Forms will also be available in the Bloomington/Normal area at BroMenn Healthcare, Carle Clinic, Community Cancer Center, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center and Novak Women's Health and Wellness Center.

Proceeds from the sale of Race for the Cure merchandise, sold at the Eastland Mall booth, will benefit the McLean County Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

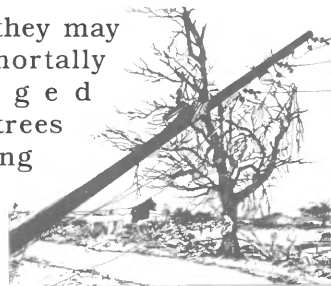


Men who are interested in participating may join the "Three Miles of Men" and line the racecourse to cheer on the women runners and walkers.

For more race information contact Connie Butler, 309-663-2203.

Storms, Trees & Utility Lines

Although they may look mortally damaged after a storm, trees have an amazing ability to recover from damage. With proper pruning and care, all but the most severely damaged are likely to regain their original health and beauty.



Tree first Aid After a Storm

1. Take safety precautions. Stay away from downed lines, and unless you really know how to use one, leave chainsaw work to the professionals.
2. Remove broken branches that are still attached to the tree. They should be pruned at the point where they join larger branches.
3. Don't top your trees! Never cut the main branches back to stubs. Ugly, weakly attached limbs will grow back and be even more likely to break off in a future storm.

For a free brochure, *When a Storm Strikes*, write: The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.



The National Arbor Day Foundation®

www.arborday.org

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

JUNE 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Fleet upgrade



Larry Young, Corn Belt Energy's construction and maintenance manager in the central region, stands next to the cooperative's most recent addition to the equipment fleet. The "double bucket" truck has a 70-foot working height, which allows Corn Belt crews to perform construction and maintenance on poles ranging between 55 feet and 90 feet. The cooperative has nearly 75 miles of transmission poles that re-

quire a vehicle of this size for service. The vehicle replaces a truck that was over 25 years old and had a double bucket reach of only 50 feet. The larger boom also enables crews to "reach over" wet areas along roadsides. The equipment will improve maintenance capabilities and assist in reducing outages. Both the central and northern regions will share the new truck.

PROPANE PARTNERS
PROPANE GAS USERS!



Corn Belt Energy is partnered with FS, a long-time propane supplier, throughout our service territory to offer propane to you. For your convenience, propane charges are added to your existing electric bill.



Call our office toll-free for details 800-879-0339 or 800-654-1088 ext. 235 or ext. 250

Youth day

Students representing Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative's recently participated in "Youth Day" on April 4, in Springfield. Approximately 250 high school students toured the capital, met with area legislators, and had an opportunity to watch government in action. Senator N. Duane Noland, Representative Dan Brady, and Representative Frank Mautino, met with Corn Belt Energy's student representative Jessica Tucker, of Normal. Jessica was one of the three scholarship winners selected this year in Corn Belt Energy's 42nd Annual "Youth to Washington" scholarship competition.

In addition to touring the capital, students also visited the Illinois Supreme Court, Lincoln's tomb and the Governor's mansion. The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

Pictured are, from left, Representative Frank Mautino, Jessica Tucker, Emily Anderson, Corn Belt chaperone; and Senator N. Duane Noland.



Please dig safely this spring

Remember to contact JULIE before you begin your outdoor projects this year.

If you are starting a garden, building a deck or planting a tree, call JULIE 1-800-892-0123 at least 48 hours in advance so they can mark underground lines that may be near the area where you plan to dig. By having your dig area marked, you will avoid serious injury and prevent any possible damage to the utility lines that could interrupt service to your own home and to the homes of others. JULIE is a service provided to you at no cost.

NORTHERN REGION MEMBERS: call 1-800-654-1088, day or night, to schedule a locate.

NOTE: To have underground cable located that is on your side of the meter, phone the largest electrical contractor in the city nearest you.

Outdoor safety

- Use only electrical equipment designed for outdoor use.
- Keep ladders, kites and antennas (anything metal) away from power lines.
- Never climb power poles, transmission towers or fences around substations.
- Teach children to stay clear of all electrical installations.
- If you see a downed power line, call the police or the electric company, and then warn others away.
- After a storm, do not touch a metal fence - a power line could be in contact with the fence.
- Never touch a phone line or a cable TV line that is on the ground - it could also be touching an electric line.



The Surge Sentry System

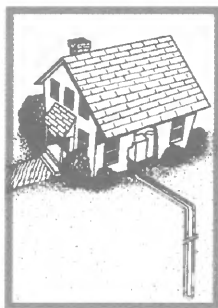
Total Home Protection From High Voltage Surges

For details phone 800-879-0339 or 800-654-1088
then press #4 on your touchpad.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Geothermal News

Corn Belt Energy's Member Services department has been talking with people in the last few months who are seeking relief from the high prices of their heating costs. Many people are learning about geothermal heating and cooling and making the choice to convert to this system. Some members may have visited the Geothermal Open House, sponsored by Bratcher Heating & Air Conditioning and Corn Belt Energy, on April 21. The open house provided over 300 people the opportunity to visit and experience a home site that heats and cools with a geothermal system.



radiator) in the house and the heat is transferred to an air conditioning gas. The gas is run through a compressor and the heat of compression raises the temperature to about 120 degrees. The heat is introduced very slowly into the house.

Corn Belt geothermal users typically comment that the system provides a nice, comfortable, even heat - from floor to ceiling. Some users remark that the system is so quiet that they are not sure if its operating until they put their hand over the register. Added with the significant savings a system can bring, geothermal users are very happy with and proud of their systems.

Geothermal is considered by many to be the cheapest way available today to heat and cool a structure. Using our electric heating rate, Corn Belt geothermal accounts are averaging about 10 cents a square foot to heat their homes for the entire seven-month heating season. Two-thousand square foot homes are heated for approximately \$200 and approximately 40% of the domestic hot water is heated for free.

A typical geothermal system is 400 percent efficient, delivering four times more energy than it consumes. The savings continue through the summer as geothermal users cool their homes for about half the cost of a standard air conditioner. The system rejects heat to 55 degree earth instead of to 95-100 degree air as a common air conditioner must. Users are averaging about five cents per square foot for cooling for the whole season. Geothermal also heats all of the domestic hot water in a typical summer.

Geothermal is a simple system. It moves heat from one place to another. A fluid is circulated through pipes buried in the yard and is heated to 55 degrees by the basal ground temperature. At our latitude, the earth remains at 55 degrees year-round four to five feet below the surface. The heated liquid is pumped into a heat exchange coil (a small

For more information on geothermal systems, please contact our Member Services department or visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com

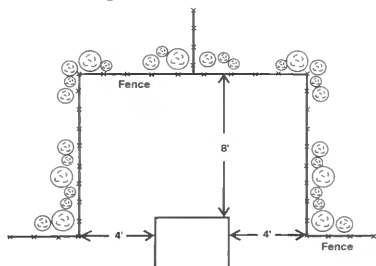
Grain Dryer Installation Notice

If you are planning a grain dryer installation for your fall crop, remember to have your plans approved by Corn Belt's Engineering Department **prior to July 1, 2001** in order to guarantee service to the dryer by harvest time.

Contact the Engineering Department before you purchase the dryer or add to your present system, toll-free (800)879-0339, then press "3" on your telephone touchpad.

PLEASE BE COOPERATIVE

Do not PLANT, STACK or BUILD ANYTHING within 8 feet of the front or four feet of the sides and back of a pad-mounted transformer.



Whether restoring power or maintaining the system, our linemen need adequate clearance around our facilities to work safely.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

flameless, ventless, odorless, silent, clean, safe, child-proof, low-priced, produce no carbon monoxide

**WE'LL HELP YOU BUY ONE
WITH UP TO \$125 CASH!**

Call Member Services for details (Press #4 on your touchpad)

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

**CENTRAL REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339**

**NORTHERN REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088**

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

*Corn Belt Energy Corporation, Enerstar Power Corp.
and Shelby Electric Cooperative*

Through

ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC. (Clear Talk)

is now offering

**Business and Residential
Long Distance Phone Service**

Billed by PowerNet Global Communications

Utilizing the QWEST Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

FREE

Personal
800 NUMBER
No Fees
Same low rate

4.9 cents **6.9 cents**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

24 hours a day – 7 days a week – no codes to dial

- Free to join – No monthly fees – No monthly minimum
- No term agreements – Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9 cents – 6.9 cents per minute – no fees
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- 6 second increment billing (18 second minimum)

Low overseas rates. Call the United Kingdom for just 8 cents per minute.

(Rates may vary from country to country) No fees or service charge.

Corn Belt Corporation, Enerstar Power Corp. and Shelby Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk), is offering long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. You can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low 4.9 cents per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for 6.9 cents per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day-7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.

For additional information or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-888-414-4116

Mail application to: Clear Talk, P.O. Box 1087, Paris, IL 61944

Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-877-990-7466

DETACH HERE

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (_____) _____ - _____ (_____) _____ - _____ (_____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (_____) _____ - _____

(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, to transfer my **Interlata and Intralata (local toll)** long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Illinois Cooperative Association

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

July 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Propane program continues to grow

Corn Belt Energy is the new propane supplier for the Easter Seals – UCP facility located just north of Bloomington/Normal. Corn Belt's propane partner, Farm Services (FS), recently installed 12 propane tanks at Timber Point Outdoor Center. The facility hosts over two dozen camps and events for children and adults with special needs. Corn Belt will now provide both electricity and propane service to this facility.



David Bateman, left, vice president of Easter Seals - UCP and Dave Hawkinson, Corn Belt Energy

According to Dave Hawkinson, Corn Belt Energy's Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, Timber Point camp officials carefully studied propane prices throughout the past year and found that Corn Belt's prices were consistently lower than their existing supplier's prices. Hawkinson also noted that in addition to consideration of price, camp officials indicated that quality service was important to them because the camp relies on propane for many basic needs, such as cooking, shower facilities, and the pool.

Corn Belt Energy, partnered with FS member companies since the fall of 1999, provides propane service to residential and

commercial accounts. Members in the following counties are eligible to purchase propane from Corn Belt: Knox, Henry, Stark, Bureau, Putnam, Marshall, LaSalle, Kendall, Dewitt, Ford, Logan, Macon, McLean, Piatt, Tazwell, and Woodford. For the members convenience, propane delivery charges are added onto the electric bill.

For current propane prices, summer-fill program details and contract options, please contact the Marketing Department at 1-800-879-0339, ext. 235, Dave Hawkinson, or ext.250, Emily Anderson.

Diesel generators ready for summer service

Corn Belt employees have been hard at work in preparation for peak summer load conditions. One of the projects recently completed was the servicing and testing of five diesel generators that were installed last summer at the Parkside substation in Normal and the Gillum substation south of Bloomington. The 2-megawatt diesel generators are ready to be used when demand for electric generation is high. The generators are part of Corn Belt Energy's strategy for provid-

ing reliable and cost effective energy to the membership.

Ron Hopkins, Director of Distribution Automation and Regulatory Affairs, reports that in response to outage issues at the Parkside substation last summer, two of the units installed last year have been replaced this year by two new generators. Corn Belt continues extensive inspection of distribution circuits in this area and performs necessary repairs in order to ensure reliable service.

AIEC hosts tree trimming school

Four employees of Corn Belt Energy attended a line clearance tree trimming school May 8-10, at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. The three-day school was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Instructors included Frank Kinnison, Corn Belt Energy forestry foreman, Cal Williams, Corn Belt Energy manager of vegetation and safety and Brian Anderson and Roger Stegeman of the AIEC.

According to Cal Williams, the tree trimming school not only provided training on proper pruning, but also covered other important topics and allowed participants to compete in "tree felling" and "throw bag" competitions. In addition to learning pruning techniques that prevent disease and train trees to grow away from power lines, participants learned about chainsaw safety, tree identification, climbing techniques, how trees grow, tree felling, and rigging for removal.

Nine cooperatives participated in this event, with a total of thirty students in attendance. Norm Dunlop and Mark Schaley of Corn Belt Energy placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively, in the "throw bag" competition held.



Top photo: Rod Rolando and Tom Dixon



Bottom photo: Norman Dunlop and Mark Schaley

Touchstone Energy training held

Nancy Nixon, marketing administrator for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, conducted Touchstone Energy® training sessions at Corn Belt Energy Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois, on May 16. A Touchstone Energy cooperative since 1998, Corn Belt Energy joins nearly 600 cooperatives in 38 states as a member of an alliance of local, consumer-owned utilities across the country. Together, Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve over 16 million customers a day. Touchstone cooperatives are committed to providing superior service at affordable rates to all customers large and small.



Nancy Nixon, AIEC and Chuck West, Corn Belt Energy construction foreman.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

flameless, ventless, odorless, silent,
clean, safe, child-proof, low-priced,
produce no carbon monoxide
WE'LL HELP YOU BUY ONE WITH UP TO \$125 CASH!
Call Member Services for details
(Press #4 on your touchpad)

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088

OFFICE CLOSED

The Corn Belt Energy Corporation office will be closed Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. In the event of an electrical emergency, please call

NORTHERN REGION: (800) 654-1088

CENTRAL REGION: (800) 879-0339

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Rate 11 to change

Corn Belt Energy recently announced a change, effective with October electric usage, in the very successful **Rate 11** program. Rate 11 is a voluntary residential interruptible electric service program which began in 1994 and currently has nearly 3,500 participants. Corn Belt Energy members who participate in this curtailment program agree to have their electric service interrupted briefly, at various times from June to September, in order to receive a reduced kilowatt rate for their electric usage year-round. Rate 11 members are required to pay a contribution towards the radio-controlled switch needed for the program.

The Rate 11 program is board approved each year and the number of participants able to enroll is determined each year. As a result of a new power contract that reflects market-based costs, Rate 11 participants will see a change in their energy cost on the November bill. Members should also be aware of a few other modifications to the program. This is the first change to the program in its seven year history.

THE NEW RATE 11 PROGRAM FEATURES:

1. Beginning with October 2001 electric usage (November bill), the "Rate 11" rate will change to a guaranteed 10 percent below the new Corn Belt Energy standard residential rate.
2. The interrupt period will be June 1 through September 30.
3. Interrupts will only occur Monday through Friday.
4. There will not be interrupts on weekends or holidays.
5. All interrupts will last a maximum of three (3) hours.
6. Although late afternoon is the most likely time for interrupts to occur, the interrupt time may extend into early evening, should peak load mandate.

Corn Belt Energy continues its commitment to providing a residential interrupt program that allows member to save money with the least amount of inconvenience through the Rate 11 program.

If you would like more information on the new Rate 11 program, please contact the Member Services Department at 1-800-879-0339.

Residential summer rates

Purchasing electricity in the summer has been more costly than in the winter months since 1979 when Congress enacted the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act. This act encouraged state Commerce Commissions to set higher summer rates to more accurately reflect the higher cost of generating electricity in the summer. The higher costs are a result of the oldest, most inefficient generating plants being used to meet the higher demand for electricity created by the summer air conditioning load. These older plants are typically on standby during the non-summer months.

CENTRAL REGION

The majority of our members are served on Rate 1. This rate has two separate schedules – one for summer and one for winter. The winter schedule is in effect 10 months of the year. The summer schedule applies to usage in July and August. The bills for this consumption will be received in August and September.

NORTHERN REGION

Those members who subscribe to a rate with the "OFF PEAK, ON PEAK" options begin purchasing electricity at the "ON PEAK" rate with the June billing. The "ON PEAK" option is in effect for four months.



Your electric co-op is here to stay

The electric utility industry is changing every day, and the information you hear can be as dizzying as a merry-go-round. One thing is certain, though, your electric co-op is here to stay. You won't see us pulling up stakes and cutting services — you'll still see the same friendly faces from your co-op you've always known and trusted right here in your local community.



Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

We've here to serve you and we're working hard to remain your best choice

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

*Corn Belt Energy Corporation, Enerstar Power Corp.
and Shelby Electric Cooperative*

Through

ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC. (Clear Talk)

is now offering

**Business and Residential
Long Distance Phone Service**

Billed by PowerNet Global Communications

Utilizing the QWEST Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

FREE

Personal
800 NUMBER
No Fees
Same low rate

4.9 cents **6.9 cents**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

24 hours a day – 7 days a week – no codes to dial

- Free to join – No monthly fees – No monthly minimum
- No term agreements – Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9 cents – 6.9 cents per minute – no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9 cents per minute (No surcharge)
- 6 second increment billing (18 second minimum)

Low overseas rates. Call the United Kingdom for just 8 cents per minute.
(Rates may vary from country to country) No fees or service charge.

Corn Belt Corporation, Enerstar Power Corp. and Shelby Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk), is offering long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. You can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low 4.9 cents per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for 6.9 cents per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day-7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.

**For additional information or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-888-414-4116
Mail application to: Clear Talk, P.O. Box 1087, Paris, IL 61944
Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-877-990-7466**

DETACH HERE

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (____) _____ - _____
(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, to transfer my **Interlata and Intralata (local toll)** long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Illinois Cooperative Association

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

New airport terminal to open soon

Bloomington/Normal's Central Illinois Regional Airport (CIRA) continues construction on their new terminal building scheduled to open October 2001. The CIRA serves McLean County and beyond, has been in business 36 years and is a Corn Belt Energy electric and natural gas member.

An increase in travel options (including jet service), low airfares, free parking and easy access ability have resulted in enough growth to necessitate construction of the new terminal. The project began in the fall of 1999.

According to CIRA, the new termi-



nal will be 102,300 total square feet (more than triple the square footage of the current terminal) and will feature seven airline ticket counters, two baggage claim carousels, and free short and long term automobile parking.

Five airlines currently serve CIRA with worldwide connections: AirTran Airways, American Eagle, Northwest Airlink, Trans World Express, and United Express. CIRA's passenger traffic in 2000 increased by 9.6 percent over 1999 for a total of 476,063 passengers for the year. The Central Illinois Regional Flight Guide is available on the CIRA website at www.cira.com.

Source: John Ward,
 Bloomington-Normal
 Business Connection



ENERGY SAVING TIPS for the summer

Air conditioning tips:

As the air conditioning season is upon us, energy bills are often higher than any other time of the year. You can help reduce your cooling bills this summer without sacrificing comfort by considering a few energy savings tips:

- Install a programmable thermostat in your home. It can save up to 20 percent on cooling costs. You no longer waste money cooling your home when you are away.
- When purchasing an air conditioner, carefully consider the size needed for your home. Don't waste money purchasing more air conditioner than you need to comfortably cool your home. Personal recommendations on what size air conditioner to buy are available at www.energyguide.com.
- Maintain your air conditioner unit by having it inspected and cleaned every other season. Regular maintenance will extend its life and improve its efficiency up to 5 percent.
- Raise the thermostat. You can save 2 percent of your cooling costs for each degree you raise your thermostat. Raising the temperature just 5 degrees means a 10 percent savings. Experts recommend that you set your thermostat to 78° when you are home, and 85° when you are out.



Other basic tips:

- Close drapes to keep out heat in summer.
- Close off unused rooms if they are not regularly used.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer full. Open doors as little as possible. Be sure gaskets fit tightly.
- Cut down on washer and dryer use. Wash full loads only. Use cold-water detergent. Keep lint traps clean. Air-dry clothes outside in good weather.

Source: *Energy Savings Monthly*

Clear Talk

Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc
888-400-4600

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- NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION
- LOCAL SERVICE AVAILABLE
- PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS
- NEW & USED EQUIPMENT
- RENTAL UNITS
- FREE DEMONSTRATIONS

Credits for the central region seasonal program participants:

A/C switches: \$9 per month for June, July, August and September.

Water heater: \$4.50 per month for June, July, August and September.

Participating members receive credit on July, August, September and October bills. Call Member Services for more program information.

(800) 879-0339, ext. 222, ext. 253
or ext. 228

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Residential summer rates

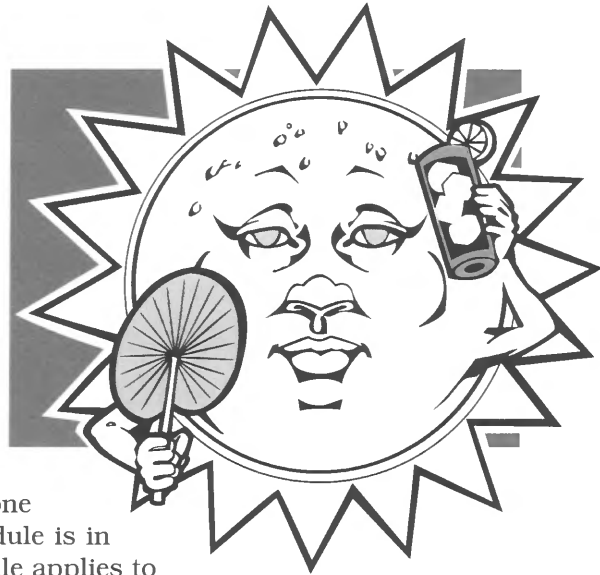
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Central region

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Northern region

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CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Outage update

A small tree frog was the cause of a May 18 outage in the Secor area. The line outage affected 37 homes in the rural Secor and Congerville area, where service was interrupted for approximately two hours.



Avoid food poisoning with safe grilling tips

- Wash your hands before you start.
- Keep meat refrigerated until you're ready to put it on the grill.
- Use two plates, one for the raw meat and one for the cooked meat.
- Use a meat thermometer to check doneness. The color of the meat isn't always a reliable method. Cook steak between 145° F and 160° F,

- beef burgers to 160° F and chicken to 180° F.
- Don't re-use raw-meat marinade on the cooked meat.
- Don't let food sit too long un-refrigerated. If the outdoor temperature is above 80° F, refrigerate the meat within an hour. Otherwise, refrigerate within two hours.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pheresis donors needed by Red Cross

Some people would say that taking two hours of their time is a small price to pay to help save a life. Pheresis donors are doing just that.

Pheresis is a process by which you donate only one part or component of your blood, usually platelets. The platelets are collected by passing the whole blood through a cell separator, which removes only the platelets and returns the red cells and plasma to the donor.

Anyone can be a pheresis donor as long as you are able to devote about two hours for a donation, weigh at least 110 pounds, are at least 17 years of age, and are in good health.

Pheresis donation helps heart surgery pa-

tients, cancer patients and patients with blood disorders - especially leukemia and other life threatening illnesses. Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy need donated platelets because their therapy can interfere with their bodies ability to make platelets. One pheresis donation can help up to two patients and the donor's body replaces the component that has been collected within 24 hours. To find out more about pheresis donation and/or to schedule an appointment, call the American Red Cross at 1-800-SAVE-LIFE (1-800-728-3543), ext.1441.

Source: American Red Cross

PROPANE PARTNERS

PROPANE GAS USERS!



Corn Belt Energy is partnered with FS, a long-time propane supplier, throughout our service territory to offer propane to you. For your convenience, propane charges are added to your existing electric bill.



Call our office toll-free for details 800-879-0339 or 800-654-1088 ext. 235 or ext. 250

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



NEWS

Mailing address: P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816
Street address: 1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, IL
E-mail address: cbec@cornbeltenergy.com
Web address: www.cornbeltenergy.com

PHONE NUMBERS	
DAY OR NIGHT	
Northern	(800) 654-1088
Central	(800) 879-0339
FAX: (309) 663-4516	
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm - Monday thru Friday	

SEPTEMBER 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Construction crews hard at work

Corn Belt Energy crews have been very busy during the construction season this year. Keith Erickson, CBEC's manager of engineering services, reported in May that the volume of work to be completed this summer was much greater than in previous years. Erickson reports that as of mid-July in the central region many of the large three-phase service projects scheduled for this summer had been completed.

Among the three-phase services completed are: the Central Illinois Regional Airport terminal, Calvary United Methodist Church, Menards, Bloomington/Normal Surgical Center, Altorfer Inc., Permabuilt of Illinois, Chuck's Harley-Davidson, Country Inn and Suites, Flextec, Meijer Convenient Store, new Unit 5 elementary school (Grove Elementary), the new Bloomington Normal Airport Authority control tower, the new Snyder Home Office building, and WM Master, Inc.

Upcoming three-phase services to be completed in the central region are the new east high school (NCHS), BNWRD Sewage Plant (Randolph Township), Normal sewage pump, Normal water booster pump, First Farm Credit Services, Corn Belt Energy's new home office near Downs, Hilton Garden Inn, Stelle doctor's office

building, Dr. (s) Nayak and Nayak office building, and the Schnack & Pappus chiropractic building. In addition, 10 miles of new three-phase overhead power line construction needs to be completed, as well as continued work in new subdivisions.

Patrick Griggs, northern region manager of engineering and power use, reports that crews in the northern region had also completed building many new services by mid-summer. Some of the completed projects include building three miles of line in Dimmick Township for a new transmission line, relocating one mile of line near Knoxville to bring the line out to the road and add two new services, building two miles of line near Neponset, upgrading the northwest side of the Oak Run subdivision from one-phase service to three-phase service and building two miles of line to better handle their summer season load, and changing out maintenance poles throughout the northern territory.

Upcoming construction projects in the northern region include replacing the underground conductor in Norwood Meadows subdivision, building two miles of tie line near Galva, and rebuilding three miles of line north of Ladd.

OFFICE CLOSING
The Corn Belt Energy Corporation offices will be closed on Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.

PROPANE PARTNERS
PROPANE GAS USERS!

Corn Belt Energy is partnered with FS throughout our service territory to offer propane to you. For your convenience, propane charges are added to your existing electric bill. Contact our office today for Summer Fill prices.

Call our office toll-free for details (800) 879-0339 or (800) 654-1088 ext. 235 or ext. 250

Youth to Washington

Two area youths spent the week of June 15-22 exploring Washington D.C. The students, along with 52 other rural Illinois youth leaders, met with Illinois congressional leaders and learned about their government during the annual "Youth to Washington" tour. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

Lisa Clark of Oreana and Elisabeth Peters of LaSalle represented Corn Belt Energy Corporation. They met with 19th District Congressman, David Phelps of Eldorado on Capitol Hill. In addition to the Capitol, students also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Supreme Court, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.



2001: A Youth Odyssey

Youth To Washington

ILLINOIS

Pictured are (l-r): Clark, Congressman Phelps and Peters.

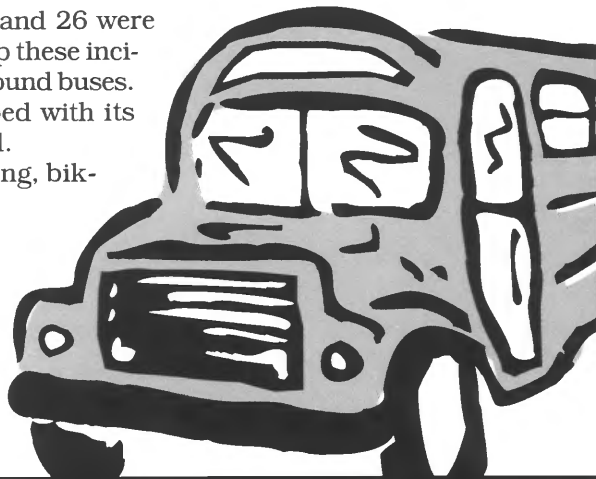
Keep it safe around **SCHOOL BUSES**

Summer's over and children are heading back to school. Last year, more than 9,000 students were injured and 26 were killed in bus related incidents. You can help stop these incidents by doing your part to ensure students' safety around buses.

- Always stop your vehicle when a bus is stopped with its stop sign extended from either side of the road.
- Keep a close watch for students that are walking, biking or skating to school.

STUDENTS SHOULD FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

- Take 10 giant steps in front of a bus before crossing the street. (This will enable the driver to clearly see all students as they cross.)
- Never walk behind a bus.
- Watch for cars and cross streets carefully.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver says it is okay to approach.



NEW CREDITS FOR CENTRAL REGION

A/C SWITCHES: \$9 Per Month For June, July, August, and September.

WATER HEATER: \$4.50 per month for June, July, August and September.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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PAY YOUR ENERGY BILL ONLINE

www.cornbeltenergy.com

Visit our website, select the "Related Links" icon, then click on "E-billing" and register to pay your energy bill electronically.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • View your bill | • Pay your bill via checking account or credit card |
| • Review your payment history | • Free |

... all from the convenience of your computer.

No more checks to write and save money on stamps, too.

Clear Talk

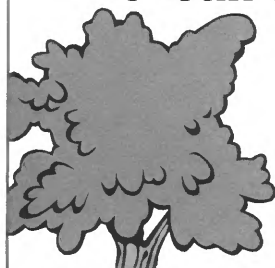
Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc.

(888) 400-4600

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- Local service available
- Private conversations

McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District Fall Tree Sale



The McLean County SWCD's Fall tree sale is now underway and will continue through October 5. A variety of potted evergreens, hardwoods and shrubs will be offered. Pickup will be October 12 at the SWCD office at 402 N. Kays Drive, Normal, IL.

For additional information, or to obtain an order form, contact the SWCD office at (309) 452-0830 ext.3.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Come see natural energy at work!

You are invited to come and see for yourself a geothermal system in operation.

A Geothermal Open House

This is your opportunity to find out just how much more spendable income you'll have

when you invest in a geothermal system for your home or business. A typical geothermal system is 400 percent efficient, delivering four times more energy than it consumes. Corn Belt Energy's geothermal owners heat for about 60 percent less than they could have with propane and about half the cost of natural gas. The savings continue through the summer for these members as they cool their homes for about half the cost of a standard air conditioner and heat all the domestic hot water for free.

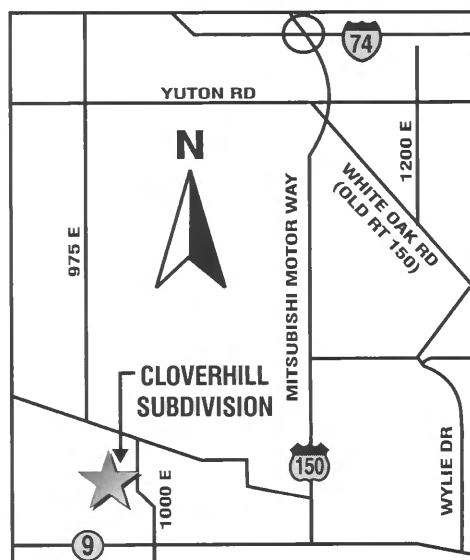
Come see the world's most economical heating/cooling/water heating system.

Sponsored by:

Frost Cooling & Heating
810 Osage Street • Normal, IL 61761
(309) 862-2571

Water Furnace

Date: Saturday,
September 22, 2001
Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Location: Lot 18 in Cloverhill subdivision. About 2.5 miles west of Bloomington on Route 9, then .75 mile north on County Road 1000E.

CORN BELT
ENERGY

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

OCTOBER 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Project Habitat

Corn Belt Energy is proud to continue its commitment to the Project Habitat® wildlife enhancement program as part of our corporate environmental stewardship responsibilities. By 2002, there will be 12 easement areas in Corn Belt territory that will follow the Project Habitat guidelines for vegetation control and have Corn Belt/Project Habitat signs posted. Instead of using mowers, chainsaws or burning to keep fast-growing trees and brush out of power lines, Corn Belt will utilize technologically advanced herbicides to control undesirable trees and brush, while preserving low-growing plants in the right-of-way area.

Easements, or strips of land in which the utility poles are located, are usually 10 to 30 feet wide and often pass through farms and forest areas. While these areas contain the poles and wires that carry electricity to the membership, easement areas also contain vegetation that provides shelter and nesting areas for quail, turkey and other ground-dwelling birds, deer, butterflies, small game and other wildlife. By targeting problematic vegetation in easement areas and using basal applications to apply chemicals selectively, Corn Belt can maintain the integrity of the electric system without disrupting the wildlife's nesting areas.

Cal Williams, Corn Belt Energy manager of vegetation and safety, recently joined Stuart Allison, associate professor of biology at Knox College in Galesburg; Randy Lusher, vegetation specialist with BASF corporation; and Joe Diveney, caretaker for Green Oaks, to place a Project Habitat sign at the utility easement that runs along the west side of Green Oaks. This 670-acre biology research area is located south of Victoria near the Oak Run subdivision in central Knox County. Williams worked closely with Allison, Diveney, and Mike Davidson, Oak Run subdivision property owner association's president, prior to removing any vegetation to ensure that Corn Belt's tree-removal plan would be beneficial for Green Oaks and its neighbors.

Prior to posting the sign at the Green Oaks easement site on July 6, Corn Belt completed a carefully planned clean up of several hundred yards of its easement using herbicides that will limit growth of non-native tree species in the area. Randy Chamberlain, Corn Belt Energy contractor, assisted in these efforts. Corn Belt plans to return to Green Oaks in one - two years to examine the



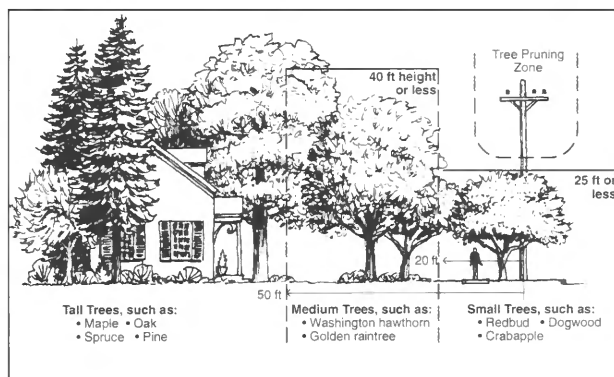
Pictured from left: Cal Williams, manager of vegetation and safety; Randy Lusher, BASF corporation; Randy Chamberlain, CBEC contractor; and Mike Nelson, manager of construction and maintenance (Northern region).

three phase line in this area and evaluate the regeneration of vegetation.

In addition to the Green Oaks project, Corn Belt has four other easement areas that currently have Corn Belt/Project Habitat signs posted. Three signs are posted near the Wedron substation, north of Ottawa, including the Harold Stoner farm, and one sign is posted inside the Oak Run subdivision. As with these easement areas, prior to any pruning and/or removal of undesirable brush, Frank Bray, owner of Frank and Al's Tree Service in Ottawa, consults with the members in the affected areas to provide education on the Project Habitat program. After receiving the member's approval, Mr. Bray clears the easement areas and then Corn Belt Energy manages the chemical applications. To ensure that Corn Belt members are happy with the completed job, Mr. Bray then pays a visit back to the members for their feedback. As new easement areas are treated, look for the Corn Belt/Project Habitat sign to be posted.

The Project Habitat wildlife enhancement program was formed on Earth Day in 1995 as a coalition of electric utility companies, wildlife groups and BASF to manage rights-of-way for species biodiversity. The wildlife partners of Project Habitat - Quail Unlimited, The National Wild Turkey Federation, the Quality Deer Management Association, Butterfly Lovers International and Buckmasters - are each dedicated to preserving native species that enrich our lives and the habitats of America. For more information on Project Habitat, please visit the www.4vegngt.com website.

Please, plant the right tree in the right place



scribe to the following tree-planting rules in relation to overhead power lines:

Low Zone - Tree species that will not exceed 25 feet in height can be planted directly beneath power lines and for 20 feet to either side. Taller existing trees in this zone have to be pruned (sometimes drastically) so they'll grow around the wires. We're all in agreement that trees pruned in this manner are not attractive.

Medium Zone - Trees that grow to 40 feet in height at maturity are recommended for areas immediately adjacent to the Low Zone. This will rule out the possibility of limbs overhanging the power lines that we'll need to prune or trees that can topple into the lines during a bad storm.

Tall Zone - Taller maturing trees should be planted at a distance of 50 feet or more from the power lines. This will insure they'll reach their full potential undisturbed by pruning. There is also little likelihood that wind or ice will cause them to do damage to the power lines.

Please call Corn Belt Energy at 800-879-0339 extension 234 if you have a specific question about trees or for a copy of our brochure - *What About The Trees?* - that explains why and how we prune, where to plant and a list of tree species that are suitable to plant within each zone.

Trees are prized possessions in our yards and communities. They give needed shade in summer, provide protection from winter winds, help clear the air of pollutants, furnish a home for songbirds and wildlife and they please the eye with the beauty of their foliage.

But, when a tree's branches grow too closely to, or actually touch, power lines the result is going to be a power outage. This is a case of the wrong tree being planted or allowed to grow in the wrong place.

Trees and power lines can co-exist. But the trees must be selected and planted with size and growth characteristics appropriate to their location.

All responsible arborists and their associations sub-

Help with energy bills

If you anticipate difficulty paying your CBEC electric bill, contact our Member Services department, ext. 222, ext.253 or ext.228, to set up a payment arrangement.

If you would like to apply for assistance, contact the agency in the following list that serves your county. Ask about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (**LIHEAP**)

Carver Community Action Agency 235 E Main Street Galesburg, IL 61402-0028 309-342-0158	Knox	Mid Central Community Action, Inc 923 E Grove Street Bloomington, IL 61701-4201 309-829-0691 (McLean) 815-844-3201 (Livingston)	McLean Livingston
Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation 1800 5 th Street Lincoln, IL 62656-9117 217-732-2159	DeWitt Menard Logan Piatt Mason	Project NOW Inc. 418 19 th Street Rock Island, IL 61204-3970 309-793-6391	Henry Mercer Rock Island
Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation 1122 E Marietta Street Decatur, IL 62521-1324 217-428-2193	Macon	Tazwood Community Services, Inc Field Shopping Center 2005 S Main Street Morton, IL 61550-2915 309-266-9941 309-694-4391	Tazewell Woodford
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency, Inc 56 N Vermilion Street Danville, IL 61834-1335 217-443-2705	Ford Iroquois Vermilion	Tri-County Opportunities Council Bureau 405 Emmons Avenue Rock Falls, IL 61071-0610 815-625-7830 800-323-5434	Carroll Putnam Lee LaSalle Ogle Stark Whiteside Marshall
Kendall-Grundy Community Action 500A Countryside Center Yorkville, IL 60560-1063 630-553-9100 (Kendall) 815-941-3262 (Grundy)	Kendall Grundy		

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Celebrating the co-op advantage

October is national cooperative month. It is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of cooperatives and to educate the public about the advantages cooperatives offer. The idea for a celebration of cooperatives began in 1924 in Waukegan, Illinois and became a national event in 1964.

Today, educating the public about cooperatives has become even more important due to the deregulation of many industries. Electric deregulation is in the forefront now, and electric cooperatives are a large part of that industry.

More than 34 million people in the United States receive their electricity from a cooperative. That's more than one in 10 Americans. And chances are, all Americans receive some product or service through the 47,000 plus cooperatives, such as Land O'Lakes, Ocean Spray and Sunkist. And businesses such as Ace Hardware and True Value are cooperatively owned and operated.

But what is a cooperative? It is a member-owned, democratically controlled enterprise, created and used by its member-owners to provide goods and services. That means member-owners have a say in how the cooperative is run and

receive the benefits of it. With other businesses, shareholders receive all the capital gain at the expense of the people who use the products or services. But electric cooperatives give back this gain in the form of capital credits to the members themselves.

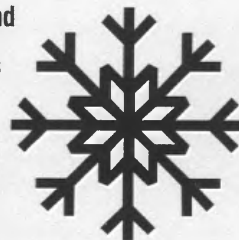
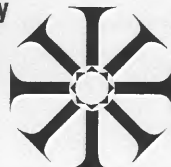
More than 120 million people across America are forming cooperative businesses to find solutions to their community's needs. They have realized that cooperatives give consumers more choices, cost savings and less risks. Cooperatives are guided by a set of seven principles below.

- 1st Principle: voluntary and open membership
- 2nd Principle: democratic member control
- 3rd Principle: members' economic participation
- 4th Principle: autonomy and independence
- 5th Principle: education, training, and information
- 6th Principle: cooperation among cooperatives
- 7th Principle: concern for the community

Keep these principles in mind as you think about the cooperatives that help make your life a little better. To find out more about electric co-ops visit www.aiec.org or www.nreca.org.

This holiday season...

give the gift of energy. \$25, \$50, or \$100 gift certificates are now available to apply towards a relative or friend's Corn Belt Energy electric, natural gas or propane account. To order by phone and charge to your credit card, call toll-free (800) 654-1088 or (800) 879-0339, then press #2 on your touchpad. Or stop by our office located at 1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 to 4:30.



TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088

The Surge Sentry System

Total Home Protection
From High Voltage Surges

For details phone 800-879-0339 or
800-654-1088 then press #4
on your touchpad.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

*Corn Belt Energy Corporation, Enerstar Power Corp.
and Shelby Electric Cooperative*

Through

ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC. (Clear Talk)

is now offering

**Business and Residential
Long Distance Phone Service**

Billed by PowerNet Global Communications

Utilizing the QWEST Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

FREE

Personal
800 NUMBER
No Fees
Same low rate

4.9 cents

All calls in Illinois

6.9 cents

All calls out of state

24 hours a day – 7 days a week – no codes to dial

- Free to join – No monthly fees – No monthly minimum
- No term agreements – Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9 cents – 6.9 cents per minute – no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9 cents per minute (No surcharge)
- 6 second increment billing (18 second minimum)

Low overseas rates. Call the United Kingdom for just 8 cents per minute.
(Rates may vary from country to country) No fees or service charge.

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For additional information or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-888-414-4116

Mail application to: Clear Talk, P.O. Box 1087, Paris, IL 61944

Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-877-990-7466

DETACH HERE

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (____) _____ - _____
(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, to transfer my **Interlata and Intralata (local toll)** long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Illinois Cooperative Association

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Corn Belt Energy Corporation announces electric rate reductions October 1, 2001

The Board of Directors of Corn Belt Energy Corp. approved new rate schedules for central region members at their September 28 meeting. Northern region members are scheduled for a rate change January 1, 2003 barring any unforeseen expenses such as a major storm. Corn Belt's new rate structure has been calculated following an extensive cost of service study. Each rate class was reviewed and evaluated as it relates to the cost to provide electric service. Corn Belt's last adjustment to central region rates was January 1, 1991.

Residential members on Rate 1 with average monthly usage of 784-kilowatt hours would experience an average annual savings of 19 percent. Approximately 19,000 Rate 1 members will be affected by this change.

Another popular residential program is Rate 11. This special rate is interruptible during peak use periods in the summer. Rate 11 members will continue to have a 12.5 percent advantage over Rate 1. In fact, Rate 11 has a 21 percent advantage for the average customer during the summer billing period. Rate 11 continues to be the lowest residential rate, because it allows the cooperative to interrupt members' electric service during peak summer

periods. Currently, there are 3,300 members on Rate 11.

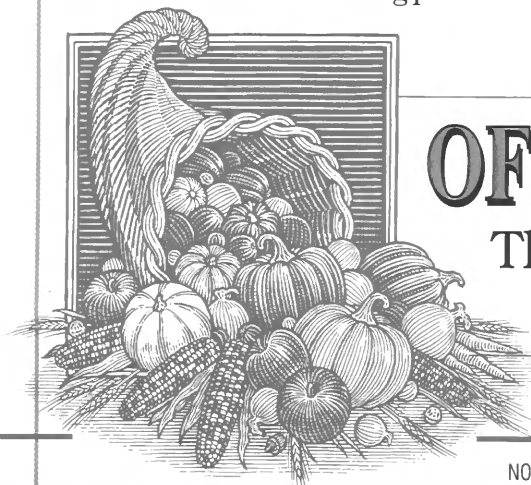
Rates 1 and 11 savings will depend on a number of factors, primarily the usage by the member as dictated by the weather. Farms and businesses also will see a rate reduction for those on Rates 2, 3, 5 and 6. The large commercial members, Rates 5 and 6 will have an average 14 percent reduction, depending upon use and power factor.

Only one commercial rate will not decline. Rate 9 members will have a slight increase. There are only four customers on this interruptible rate.

Corn Belt President/CEO Jeff Reeves said "The cooperative is very fortunate at this time to provide lower rates due to obtaining lower cost wholesale power contracts. The cooperative currently has an all-requirements contract for fixed power prices for four more years."

Cooperative residential members in the central region will notice rate reductions for their October usage that is billed in November, and business accounts will see a change on their December billing statement.

Corn Belt Energy is a 26,000 member cooperative, which has provided electricity for over 60 years. The cooperative also supplies natural gas and propane to specific service areas.



OFFICE CLOSING

Thursday, November 22 &
Friday, November 23.

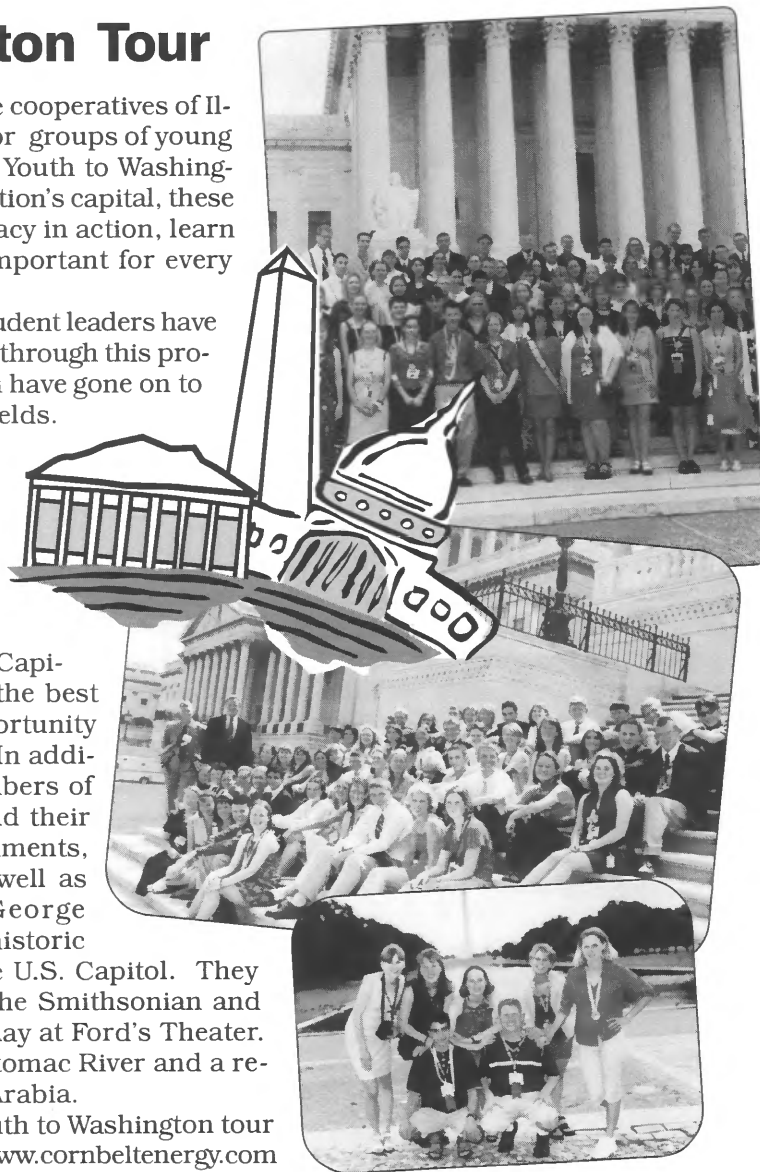
Youth to Washington Tour

Every June the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois and from across the nation sponsor groups of young people to Washington, D.C. through the Youth to Washington program. During a full week in the nation's capital, these students get an up-close look at democracy in action, learn how government works and why it is important for every citizen to get involved.

Since 1957, hundreds of downstate student leaders have been introduced to the legislative process through this program and the vast majority of our alumni have gone on to leadership positions in their chosen fields. Corn Belt Energy has been involved in the program since its beginning. We use our annual essay contest to select a trip winner. In 1996, we began offering scholarships in addition to the trip. The contest is open only to the children of members of the cooperative.

The Youth to Washington tour of the Capitol City is widely recognized as one of the best mainly because the students get an opportunity to go where few taxpayers are allowed. In addition to meeting and lunching with members of the Illinois Congressional delegation and their staffs, the students will visit the monuments, memorials and shrines of the city as well as Gettysburg, Arlington Cemetery, George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, historic Alexandria, the Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol. They will also tour the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian and the Holocaust museums and attend a play at Ford's Theater. There is also a twilight cruise on the Potomac River and a reception at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

Information regarding this year's Youth to Washington tour will be featured on Corn Belt's website: www.cornbeltenergy.com and future Illinois Country Living center sections.



High school seniors scholarship money available

Corn Belt Energy is pleased to announce that for the seventh consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award three \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors. The scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. Three scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. Deadline for applications to be returned to Corn Belt Energy is no later than Monday, December 31, 2001.



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, which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship program, contact Corn Belt Energy, at (800) 879-0339 or (800) 654-1088, ext. 250; download an application on our website: www.cornbeltenergy.com or visit our office in Bloomington at 1502 Morrissey Drive.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



New building progress

Corn Belt announced in late 1999 that we would be building a new central headquarters at Down's Crossing. The site of the new facility is approximately 12 acres located southeast of Bloomington on U.S. 150. The T-shaped office building will be approximately 16,000 square feet

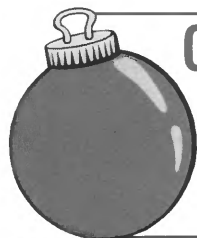
when completed. The warehouse will be approximately 27,000 square feet. The pole yard at the new location is currently being used and construction on the office building and warehouse are well under way at this time. We anticipate moving in to the new building in early 2002.

Help with energy bills

If you anticipate difficulty paying your CBEC electric bill, contact our Member Services department, ext. 222, ext.253 or ext.228, to set up a payment arrangement.

If you would like to apply for assistance, contact the agency in the following list that serves your county. Ask about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (**LIHEAP**)

Carver Community Action Agency 235 E Main Street Galesburg, IL 61402-0028 (309) 342-0158	Knox	Mid Central Community Action, Inc 923 E Grove Street Bloomington, IL 61701-4201 (309) 829-0691 (McLean) (815) 844-3201 (Livingston)	McLean Livingston
Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation 1800 5 th Street Lincoln, IL 62656-9117 (217) 732-2159	DeWitt Menard Logan Piatt Mason	Project NOW Inc. 418 19 th Street Rock Island, IL 61204-3970 (309) 793-6391	Henry Mercer Rock Island
Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation 1122 E Marietta Street Decatur, IL 62521-1324 (217) 428-2193	Macon	Tazwood Community Services, Inc Field Shopping Center 2005 S Main Street Morton, IL 61550-2915 (309) 266-9941 (309) 694-4391	Tazewell Woodford
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency, Inc 56 N Vermilion Street Danville, IL 61834-1335 (217) 443-2705	Ford Iroquois Vermilion	Tri-County Opportunities Council 405 Emmons Avenue Rock Falls, IL 61071-0610 (815) 625-7830 (800) 323-5434	Bureau Carroll Putnam Lee LaSalle Ogle Stark Whiteside Marshall
Kendall-Grundy Community Action 500A Countryside Center Yorkville, IL 60560-1063 (630) 553-9100 (Kendall) (815) 941-3262 (Grundy)	Kendall Grundy		



CHRISTMAS TREE SMOKE ALARM ORNAMENTS

\$9.95 EACH (price includes tax)

The tree ornament that helps you have a safe holiday!

- emits a piercing sound when the temperature exceeds 120 degrees
- low-battery indicator
- self-testing system
- requires a 9-volt battery

AVAILABLE AT THE CORN BELT ENERGY OFFICE

1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington
Office hours 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Come see natural energy at work!

You are invited to come and see for yourself a geothermal system in operation.

A Geothermal Open House

Saturday, November 10, 2001, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This is your opportunity to discover just how much more spendable income you can have when you invest in a geothermal system for your home or business. A typical geothermal system is 400 percent efficient, delivering four times more energy than it consumes. Corn Belt Energy's geothermal owners heat for about 60 percent less than they could have with propane and about half the cost of natural gas. The savings continue through the summer for these members as they cool their homes for about half the cost of a standard air conditioner and heat all the domestic hot water for free.

Come see one of the most economical heating/cooling/water heating systems.

Sponsored by:

SPONSORED BY:

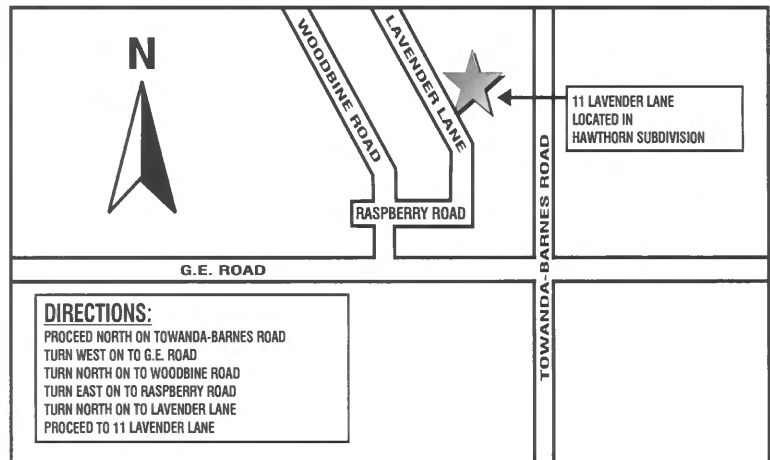
Bratcher

Heating and Air Conditioning
Normal (309) 454-1611

**CORN BELT
ENERGY**

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

CLIMATEMASTER[®]



Harvest time - think safety

Be sure paths from equipment storage areas to fields or job site areas are safe routes. Make sure there is ample clearance (at least 10 feet) for equipment to be moved. It is especially dangerous to move grain augers around power lines. The auger can easily come too close to overhead lines, causing death or serious injuries.

This holiday season...

give the gift of energy. \$25, \$50, or \$100 gift certificates are now available to apply towards a relative or friend's Corn Belt Energy electric, natural gas, or propane account. To order by phone and charge to your credit card, call toll-free (800) 654-1088 or (800) 879-0339, then press "2" on your touchpad. Or stop by our office located at 1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 to 4:30.

PAY YOUR ENERGY BILL ONLINE

www.cornbeltenergy.com

■ REPORT STREET LIGHTS OUT OF SERVICE ONLINE ■ REPORT VEGETATION PROBLEMS ONLINE

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

PHONE NUMBERS	
DAY OR NIGHT	
Northern	(800) 654-1088
Central	(800) 879-0339
FAX: (309) 663-4516	
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm – Monday thru Friday	

DECEMBER 2001

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

Nominating committee appointed

The board of directors of Corn Belt Energy Corporation is composed of 15 active members. They represent the membership in the operation of the organization. This year the terms of five directors will expire. A nominating process, which began in October, will culminate at the annual meeting when qualified members are elected to fill the director seats. The annual meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2002 at the new CBEC headquarters, located at the intersection of US 150 and Towanda Barnes Road, approximately five miles southeast of Bloomington.

The procedure for choosing a director candidate is spelled out in the bylaws of the corporation. The following is a condensed outline of that procedure.

The board of directors will confirm a Nominating Committee made up of not less than five nor more than 15 active members of the cooperative. The committee members will be listed in the Illinois Country Living magazine by name and address. The committee will meet not later than 90 days prior to the annual meeting.

Any member of the cooperative who is interested in being nominated to run for election to the board of directors should contact a Nominating Committee member. The Nominating Committee can nominate no more than two individuals for each expiring directorship. An active member of the cooperative may also be nominated for election to an expiring directorship by petition. Any 50 active members of the cooperative, by their petition, may propose the name of any qualified active member of the cooperative as an additional nominee provided that said nominee and such nominee shall be deemed a candidate for the term and from the District so designated. No two directors may live in the same township. Petitions nominating directors other than those nominated by the committee on nominations must be filed at the principal office of the cooperative not later than 30 days before the meeting of the members is convened.

The terms of the following Corn Belt Energy directors will expire at the April 6, 2002 annual meeting: Rae F. Payne (District 1), John

W. H. Tompkins (District 1), Michael Killian (District 1), Dennis Fredrickson (District 6), and Albert Hagenbuch (District 9). At the October meeting of the Corn Belt Energy board of directors, the following active members were appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee:

Ralph Freebairn, 1575 E US Hwy 52, Otawa, 61350; Bob Haas, RR 4 Box 291, Clinton, 61727; Paul Schuler, RR 1 Box 36, Lexington, 61753; Martin Oman, 15330 N 975 East Road, Bloomington, 61704; Kenneth West, 2244 Knox Road 2250 E, Victoria, 61485; Larry Priest, RR 1 Box 80B, Hennepin, 61327; Ed Allen, 6877 Delavan Road, Delavan, 61734; Gary Moncelle, RR 2 Box 96, Lexington, 61753; Gene Hoffman, RR 4 Box 271S, Clinton, 61727; Marvin Polte, RR 2 Box 215, Sheffield, 61361; Peter Borowski, 3017 Thornwood Lane, Bloomington, 61704; Owen Arvin, RR 1 Box 152, Carlock, 61725; Terry Longman, RR 2 Box 185, El Paso, 61738; Arlis Springer, RR 2, Delavan, 61734; and Jerrolyn Golden, RR 2 Box 89, Leroy, 61752.

The Nominating Committee will meet at 11:00 am on January 8, 2002 at the Corn Belt Energy Corporation office located at 1502 Morrissey Drive in Bloomington to select candidates for election to the five director positions. Active members interested in more information pertaining to the nominating and petitioning processes can contact the cooperative office to obtain a copy of the current bylaws. Our phone numbers are (800) 879-0339 or (800) 654-1088, extension 232.



Office closing
 The Corn Belt Energy offices will be closed for the following holidays...
Monday, December 24
Tuesday, December 25
Tuesday, January 1, 2002

64th Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, April 6, 2002
Mark your calendar

HOLIDAY

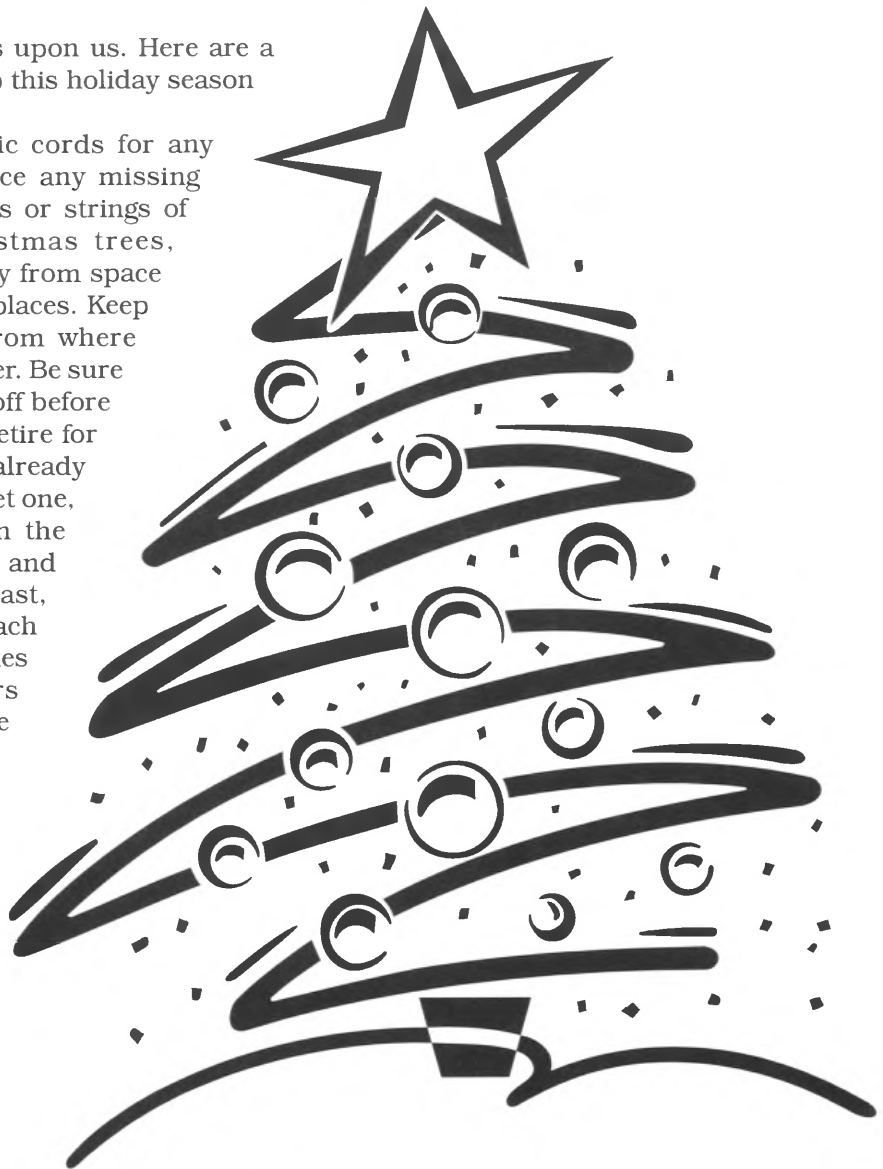
tips to keep you safe

The holiday season is upon us. Here are a few tips to help keep this holiday season a safe one:

Check all electric cords for any fraying or shorts. Replace any missing lights in your decorations or strings of lights. Keep live Christmas trees, wreaths and garland away from space heaters, candles and fireplaces. Keep burning candles away from where they could be knocked over. Be sure to turn decorative lights off before you leave your home or retire for the evening. If you don't already have a fire extinguisher, get one, and be sure everyone in the house knows where it is and how to operate it. And last, but not least, pick days each year to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and test them to make sure they're working.

During every holiday season, thousands of deadly home fires are caused by one of these factors. Don't let your home or your family become a statistic.

For more information about holiday safety, call your local electric cooperative.



CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Need college tuition money? Enter the competition!

Competition #1

43rd Youth to Washington Essay Contest

- Sponsor:** Corn Belt Energy Corporation
- Prizes:** One \$2,000 Scholarship
Two \$1,000 Scholarships
The \$2,000 Scholarship winner will also receive an expenses-paid, week-long tour of Washington, D.C. in June '02
- Eligibility:** Must be a high school junior or a senior to compete. A parent must be a member of CBEC.
- To win:** Write a 1,500 word essay on a topic assigned by the cooperative. A packet of information about the subject is provided.
- Due date:** Noon, Friday, February 8th, 2002

Competition #2

IEC Memorial Scholarship Program

- Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Three \$1,000 scholarships
- Must be a high school junior or a senior to compete. A parent must be a member of CBEC.
- Complete an application.
- Monday, December 31st, 2001

For entry material visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com
or call 800-654-1088 or 800-879-0339, ext. 250



CHRISTMAS TREE SMOKE ALARM ORNAMENTS

\$9.95 EACH (price includes tax)



The tree ornament that helps you have a safe holiday!

- emits a piercing sound when the temperature exceeds 120 degrees
- low-battery indicator
- self-testing system
- requires a 9-volt battery

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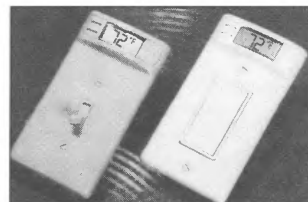
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PLATE PALS

Switch Cover Thermometers



Only **\$9.95** each
(includes tax and shipping)

Charge it to your electric bill
Credit Cards accepted
Standard White or Ivory
Decorator White or Ivory

Phone: 800-654-1088
or 800-879-0339

Press #2 on your touchpad
Corn Belt Energy Corporation

1502 Morrissey Drive - Bloomington

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

*Corn Belt Energy Corporation, Enerstar Power Corp.
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800 NUMBER
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4.9 cents

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6.9 cents

All calls out of state

24 hours a day - 7 days a week - no codes to dial

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For additional information or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-888-414-4116

Mail application to: Clear Talk, 11596 IL Hwy 1, Paris, IL 61944

Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-877-990-7466

DETACH HERE

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (_____) _____ - _____ (_____) _____ - _____ (_____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (_____) _____ - _____

(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

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Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Illinois Cooperative Association

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS