

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

JANUARY 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

CBEC participates in COMPACT program



★
 Chuck West,
 Corn Belt Energy
 construction
 foreman, explains
 to the Carlock
 Grade School
 6th grade students
 how lineman
 install a new
 electrical service. ★

Corn Belt Energy hosted twenty 6th grade students from Carlock Grade school on November 16 as part of the McLean County Community COMPACT business/education partnership. The group of students spent the day at the CBEC headquarters in Bloomington learning about different occupations at the cooperative by meeting employees from various CBEC departments. The employee presentations from

the engineering, operations, marketing, construction and maintenance and billing departments not only gave the students an overview of their department responsibilities, but also stressed the importance of getting an education and leading a drug-free life. As part of the tour, the students were able to view the operation of two large Corn Belt Energy trucks.

WISHING YOU A

*Prosperous
New Year*

OFFICE CLOSING
 Our offices will be
 closed Tuesday, January 1, 2002
 in observance of New Years Day.

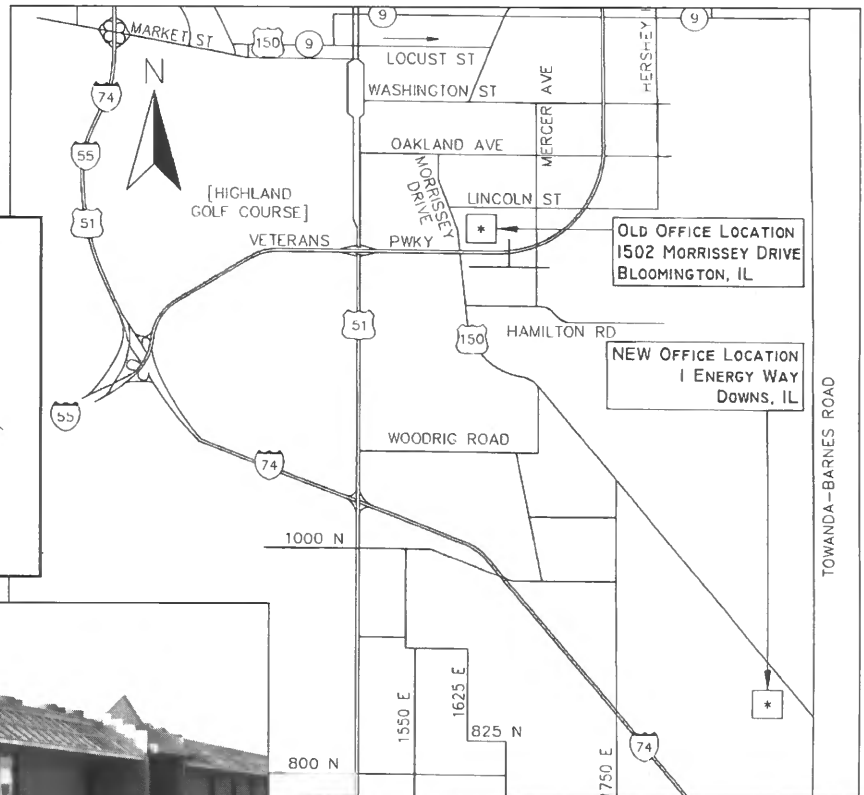
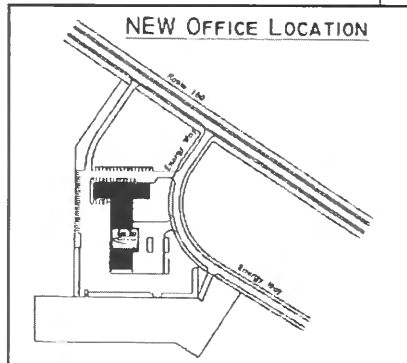
64th Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday,
April 6, 2002

Mark your calendar



CBEC prepares to move to new headquarters



Corn Belt Energy announced in late 1999 that we would be building a new central headquarters at the intersection of U.S. 150 and Towanda Barnes Rd. in the Downs Crossing Subdivision. As the new year rolls in, Corn Belt is tentatively scheduled to move into the new facility during the third week in January. The Cooperative's phone numbers and mailing address will remain the same.

CBEC bill payments will continue to be mailed to the Indiana payment center as printed on all CBEC bill payment stubs. Correspondences for CBEC should be mailed to the post

office address. The new street address for Corn Belt will be 1 Energy Way, Downs, Illinois, 61736. Office hours will continue to be Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The new facility will have a drop box to allow for member payments outside of office hours.

The site of the new facility is approximately 12 acres located southeast of Bloomington on US 150. The T-shaped office building is approximately 16,000 square feet. The attached warehouse is approximately 27,000 square feet.

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

Safety tips

Smoke Detectors

One smoke detector is definitely not enough. December, January and February are the leading months for home fires and associated deaths in the United States. Install smoke detectors near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries at least once a year. A good rule of thumb is to change your batteries when you change your clocks. Have children help test and change the batteries so they are familiar with the location and sound of the smoke detectors.

Fire Extinguisher

Every kitchen should have a fire extinguisher that is rated for grease and electrical fires. It is also a good idea to have fire extinguishers near the furnace, fireplace, garage and anywhere else a fire may start in the home. Ensure that every able-bodied person in the home is trained on how to use a fire extinguisher. If you do have to use a fire extinguisher, always be sure that you have a clear way out in case you can't put out the fire.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is the result of burning fuel for furnaces, unvented kerosene and gas space heaters, stoves or automobile exhaust. More than 200 people in the United States die each year and many more become seriously sick from carbon monoxide poisoning. The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning increases during the winter as more people use furnaces, space heaters and fireplaces. The best way to ensure the safety of your family from carbon monoxide poisoning is a carbon monoxide detector. Install carbon monoxide detectors near

sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide detectors should meet the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards, have a long-term warranty and be easily tested and reset to ensure proper functioning. Research the various product features to see what best suits your family.

Ground Fault Circuit INTERRUPTER (GFCI)

A ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) is designed to protect people from severe or fatal electric shocks or electric burns by monitoring electricity flowing in a circuit and switching off power to that circuit if it senses any changes in the electric current. For example, one of your kitchen appliances has a bare wire inside touching the metal case. The metal case of the appliance is now charged with electricity. If you touch the appliance with one hand while the other hand is touching a grounded metal object, such as your water faucet, your body has just become an unintentional electric path to the ground. A GFCI would have switched off the electric current the moment it sensed the change in the electric current, preventing personal injury.

Portable GFCIs are widely available and easily plug into any electrical receptacle. Qualified electricians can install permanent circuit breaker and receptacle type GFCIs. All GFCIs should be tested once a month to ensure they are working properly.

For more information on safety products, visit the National Safety Council website at www.nsc.org, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/safeusa/ and Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/.



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 prices.



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

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.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

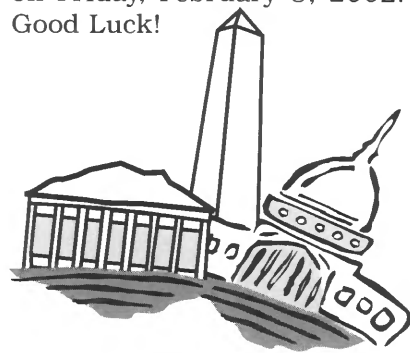
Attention High School Juniors and Seniors

Corn Belt's 43rd Youth to Washington Essay Contest offers one \$2,000 scholarship and two \$1,000 scholarship to three winning essay writers. The high school junior or senior who is awarded the \$2,000 scholarship also wins an expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2002. Participants must be the son or daughter of a CBEC member.

Essay contest information is posted on the CBEC website www.cornbeltenergy.com.

After downloading the website information, students should submit a 1,500 word (or less) essay on the assigned topic and the entry form to Corn Belt Energy, attn. Emily Anderson, PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816 no later than noon

on Friday, February 8, 2002. Good Luck!



Becky Allen retiring

After nearly 15 years of service, Becky Allen, Corn Belt Energy member accounts representative, is retiring effective January 2, 2002. Becky's last day of work is December 4. Becky began her cooperative career on April 13, 1987 at the Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Princeton, Illinois. When Illinois Valley Electric and Corn Belt Electric Cooperative merged in January of 1999 and became Corn Belt Energy Corporation, Becky relocated from Princeton to Bloomington.

Becky started at Illinois Valley Electric as a cashier/receptionist in the Princeton office. In addition to those duties, she performed data entry duties and assisted the accounting department with monthly invoices. Many of Illinois Valley's members stopped by the Princeton office on a monthly basis to pay their electric accounts and as a result, Becky developed personal friendships with the cooperative members.

As Illinois Valley Electric prepared to merge with Corn Belt Electric, Becky and her husband, Don, prepared for many changes themselves. Becky sold two houses and moved her family, including

golden retrievers Tuffy and Bailey, to a town she had only driven through a few times before. According to Becky, the adjustment to Bloomington was challenging but she always felt it was the right decision for her and her family. After moving to Bloomington, an unexpected opportunity arose that allowed Don to become the community director of the March of Dimes.

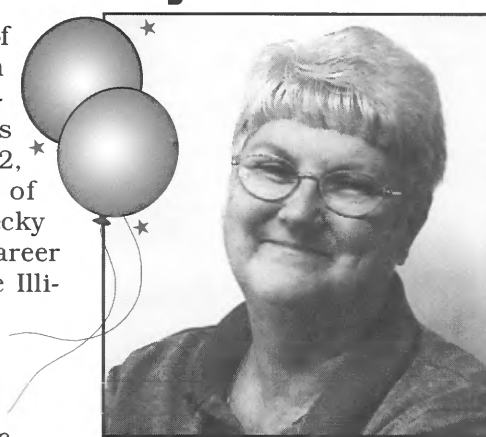
Becky recalls that the biggest change was having to learn new duties. In essence, Becky had to learn a new job, learn a new community, and join a group of employees as though she was a "new employee". Becky was also relied upon to share her knowledge of Illinois Valley's 6,000-person service territory and explain many procedures and policies unique to Illinois Valley.

Becky credits the overwhelming support of Corn Belt

Energy to president Jeff Reeves, the board of directors, and her Corn Belt co-workers, for making her transition to Bloomington easy. Becky also points to the assistance and friendship she received from many Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative employees and NISC employees. Becky also remembers fondly her co-workers from her former post at Illinois Valley and the friendship she continues with them.

After Becky retires in January, she and Don will be moving to Pueblo, Colorado, approximately 35 miles south of Colorado Springs. As the Allen's will set up a new home in Colorado they look forward to being closer to family - a daughter and son-in-law & grandbaby on the way, living in Pueblo, and a son and his family who will soon relocate to southern California. Becky will also be in close proximity of her favorite football team, the Denver Broncos.

Members who visit the Corn Belt Energy office in Bloomington to pay their energy bills or who call the office with billing questions, will surely miss Becky's courteous and friendly voice. Corn Belt Energy employees and directors will miss Becky's contagious smile, her hard work, and her up-beat attitude. We wish her happiness in her retirement.



CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



Scholarship money offered

Four thousand dollars in scholarship money and a trip to Washington, D.C. is offered to high school juniors and seniors competing in the **43rd Youth to Washington Scholarship Competition**. The contest is available to 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 each receive \$1,000 scholarships. In addition to the scholarship money, the winner receives an all-expense paid, week-long tour of Washington, D.C. in June.

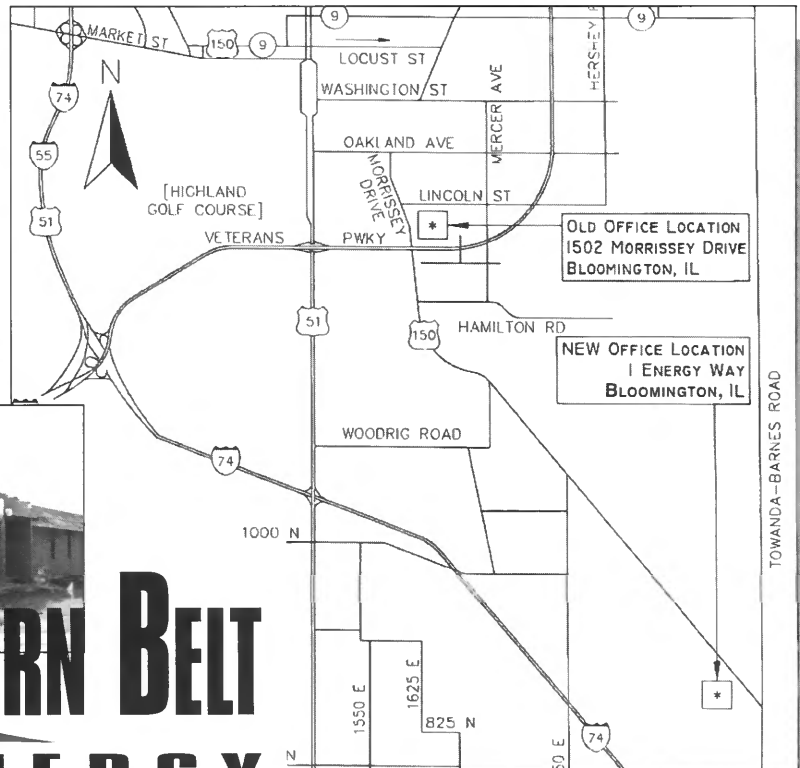
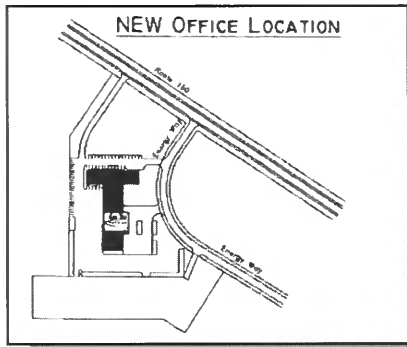
The exciting week-long Youth to Washington Tour includes meeting and having lunch with the Illinois congressional delegation and visiting the historic monuments, memorials and shrines of Washington, D.C. The tour visits Gettysburg, Arlington Cemetery, George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, Historic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

To compete for the scholarship and trip, students simply submit an essay on the assigned topic. Students interested in competing should visit our website www.cornbeltenergy.com to download the contest information. Students who are unable to access the Corn Belt Energy website information should call (800) 879-0339 or (309) 662-5330, ext. 250, for entry material.

Essays should be submitted to Corn Belt Energy, PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816 no later than noon on Friday, February 8, 2002. The winners will be selected and announced the first week of March. Winners are asked to appear at our annual meeting of members on April 6 at our new headquarters facility at Down's Crossing.

Scholarship winners may use tuition money at accredited two-year or four-year colleges, universities or vocational/technical schools. Scholarships are to be used within 12 months of high school graduation. 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.

New CBEC office location



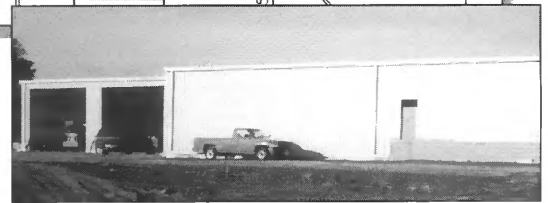
**CORN BELT
ENERGY**

Corn Belt Energy has relocated to a new central headquarters office at Down's Crossing. The move was accomplished January 14 - 18. The cooperative's phone numbers transferred to the new location and the CBEC post office mailing address will remain PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816.

Office hours will continue to be Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The new facility has a drop box to allow for member payments outside of office hours (cash payments are not accepted in the drop box). CBEC bill payments will continue to be mailed to the Indiana payment center as printed on all CBEC bill payment stubs.

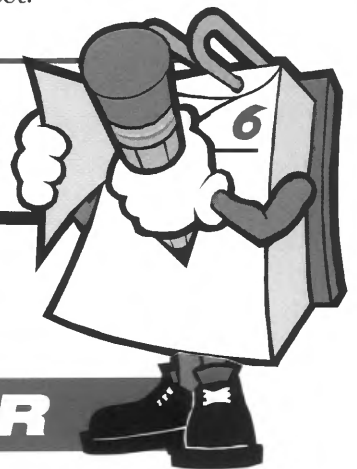
Correspondences for CBEC should be mailed to the post office address.

The site of the new facility is approximately 12 acres located five miles southeast of Bloomington on US 150 at Towanda-Barnes Road. The T-shaped office building is approximately 16,000 square feet. The warehouse is approximately 27,000 square feet.



**64th Annual Meeting
of Members
Saturday, April 6, 2002**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

4-H Electricity school coming soon!

Saturday, Feb. 23 • Heartland Community College
 All youth are invited to attend!
 Contact the extension office at (309) 663-8306

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 prices.

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

Electronic funds transfer available

Corn Belt offers you the opportunity to pay your energy bills electronically. Your bill payment will be transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to Corn Belt each month on the due date of your bill. Corn Belt will continue to send you a bill which shows your energy use and the amount due. Your bank statement will show the amount and the date of the transfer. *Why use Electronic Funds Transfer?*

- **To save money.** You will save money on postage and check related fees. Your payment will always be on time, so you will never pay late fees.
- **To save time.** You will no longer need to write and mail checks each month.

- **No worries.** You will know each month that your payment has been made.
- **No hidden charges.** EFT service is available to you at no charge.

To sign-up for EFT, simply complete the form below and return it to Corn Belt Energy, PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816. **Attach a voided check or savings account deposit slip to your agreement form.** Please allow three to six weeks for your agreement to be processed. When the EFT option is active on your account, your monthly Corn Belt Energy statement will have **AUTO PAY** printed on the bill stub. EFT forms are also available on the CBEC website: www.cornbeltenergy.com

AGREEMENT FORM

I authorize Corn Belt Energy Corporation and the designated financial institution to begin automatic deductions of my energy bill.

_____ checking account _____ savings *Please attach voided check or deposit slip*

Financial institution _____ Account # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This authority remains effective until Corn Belt, my financial institution or I terminate this agreement in writing.

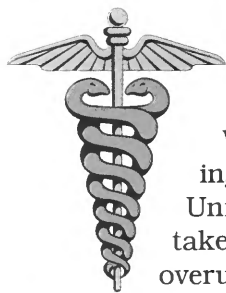
Name (printed) _____ Signature _____

Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

Corn Belt Energy account number _____

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



MEDICAL NEWS

Why don't antibiotics always work? We're breeding super-strains of illness-causing bacteria in the United States - bacteria that refuse to die when we take antibiotics. What's causing this? In part, it's our overuse - and misuse - of antibiotics. What can you do?

- Don't automatically ask your doctor for antibiotics when you have the flu, a cold, a cough, or sore throat. All flus and colds, and most coughs and sore throats, are caused by viruses. Antibiotics can't kill viruses and won't make you feel any better.
- Don't always ask for antibiotics when your child has an earache. Often, kids' earaches will get better on their own, without antibiotics. If your child gets recurrent earaches, talk to your doctor about ways to prevent them.
- If you really do need antibiotics, be sure to take them exactly as prescribed and take all of the pills. Skipping doses or stopping your antibiotics "breeds" bacteria that can survive future antibiotic treatments.
- Only use antibacterial cleaning products when you need to protect someone with a weakened immune system.
- If you eat meat, support the sale of meat, poultry, eggs and fish raised without antibiotics.

Source: Alliance For The Prudent Use Of Antibiotics

Building a home?

Geothermal Means Cheap Heat!



Our geothermal accounts are heating their homes for way, way less than they could

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?

Then install GEOTHERMAL!

Call the Member Services Department at (800) 654-1088 or (800) 879-0339

Press #4 on your touch-pad



SEE YOU AT THE HOME SHOW

Interstate Center • Bloomington • March 8, 9, 10

PAY YOUR ENERGY BILL ONLINE

www.cornbeltenergy.com

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

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



NEWS

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Monday thru Friday

MARCH 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

★ 64th ANNUAL MEETING ★ Corn Belt Energy invites you to attend the ★ 64th Annual Meeting of Members ★

Corn Belt Energy will hold its 64th Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, April 6th, 2002 at our new central headquarters office at Down's Crossing. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and continues until 10 a.m. The Annual Meeting begins at 10 a.m. and is scheduled to last until noon. Tours of the new building will be provided before and after the meeting.

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 a.m. Following the meeting, a complimentary lunch will be served.

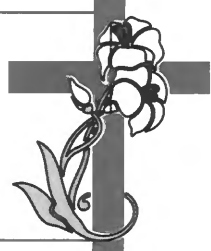
The Nominating Committee met at the Corn Belt Energy office on January 8, 2002 to nominate candidates for five board positions to be filled by election at the Annual Meeting. The committee nominated the following members for election: Dennis Fredrickson, District 6; Albert

Hagenbuch, District 9; Michael Killian, District 1; Rae F. Payne, District 1 and John W.H. Tompkins, District 1.

Corn Belt Energy members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of Members. The cooperative's annual meeting is an opportunity for those who receive CBEC services to participate and keep informed of developments affecting the cooperative. Each member has voting rights and part ownership of the cooperative. Members will also have the opportunity this year to tour the new Corn Belt facility, which opened for business January 21, 2002. The annual meeting booklet, containing a map to the new facility, will be mailed directly to the homes of members in March.

Corn Belt Energy has been in business more than 60 years and is currently a provider of electricity 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.

OFFICE CLOSED
The Corn Belt Energy Corporation office will be closed Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday. In the event of an electrical emergency, please call the Northern Region at (800) 654-1088 or the Central Region at (800) 879-0339.



Five directors nominated for re-election



Dennis Fredrickson
District 6



Albert Hagenbuch
District 9



Michael Killian
District 1



Rae F. Payne
District 1



John W.H. Tompkins
District 1

The Nominating Committee met at the Corn Belt Energy office on January 8, 2002 to nominate candidates for five board positions to be filled by election at the cooperative's 64th annual meeting of members. The committee nominated the follow-

ing members for election: Dennis Fredrickson, District 6; Albert Hagenbuch, District 9; Michael Killian, District 1; Rae F. Payne, District 1; and John W.H. Tompkins, District 1.

Customer Select update

March 1, 2002, was kick-off day for Nicor Gas Customer Select program. Since January 1998, Nicor Gas pilot program has offered selected natural gas customers a choice of alternate gas suppliers in a limited enrollment period. The program has been expanded to include all commercial, industrial, residential, and transportation custom-

ers in Nicor Gas service territory. Customer Select program information was mailed out by Nicor Gas to its consumers in McLean, Woodford, Tazewell, LaSalle, and Ford counties the week of February 20. Please visit www.cornbeltenergy.com for Corn Belt Energy's program details as they become available.

Cozy comfort can cost less

Cold, crisp, bone-chilling wintry days - you want to stay warm and cozy indoors as efficiently and economically as possible. What to do when the heat is on and you want to get the most for your energy dollars? Here are some helpful tips:

- Keep windows near your thermostat tightly closed. Drafts will keep your furnace working even though the rest of the room has reached a comfortable temperature.
- Check the attic access door to make sure it is

well insulated and weatherstripped.

- Keep draperies and shades open in sunny windows; close them at night.
- And, don't forget that for comfort in cooler temperatures, warm clothes provide some of the best insulation.

To find out more ways to keep the heat where it belongs, just contact your electric cooperative. We have lots of ideas that will help your family stay comfortable year-round for less.

PAY YOUR ENERGY BILL ONLINE

www.cornbeltenergy.com

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

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

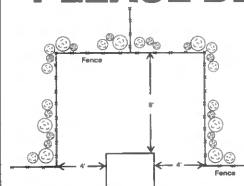
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NORTHERN REGION

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

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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

REPORTING AN OUTAGE?

Before you call CBEC:

Look around the neighborhood to see if other homes on your line have lights. If they do, you probably still have electricity. Often, inserting a new fuse or switching the breaker to "on" will restore your power. If we send a crew out and the problem is in your equipment, we'll bill you \$50 to partly cover our costs in sending the crew.



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 prices.



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

Please plan to attend

**Saturday,
April 6, 2002**

to be held at Corn Belt Energy's new headquarters building, located five miles southeast of Bloomington on U.S. 150 at Towanda-Barnes Road

8:00 - 10:00 a.m. - registration. Coffee, tea, milk, donuts and rolls served

10:00 a.m. - Early Bird prize raffle

10:00 a.m. - noon - **Annual Meeting**

Reports from the Chairman of the Board of Directors,
the President and the Treasurer of CBEC

Election of board members

Entertainment

Drawing for prizes

Noon - Lunch will be served

Please return reservation form before April 3, 2002 or reply via e-mail to thomlinson@cornbeltenergy.com

Dinner reservation form ■ 64th Annual Meeting of Members

There is no charge for the meal. Please return the completed form before April 3rd or reply via e-mail to thomlinson@cornbeltenergy.com

Please make dinner reservations for _____ people.

Member name (please print) _____

City _____ Map location number _____

Telephone number (incl. area code) (_____) _____ - _____

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)

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

APRIL 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Winter storm affects service

A winter storm on January 30 was the cause of an interruption in electric service for approximately 5,000 Corn Belt Energy members. The storm began around 9 pm on the 30th and, as Cilco lost power to transmission lines serving four Corn Belt Energy substations, about 3,000 CBEC members lost power from 11:40 pm until 8:05 the next morning. Approximately 2,000 CBEC members in the Carlock, Deer Creek, Danvers, Goodfield, El Paso, Kappa, Secor, Cooksville and Panola areas lost service due to trees and wires down. Many members were out for 12-15 hours due to the time consuming task of clearing the power lines. The weight of ice on trees, breaking and falling onto CBEC lines, caused the lines to be trapped under or entangled in the trees, and required that crews clear the tree entirely before returning to the breaker to restore power.



To report a wire down, call (800) 879-0339 (Central Region) or (800) 654-1088 (Northern Region), ext. 265.

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 prices.

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

2002 "Youth to Washington" Tour

Every June for the past 42 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois have sponsored a group of high school junior and seniors to Washington, D.C. on the "Youth to Washington" program. This year will be no different. During a full week in the nation's capital, these students get an up-close look at democracy in action and get to meet with their downstate Illinois Congressman.

Since 1957, hundreds of future leaders have been introduced to government and the legislative process through this program. Many alumni of the program have gone on to leadership positions in our communities and government. Two current members of the Illinois General Assembly, State Representatives Tom Ryder and Art

Tenhouse, are past members of the tour.

Corn Belt Energy has made the tour available to high school junior and senior children of members. If your son or daughter has an interest in government and would like to participate in the tour, please contact the cooperative. The cost of the tour is \$850. This cost includes all travel, lodging, meals, and tickets. Souvenirs and incidental items will be the only participants' expenses.

To see articles and pictures of past years' tours, visit www.cornbeltenergy.com. To receive more information on the tour, call CBEC at (800) 879-0339, ext.250.



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		

OFFICE CLOSED

The Corn Belt Energy Corporation office will be closed Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday. In the event of an electrical emergency, please call the Northern Region at (800) 654-1088 or the Central Region at (800) 879-0339.



CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Please, plant the right tree in the right place

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 song-birds and wildlife and they please the eye with the beauty of their foliage.

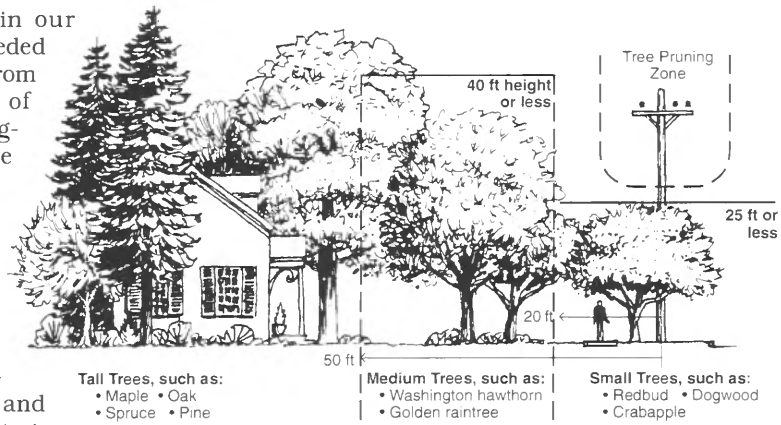
But, when a tree's branches grow too closely to, or actually touch, power lines the result is going to be a power outage. This is a case of the wrong tree being planted or allowed to grow in the wrong place.

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 subscribe 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.

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 (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 (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.



ATTENTION MEMBERS

Corn Belt Energy has recently received information that there is an insurance company selling major medical/health insurance in our service territory and that this company may be representing themselves as being associated with electric cooperatives. According to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, **none** of the Illinois cooperatives are associated in any way with any company selling medical/health insurance. Please be advised if you are contacted by mail or phone by this insurance company.

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, APRIL 6, 2002, 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:

Bratcher
Heating and Air Conditioning
Normal (309) 454-1611

CORN BELT ENERGY
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CLIMATEMASTER®

DIRECTIONS:
FROM COLLEGE AVENUE
TURN SOUTH ON TO BIAGI BOULEVARD
TURN EAST ON TO STEVENSON DRIVE
TURN SOUTH ON TO GAILEY LANE
TURN WEST ON TO RADBOURNE DRIVE
TURN SOUTH ON TO DIMMITT COURT
PROCEED TO 1805 DIMMITT COURT
(ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE ROAD)

64th Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, April 6, 2002

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

MAY 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



Re-elected at Corn Belt Energy's annual meeting Saturday, April 6, were (left to right) Albert Hagenbuch of Utica, Rae F. Payne of Bloomington, President/CEO of Corn Belt Jeff Reeves of Bloomington, John W. H. Tompkins of LeRoy, Dennis Fredrickson of Victoria and Michael Killian of Lexington. Before the meeting, members toured the energy co-op's new headquarters building, which recently opened at Downs Crossing.

A new era at Corn Belt Energy

Corn Belt Energy Cooperative's member-owners ushered in a new era on Saturday, April 6, when they met for their 64th annual meeting at the co-op's new Downs headquarters. Five directors were re-elected to the co-op's governing board. Members were able to tour the newly completed cooperative offices before the meeting. Re-elected were Michael Killian of Lexington, Rae F. Payne of Bloomington, John W.H. Tompkins of LeRoy, Dennis Fredrickson of Victoria, and Albert Hagenbuch of Utica.

Board Chairman Rae F. Payne spoke to members about the co-op's growth last year and its plans for the future. The co-op added 80 miles of line to help serve the 1,680 new members added over the last two years.

Payne stressed that the co-op must be prepared for additional growth and is currently seeking to build a coal-fired power plant. "It is essential that we have power for the present and the future. Growth must be constantly evaluated and planned for. Power plants may take five to seven years to be completed," said Payne.

Preparing for the future will help ensure reliability, the most important aspect of the co-op's commitment to its members. "Your board has a long-term goal to consistently reduce outage time," Payne said. The co-op spent \$1.5 million last year on vegetation management to improve service. Pole replacement and general maintenance

(Continued on page 16b)



(Continued from page 16a)

programs are also in effect to help reduce outages.

Central region members saw a rate decrease last October after greatly reducing the region's debt to Soyland Power Cooperative. Early in 2003, Northern region members should also see a change in rates.

Secretary-Treasurer Albert Hagenbuch, said, "Because of the decrease in rates, revenues would begin to decline." The cost of purchased power increased slightly last year. The margins for the year reflect an \$185,000 loss due partly to extra payments on the Soyland debt last year. The board of directors has passed a 2002 budget that will generate positive margins, Hagenbuch said.

President/CEO Jeff Reeves said the co-op's new headquarters at Downs Crossing will allow the co-op to continue to grow, and he expects the area surrounding the new office to also grow. Reeves said, "In 1954 we moved to 1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington to an area near the beltline, now called Veteran Parkway. Now that area has grown tremendously and it was difficult for our large trucks to get in out of that facility."

Reeves also reminded the members that times have changed the price of everyday items. He said it is hard to believe, but since the 1940s gasoline has gone from 19.5 cents to \$1.45 and first class stamps have gone from 3 cents to 34 cents. Minimum wages have gone from 25 cents an hour to \$5.15. A bushel of corn was at \$1.12 in 1936 and now it is about \$2. A car that cost \$750 in 1940 now cost \$20,835. But he said, "Corn Belt Energy residential rates have gone from 7 cents a kilowatt-hour to 9.85 cents in the central region, just a 41 percent increase."

Making sure the co-op's power supply is dependable and affordable is Corn Belt Energy's most



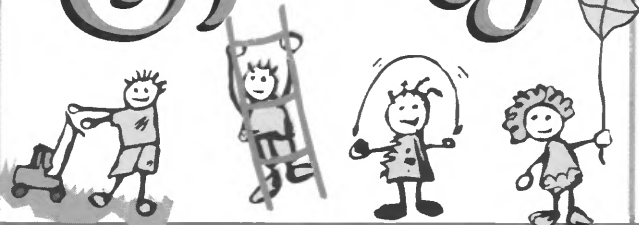
CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

important job, Reeves said. He reviewed the co-ops power supply diversification plan that includes building a 91-megawatt coal fired generating plant, three to five year wholesale power contracts, small diesel generators for peaking purposes, and possibly other distributed generation including fuel cells, wind turbines and solar panels. Reeves said, "We do not want to put all of our eggs in one basket. But we need to know more about wind energy for example. There is a wind energy farm in Bureau County, and there may be other areas in central Illinois for wind farms. What we are afraid of is that when we need the power the most, during the hot summer days, there may not be enough wind. We are also working with a local member who put in a 2.5-kilowatt solar panel. We have worked with him to interconnect the system and we are analyzing how much electricity is produced every 30 minutes. We want to see if it might help reduce our demand for electricity during the 6:00 p.m. summer peak."

Corn Belt Energy Corporation serves some 27,000 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. For more information go to www.cornbeltenergy.com.



Stay safe and
sound this
Spring



As you begin to spend more time outdoors for work and play remember to watch for overhead power lines.

- Also, make sure outdoor electrical outlets are grounded and have weatherproof covers.
- Never fly kites or model planes near power lines. Use only dry string on kites.
- Never place a ladder where it can fall into a power line.
- Teach your children to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.

For more helpful tips to keep in mind when you're working or playing outdoors contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.safeelectricity.org.

OFFICE CLOSING

Corn Belt Energy will be closed Monday, May 27th, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

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.

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

JUNE 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Natural gas choice available

Corn Belt Energy is participating in its fifth year as a natural GAS supplier in the Nicor Gas Customer Select program. Earlier this year, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved a filing by Nicor Gas to allow its approximately 1.9 million customers to choose an alternate natural gas supplier. What does it mean to YOU? Simply, it means you may now purchase your natural gas from another supplier. Nicor will continue to construct gaslines, perform maintenance and maintain your meter

and gas lines as in the past. You will receive a bill from Nicor as you have in the past for the service they provide. Corn Belt Energy is a gas supplier to industrial, commercial and residential accounts. See the enclosed one year contract, application form and Frequently Asked Questions. You do not have to be a member of Corn Belt Energy to participate.

As the Nicor commercial states – **want to be your new flame and furnish your natural gas needs.**

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 (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 (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.



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 prices.



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

Corn Belt Energy Corporation's

Natural Gas 2002 Customer Select Contract

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- Provide natural gas at a per therm rate based on the monthly weighted average price (WAP) at the Chicago City Gate each month, beginning with the first meter reading provided by Nicor Gas following acceptance into the program. In addition to the index (WAP) price, you will be billed for Nicor GAS storage and balancing charges, program fees, Corn Belt Energy Corporation storage fees, and state, local applicable taxes or fees, if any, and a margin of 3.9 cents per therm.
- When market conditions are favorable, Corn Belt Energy Corporation will convert the index (WAP) price to a fixed price at 40 cents per therm (or less) for the remaining months of the contract. If not feasible, the index price will be in force for the length of the contract. After the last billing, your contract will automatically renew unless you notify Corn Belt energy Corporation. If there are changes in terms or pricing, you will be notified 30 days prior to its implementation. Otherwise, you will remain on the same index pricing and terms as listed in this contract.
- Provide a monthly bill for natural gas costs based on your budget amount, which will be calculated at 45 cents per therm or index price, whichever is greater of the two. You will continue to be billed by Nicor Gas for delivery and taxes.
- Natural gas supplied to you for the 12-month period will be based on your historical consumption data provided by Nicor and your input.

All Corn Belt Energy Corporation gas accounts will be billed on a monthly budget -billing plan. The monthly budget billing amount will be the total purchase cost for the 12 month period, evenly divided into 12 monthly installments. On the 12th bill, the difference between the actual consumption and the collected budget billing amount will be billed or refunded to the customer. Corn Belt Energy Corporation reserves the right to adjust the monthly budget- billing amount as market conditions dictate during the 12-month period.

Customer agrees to purchase from Corn Belt Energy Corporation (supplier) natural gas and related services pursuant to Nicor Gas' Customer Select natural gas program. Supplier agrees to provide natural gas to customer pursuant to the Nicor Gas program and pursuant to the terms and conditions contained herein. Execution of this contract constitutes written application for membership in Corn Belt Energy Corporation, if the applicant is not currently a member of Corn Belt Energy Corporation. As a member, the applicant agrees to comply with the by-laws and policies of Corn Belt Energy as they pertain to natural gas customers. No member may hold more than one membership in the cooperative, and no membership in the cooperative shall be transferable except as provided in these by-laws. The membership is extended to the applicant at no cost and no obligation. No member shall be individually liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the cooperative.

Cancellation terms: contract cancelled prior to end of the 12-month period will be billed a **gas settlement amount**. This is the difference in market price at the time of purchase and sale for all unused gas.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Any applicable switching fees remain the customer's responsibility.

Supplier will not be responsible for interruption on natural gas service due to circumstances of "force majeure".

NICOR and Corn Belt Energy must accept customer for participation in this program.

This agreement must be completed, signed, and received by mail or fax by Corn Belt Energy Corporation. Contracts submitted via the Corn Belt Energy website will be considered valid with Nicor Gas account number and meter numbers provided in lieu of written signature. This offer is limited and may be withdrawn anytime due to changing market conditions.

*Completion required

*Applicant Signature: _____ *Today's Date: _____

*Name (printed): _____

*Mailing address: _____

*Town/City/State: _____ *Zip code: _____

*Telephone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

*Social Security #/ Federal Tax ID: _____

*Nicor Account #: _____ *Nicor Meter #: _____

*Your estimated annual therm use: _____

CBEC Account # (if applicable): _____

Your Service Address (if different from mailing address): _____

Check here if you are an existing Corn Belt Energy natural gas member

Check here if you are an existing Corn Belt Energy electric member

Check here if you would like Electronic Funds Transfer information sent to you

Check here if you would like to receive and pay your bill via the Internet

(3)

NOTE: Signature above or valid website contract authorizes Corn Belt Energy to contact customer's previous gas supplier or credit agency for a utility credit reference.

OFFICE CLOSING

Corn Belt Energy will be closed Monday, May 27th, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Frequently asked questions about Corn Belt Energy natural gas

1. How have Corn Belt Energy's average natural gas prices compared to Nicor Gas' for the past three years?

Year:	2001	2000	1999
Corn Belt Energy	\$.45	\$.30	\$.31
Nicor Gas	\$.59	\$.49	\$.29

2. What pricing options are available to me?

Your gas cost will be a variable rate with the potential to convert to a fixed rate. It is suggested that you return to the Nicor's Customer Select brochure "Who will be your new flame?" for the various definitions of pricing options.

3. What will be the length of my contract?

12 billings. After the last billing, your contract will automatically renew unless you notify Corn Belt Energy Corporation. If there are changes in terms or pricing, you will be notified 30 days prior to its implementation. Otherwise, you will remain on the same index pricing and terms as listed in this contract.

4. Are there penalties and exit fees?

Corn Belt Energy will purchase natural gas for your account, and if you opt to leave before the end of your contract, you are obligated for the gas purchased for your account. Please review the contract carefully for specifics.

5. How will I be billed? How often?

You will receive a monthly bill from Corn Belt Energy for natural gas charges. Billing will be on a budget program. Please see contract for specific details. Nicor Gas will continue to bill for delivery and taxes separately.

6. Who do I call with questions?

Specific CBEC billing questions are handled by your cooperative. For questions regarding gas emergencies, consumption, meter readings, or service, call Nicor Gas.

To select Corn Belt Energy Corporation as your natural gas supplier, please return this completed contract:

Corn Belt Energy, attn: Gas Dept. PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816

FAX TO:

(309) 662-9670, attn: Gas Dept.

WEB SITE:

Go to www.cornbeltenergy.com to print another copy of the contract or to submit the contract online.

Upon acceptance into the program, Nicor Gas and Corn Belt Energy will send you written confirmation in order to verify your participation. If you do not receive this information, contact us in order to confirm your status.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

JULY 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

WELCOME new natural gas customers

Corn Belt Energy has been involved in the NICOR Customer Select Program for the past five years. We are continuing to supply people within the NICOR service territory. When you choose Corn Belt Energy as your Natural Gas provider, you become a member of the cooperative. Below are the seven cooperative principles:

1. *Voluntary and Open Membership.* Cooperatives are 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 policies and making decisions.
3. *Members' Economic Participation.* Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.
4. *Autonomy and Independence.* Cooperatives are autonomous, self help organizations controlled by their members.

5. *Education, Training and Information.* Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-ops.
6. *Cooperation Among Co-ops.* Cooperatives serve their members most effectively 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.

We look forward to serving your energy needs. Questions, concerns and comments, call us at (309) 662-5330 or (800) 879-0339. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8a.m.-4:30 p.m. We invite you to visit our Web page at www.cornbeltenergy.com to learn more about us.

THANKS AGAIN FOR CHOOSING us as your Gas supplier.

OFFICE CLOSING

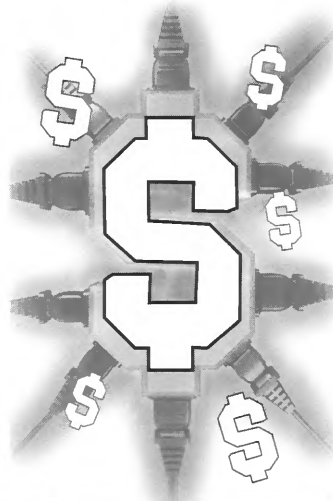
Our office will be closed
Thursday, July 4th for Independence Day.



You control your costs

Ever wonder what various appliances cost you to operate? The Illinois Electric Council (IEC), University of Illinois Ag Engineering Department has prepared a Fact Sheet Number 5 for the general public to use. This does not include every

known appliance, but covers many of the basic items commonly used in homes or on farms. You can further access the IEC through the Corn Belt Energy Web page of www.cornbeltenergy.com. A link exists for information and education.



Average energy costs for some household appliances

Acknowledgement: Reproduced in part from the Illinois Electric Council, University of Illinois Agricultural Engineering Fact Sheet Number 5.

LARGE APPLIANCES	USE	KWH	COST/MONTH
Air conditioner			
5,000 - 8,000 BTU	8 hr/day	125	\$13
12,000 - 14,000 BTU	8 hr/day	320	\$32
Water Heater			
Conventional	24hr/day	400	\$28
Dishwasher			
Without hot water	1 load/day	25	\$2
Hot water costs		105	\$7
Washer/Dryer			
Clothes washer (w/o hot water)	8 loads/wk	11	\$1
Warm wash/cold rinse cost			
		98	\$7
Clothes Dryer (40-min. cycle)	8 loads/wk	96	\$7
Range/Oven	Average/month	45	\$3
Refrigerator (19-25 cu.ft.)			
Before 1980	Average/month	140-300	\$10-\$21
After 1980	Average/month	75-200	\$5-\$14
Freezer (12-20 cu.ft.)			
Before 1980	Average/month	130-200	\$9-\$14
After 1980	Average/month	70-150	\$5-\$11
SMALL APPLIANCES	USE	KWH	COST/MONTH
Clock	24 hr/day	1.4	10 cents
Coffee maker	8 min/day	5.0	35 cents
Fans (ceiling or stand-up)	4 hr/day	12.0	\$1.00
Hair Dryer	10 min/day	6.0	42 cents
Iron	10 min/day	2.5	18 cents
Microwave Oven	20 min/day	15.0	\$1.05
Radio	6 hr/day	.9-12.6	6 - 88 cents
Television	6 hr/day	18 - 36	\$2.52
Toaster	4 min/day	3.0	21 cents
Vacuum Cleaner	10 min/day	3.3	23 cents
Lights			
Standard bulbs 75w	3 hr/day	5.4	38 cents
Standard bulbs 100w	3 hr/day	9	63 cents
Fluorescent, 4 - foot tube	3 hr/day	4.0	28 cents
Fluorescent, compact	3 hr/day	1.4	10 cents
Computers			
Computer	2.5 hr/day	15	\$1.05
Printer, laser	15 min/day	1.9	13 cents

Cost per month estimates are rounded based on 7 cents winter/ 10 cents summer per Kilowatt hour and average use for a family of four. Actual costs will vary according to each household's billing rate, usage, activities, age, type, style and efficiency of appliances.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

CONSUMER CHOICE?

DEREGULATION OF ELECTRICITY

Many of you have heard about the deregulation of the electric industry in the State of Illinois. With the permission of the Bloomington/Normal newspaper "The Pantagraph." Below you will find a timely and informative article on the restricting of the electric service to you the consumer. It's important that we attempt to understand what has occurred in the past, where we are in the present and what the future might be.

The Board of Directors of Corn Belt Energy voted to give choice to all of its members.

The following article may help you better understand electric deregulation.

No longer a monopoly?

Despite 1987 law, little choice exists for electricity.

By Eric Freehling, Business Editor - Pantagraph
Sunday, April 21, 2002

On May 1, residential electric customers in Illinois will be able to choose their power supplier much the same way they now choose their long distance phone service or Internet provider. That's the theory.

On May 1, things pretty much will stay the same other than a 5 percent reduction in electric rates mandated by the 1997 law restructuring the state's electric utilities. That's the reality.

No electrical suppliers are certified to offer power to residential customers nor have any sought certification, said Terry Harvill, an Illinois Commerce Commission commissioner. Commercial and industrial customers have had the ability to choose power suppliers since 1998.

If suppliers could offer cheaper power to residential customers much of the savings would be lost to transition fees that allow utilities to recover costs they ran up before the industry was restructured. In any case, the ICC and utilities want consumers to begin thinking about shopping for power.

"The main thing that Illinois Power is recommending to our customers is to take the time to understand what the energy restructuring will mean and learn what their options are for when alternative power suppliers are available. They will be able to make an informed choice," said IP spokeswoman Shirley Swarthout. IP's service territory serves most of McLean, DeWitt, and Piatt counties, as well as the Mahomet, Mackinaw, and El Paso areas.

"The key thing is to understand how the structure is changing," added the ICC's Harvill. "The change is offering alternatives to energy needs, and the important thing to understand is what you are being offered and that you make an apples-to-apples decision."

Utilities now generate power at a power plant, moving the electricity along high-voltage lines and distributing it to their customers. If a generating station produces, say, 100 megawatts of power

when only 80 megawatts are needed, the utility sells the extra power on the open market. It is obligated by law to return the profits to its customers in the form of rebates or a credit on their bill.

Under the Illinois Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Act of 1997, the system is split into three parts. Utilities are selling off their generating plants or assigning them to unregulated affiliates, and transmission facilities are moved to the ownership of regional transmission entities.

"Your local utility, like IP," said Harvill, "will end up as the wires company on the distribution level that maintains those wires and makes sure that the power gets to the consumer." That type of company is regulated by the ICC and is still a monopoly.

The theory is that marketplace forces and profit motives will make cheaper power more available than it was under the old set-up.

Harvill said 18 electrical suppliers are certified to offer electricity to non-residential customers ranging from "the hardware store on the corner to the Targets and big stores to industrial customers."

Of IP's 63,491 commercial/industrial customers, said Swarthout, 1,041 have switched from IP to another supplier. That's about 1.6 percent of the total, said Swarthout, but accounts for 35 percent of the power consumed by the industrial/commercial segment.

Two things block residential customer choice:

First, Harvill said the law creates a more stringent certification process for would-be residential suppliers. "We didn't want slamming, cramming, and fly-by-night operators," said Harvill, referring to some of the problems that plagued transition in phone service. "You can be assured that if somebody is offering you electricity, they jumped through some pretty serious hoops to get that certification," said Harvill. "Currently there are no certified suppliers for residential customers, which might not be a bad thing."

Second, marketplace forces make it too expensive for alternative suppliers. Remember, the law deregulating the industry also cut residential rates by 15 percent rate. Residential customers have saved \$170 a year from the 15 percent rate reduction from rates that were in effect before 1998, said IP's Swarthout. In the aggregate, residential customers have saved \$268 million. On May 1, the residential rates drop another 5 percent, increasing the annual savings to \$223 compared with pre-1998 rates. Lower rates might make it difficult for an alternative supplier to offer an even lower rate and still make a profit, Harvill said.

"They're competitors against one another, and it's extremely difficult to compete with a price that low. There's not a lot of money to be made," said Harvill. "If I was to predict how it would happen, Company X will approach groups like the American Association of Retired People and say we want to give your members a competitive rate on electricity," said Harvill.

Nonresidential suppliers approached groups such as the Illinois Retail Merchants Association to gather a pool of customers.

In any case, if alternative suppliers do become available, don't expect immediate big savings on your utility bill. "When the law was passed, it acknowledged that utilities such as ComEd and IP made investments when they were monopolies that they might not have otherwise," said Harvill.

Transition fees are a mechanism to pay back the utilities for their pre-deregulation outlays. Transition charges will eat most of the savings realized by switching to a cheaper electricity provider.

Transition charges will diminish until they are phased out by the end of 2006. Only then will residents get all the savings realized from picking and choosing among power suppliers.

If you would like more information on deregulation in Illinois, visit the Illinois Commerce Commission Web site. Look for Plug in Illinois on their Web page for approximately seven pages of helpful information. Go to www.icc.state.il.us/icc/pluginillinois/guide.asp.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us or visit our Web site for further information.

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 high 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 6. The open house provided more than 100 people the opportunity to visit and experience a home site that heats and cools with a geothermal system.

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 percent of the domestic hot water is heated for free.

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 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 it's operating until they put their hand over the register.

Added with the significant savings a system can bring, geothermal users are very happy with their systems.

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 standard air conditioners.

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.

For more information on geothermal systems, please contact our Member Services Department or visit our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com.



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 9 months of the year. The summer schedule applies to usage in June,

July and August. The bills for this consumption will be received in July, 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.

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

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

AUGUST 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Energy Fair

Corn Belt Energy Corporation's Manager of Member Services, Jerry Durlinger, presents information to co-op members at State Farm's recent Energy Fair. The Energy Fair offered State Farm employees at three State Farm Bloomington locations the opportunity to speak with area utility companies, energy product providers, and State Farms "in house" energy experts.

The fair was targeted to offer ideas, information and education relating to energy conservation at the office and home.

Corn Belt Energy offered materials on its natural gas program, vegetation management, electrical safety, special rate options and various products offered by the cooperative.

State Farm contracted with Kyle Finley for his Live-Line Demo, Inc. The popular program attracted hundreds of viewers and of-



ferred outstanding information on personal safety in a variety of situations at home and in the workplace.

Working together we can make our workplace and communities a safer place. Thanks to all who stopped by to become more efficient and effective energy users.

Residential *Summer* rates

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CENTRAL REGION

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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.

Live Line Demo, Inc. and Corn Belt Energy team up

Corn Belt brings electric safety and co-op career messages to local students

Through a grant from the Heartland Regional Partnership Education to Careers Program, Corn Belt Energy and Live Line Demo, Inc. joined together to present several assembly programs to nearly 2,000 junior and senior high school students. Kyle Finley of Live Line Demo, Inc., presented his safety program and then joined with Dave Hawkinson from Corn Belt Energy to explore nearly 30 electric industry careers.

The grant targeted career education programs and Heartland Regional Partnership felt that Dave and Kyle could provide an informative program for high school students. The Partnership is made up of business, labor, education and community leaders who review applications and recommend funding for career programs.

Students, teachers and school staff mem-



Kyle always tries to involve the audience in his demonstrations. Here he shows the power of electricity and the similarity between a hot dog and the human finger.

bers told Dave and Kyle that they had been unaware of the broad range of jobs available at an energy cooperative. School officials also thanked the speakers for bringing Kyle's safety message to so many students.

Watch for electric lines



You're taking the combine to the field through a back gate, one you haven't used before. You look back and realize that you're hung up on an overhead power line.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Climbing out of the combine is the worst thing you can do. Unless you're in immediate danger, stay where you are and call for help.

Don't let your body become a direct link between the line and the ground. If you must leave the combine, jump as far as you can so that no part of your body touches the combine and the ground at the same time.

And once you're off the combine, never get back on until the power line has been disconnected by your cooperative.

Every year, 62 farm workers are electrocuted in the United States. You don't want to be one of them. *Source: www.safeelectricity.org*

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Safe kids are no accident

We call them accidents, but most childhood injuries can be predicted and prevented.

Every year, more children are killed or disabled by accidents than by kidnapping, drugs and disease combined. But the fact is, some basic safety steps can safeguard your child. Please read the suggestions below; our kids don't need to learn everything from experience.

1. If you haven't already done so, be sure to install childproof electric outlet plugs in all outlets within a child's reach.

2. Get your child into the habit of wearing a bike helmet when cycling. They may not think helmets are cool and you may think they cost too much, but a helmet can save a child from a serious head injury in a fall or collision.

3. Cross the street hundreds of times with your children before letting them cross one alone.

4. Always use safety belts and child safety seats. Be sure the seat is used properly. Since most accidents happen close to home, be sure everyone is buckled up, no matter how short the trip.

5. Supervise children in and near water. Never leave a young child alone near water for any reason. It takes only an inch of water and a few moments for a child to drown. It could happen in a bathtub, kiddie pool, toilet or pail of water.

6. Install smoke detectors and test them monthly. They should be placed outside all



sleeping areas and on every level of your home. Teach your children about the detectors and let them help you with the tests so they will recognize the alarm.

7. Plan a fire escape route and practice it. Organize two ways to get out of every room and agree on an outside meeting place.

8. Store matches and lighters out of reach of young children. Teach them that matches and lighters are not toys and

that children who play with them can be badly burned or can hurt others.

9. Lower the hot water temperature to 120 degrees F. Your clothes and dishes will get clean at this setting. Hot liquids, not fire, are the most common cause of burns to young children.

10. Keep common household poisons

and medicines out of sight and reach. Common household items like medicines, plants, make-up and cleaning products account for most home poisonings.

11. Keep small objects out of reach. Infants and toddlers will put anything in their mouths.

12. Install window guards and stairway safety gates to prevent falls. Screens were meant to keep bugs out, but they're not strong enough to keep children in.

13. Post emergency numbers next to your phone. Be sure they're in sight and up to date. Teach your children how to get help by using the phone.

14. Take a First Aid and CPR course. Check with your local hospital, fire department, Red Cross chapter, or YMCA for classes.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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*

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

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

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Save Money Online

Corn Belt Energy's online payment service saves you time and money. Visit our website, www.cornbeltenergy.com, to sign up for online account access and pay your monthly energy bill with the payment method of your choice. You save money by eliminating postage costs and the cost of writing a check. An e-mail

alerts you each month that your new bill is available online for review and payment.

Corn Belt offers this online payment service to you at no cost.

To sign-up for online account access, go to our website, select the "related links" icon, then select "**E-Billing**", found under the Services and Programs heading.

Energy tips can help cut utility bills

Using energy wisely can reduce consumption and save money on utility bills. Here are some tips:

1. Seal leaks around doors, windows and other openings, such as pipes or ducts with caulking or weather-stripping.
2. Set thermostats between 65 and 70 degrees in the winter, at least 5 degrees lower when sleeping, and at 58 degrees when away from home for more than a few hours. (Warmer temperatures are recommended for homes with ill or elderly persons or infants).
3. Set water heater temperatures at 140 degrees (at 120 degrees in homes with infants or elderly persons to guard against accidental scalding), and install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets.
4. Change filters or clean the filters in heating and cooling units at least twice a year. Close vents and doors in unused rooms. If pipes or ducts run through unheated areas, insulate them.
5. Use drapes, shutters, awnings, shade trees, glass with reflective film or solar screens to keep sunlight out in the summer and in during the winter.
6. Check to see if attic and basement (or crawl space) have the recommended level of insulation.
7. If you have a woodburning fireplace, consider installing a decorative electric fireplace with a blower. It can save on energy costs compared with wood and supplement the heating in the room. That may allow you to turn down the setting on your thermostat. It will also dramatically reduce the air pollution created from burning wood.
8. Consider storm or thermal windows and doors or double paned glass. A less-expensive alternative is plastic sheeting, which can be temporarily fastened over doors and windows to retain heat or air conditioning.
9. Be sure that dishwashers, washing machines and clothes dryers are fully loaded before running.
10. When buying new appliances, compare energy efficiency ratings and annual operating costs. Always look for the Energy Star label when shopping for new appliances.

OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. Enjoy your holiday!



LABOR DAY

Electronic funds transfer available

Corn Belt offers you the opportunity to pay your energy bills electronically. Your bill payment will be transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to Corn Belt each month on the due date of your bill. Corn Belt will continue to send you a bill which shows your energy use and the amount due. Your bank statement will show the amount and the date of the transfer. *Why use Electronic Funds Transfer?*

- **To save money.** You will save money on postage and check related fees. Your payment will always be on time, so you will never pay late fees.
- **To save time.** You will no longer need to write and mail checks each month.
- **No worries.** You will know each month that your payment has been made.
- **No hidden charges.** EFT service is available to you at no charge.

To sign-up for EFT, simply complete the form below and return it to Corn Belt Energy, PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816. **Attach a voided check or savings account deposit slip to your agreement form.** Please allow three to six weeks for your agreement to be processed. When the EFT option is active on your account, your monthly Corn Belt Energy statement will have **AUTO PAY** printed on the bill stub. EFT forms are also available on the CBEC website: www.cornbeltenergy.com

AGREEMENT FORM

I authorize Corn Belt Energy Corporation and the designated financial institution to begin automatic deductions of my energy bill.

_____ checking account _____ savings

Please attach voided check or deposit slip

Financial institution _____ Account # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This authority remains effective until Corn Belt, my financial institution or I terminate this agreement in writing.

Name (printed) _____ Signature _____

Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

Corn Belt Energy account number _____

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.

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

Trouble signs

You probably know that if a circuit breaks when you turn on an appliance, that's a sign you're overloading your home's electrical system, or that a problem exists in the wiring or the appliance.

But did you know there are other warning signs to watch for? For instance, these are also signs of problems in your home's electrical system: your lights dim, your toaster doesn't toast, your iron doesn't heat up, or the picture on your television shrinks.

If you see any of these things happening around your house, contact a qualified electrician immediately to diagnose and repair the problem.

Source: Milton Hydro www.miltonhydro.com

Before you dig, call JULIE!

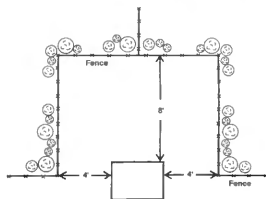
Please remember that it is state law to call JULIE before you dig. JULIE, which stands for Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators, is a free notification service that alerts utility companies of planned digging activities in areas with underground utility facilities. This service operates 24 hours a day, everyday, and it can be reached toll free at (800) 892-0123.

If you are a homeowner or renter, a contractor or an excavator planning to dig anytime this year, please call JULIE 48 hours before you dig. Calling JULIE can save you time, money, and problems. Remember, while you think you may not be digging deep, the best thing to do is call. The underground lines and cables could be closer to the surface than you think. There is never a charge for a cable location.

PLEASE BE COOPERATIVE



The above photos show unsafe conditions around transformers.



The photo on the left is an example of a transformer with plants and a fence located too closely. It does not provide adequate clearance for our linemen to maintain the system or restore power.

The photo on the right is an example of grass clippings stacked near the transformer. The moisture from the clippings may rust the transformer and could cause service problems.

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.

ATTENTION ELECTRIC HEAT USERS!

Do you use electric heating equipment to heat more than 50 percent of your home? If so, you may qualify for Corn Belt Energy's Electric Heat rate – under 4 cents per kilowatt hour for heating costs throughout the heating season.

CONTACT OUR MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR DETAILS.

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.

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



NEWS

Mailing address: P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816
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

OCTOBER 2002

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

See something familiar below?

JOHN DOE
123 HERE ST
SOMEWHERE IL
12345-1234

309-555-1234 is the phone number we have on record for you to report your outages.

PLEASE INDICATE CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER HERE.


Address/Box Number		
City	State	Zip
Phone Number	Other Phone	

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT

PAYMENT TYPE	BILLING DATE	ACCOUNT NUMBER	DUE MON
	07/11/02	123456	55.72
LOCATION NUMBER	DUE DATE	AMOUNT	DUE DATE
XX-XX A- AB	08/05/02		58.51

PLEASE ENTER THE AMOUNT PAID: _____

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION
PO BOX 3049
MARTINSVILLE IN 46151-3049



2000048620270000585300005572

Listed above is a section of your Electric or Natural GAS bill you receive each month. The arrow points to the phone number where you receive service. It's important to your cooperative in many ways but there are two main functions for you to provide this information.

The first, if by some chance you experience a power outage, it is integrated into our outage restoration system. By having your phone, the system finds the phone number that you are calling from and automatically identifies your location and notifies our dispatch system that you are out of power. Of course, if you are aware of a specific item that has caused the outage, tree down, poles or wires down, you are asked to report that into the voice mail system. This again helps us restore power to you and your neighbors more quickly.

The second is that your telephone number is integrated into our customer

service database. When you call in and speak to a person, a screen appears on their terminal with your account information. We are able to assist you faster by having the information available for you.

We realize some members feel we are prying into their private and personal information but that is not the case. Your phone number will remain in our system and will not be used for any other purpose than stated above. We ask that you take a moment and verify that we have your correct phone number. If not, please make the necessary changes.

NOTE – if you call us from a number other than what is matched with your account, the system will not recognize it. For example, if you call from work to ask a question on your account, the database will not recognize that number. We are currently working on better ways to serve you in that instance.

As always – we thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Automatic Credit Card Payment now available to our members!

This is a great way to eliminate the worry of paying your energy bill on time. Your monthly Corn Belt Energy bill can be charged automatically to your Master Card or Visa on the due date. You still continue to receive a paper bill each month showing your energy use, the amount due and the date the charge will be applied. Or call us, and we'll eliminate the paper bill, and you can view your bill online at www.cornbeltenergy.com.

HOW TO START AUTOMATIC CREDIT CARD PAYMENT?

Just complete the authorization form below and return it in the enclosed envelope. Be sure the name on the form matches the name on your Corn Belt Energy account. Please print clearly and make sure all of your account information is correct. *A separate form is required for each Corn Belt Energy account.*

Allow three to six weeks to process your authorization.

Continue to pay your monthly account until you see a note on your bill that states "**AUTO PAY**". Please notify us in the future if there are any changes including the credit card company, account name, account number or expiration date.

Please note: A late fee may be charged in the event your credit card company refuses to authorize a payment.

I authorize Corn Belt Energy Corporation to automatically charge my energy bills each month to the designated credit card company listed below.

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION: _____			
Check One:	MASTER CARD _____	VISA _____	
Credit Card Company _____	Last Name _____	First Name _____	Initial _____
Customer Name of Record _____	_____	_____	_____
Account Number _____	_____	Expiration Date _____	_____

CORN BELT ENERGY INFORMATION: _____			
Corn Belt Energy Account Number: _____			
Print Name on Account _____	Last Name _____	First Name _____	Initial _____
Service Address _____	Street _____	City _____	Zip Code _____
Phone Number _____	_____	Date _____	_____
Signature _____			

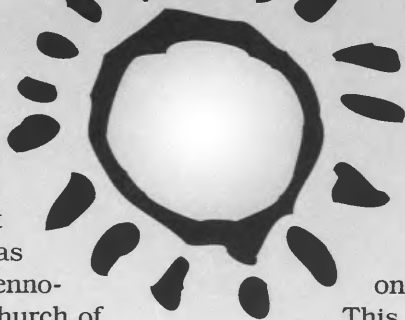
CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Solar savvy

David Kennell and his wife Miriam live on cooperative lines near Goodfield, Illinois. Although David says he is rarely without electricity, he remembers being in South America when that wasn't the case. While serving as community developer with the Mennonite Central Committee and the Church of England helping indigenous tribes, just turning on a light bulb was often difficult. That experience peaked his interest in renewable power sources, especially solar energy. Because of this interest, Kennell, an instructor in the Technology Department at Illinois State University, set about building a solar panel he could use to provide energy to his home.

With the assistance of a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, two 15 x 9 ft. panels were constructed at his home. These panels are comprised of six strips of smaller panels within each unit. Each panel is rated at 1440 watts with a maximum rating of 2.8 KW for both units combined. The panels are designed to withstand 125 MPH winds and adjust throughout the day to follow the path of the sun.

These panels can produce 72 volts which is fed into an inverter operating at 95 percent effi-

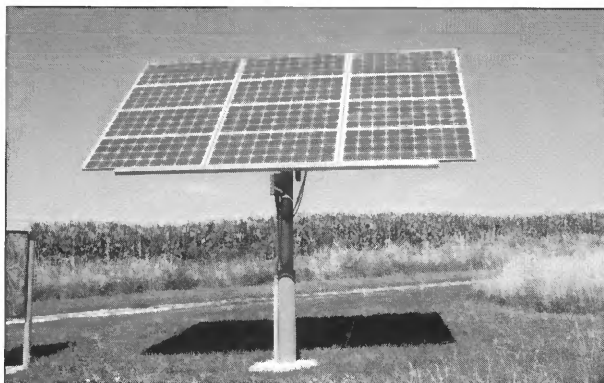
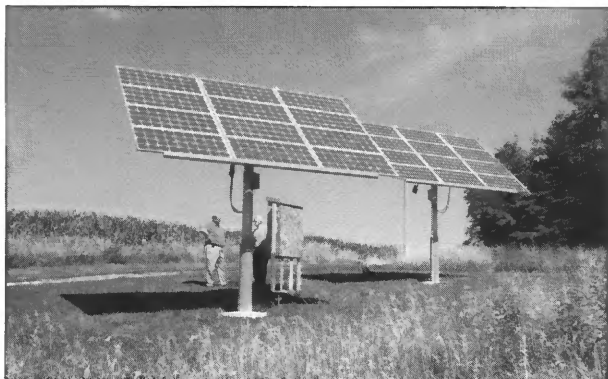


ciency and paralleling the grid, which steps the voltage up to 240 volts. During the day this energy can be used to power the home, with the excess being sold to the utility. As a safety feature the inverter must see power on the grid or the unit shuts down.

This prevents power going back onto the grid when there is an outage.

The goal of this project is to not only provide all the power required for the home but also produce excess power that can be sold back to the utility. The system was able to produce 150 percent of the power required by the home in February 2002 but only 85 percent of the needed power during July 2002. Corn Belt shares Mr. Kennell's interest in the solar project and has provided the metering equipment for the project with the intent of determining the feasibility of solar power.

Also of special interest to Corn Belt is the percentage of energy that flows back into the grid during the monthly system peak. Although the solar panels have been installed for only a few months much valuable data has been received. All parties involved agree David Kennell's solar project is a success.











CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

PROTECT trick-or-treaters



By following some simple suggestions, you can help ensure trick-or-treating is a safe and fun event for children.

-  Clear your yard of objects difficult to see in the dark.
-  Secure your pets. They may be frightened by the "monsters" that invade your yard.
-  Light jack-o-lanterns with battery powered candles so costumes won't catch fire.
-  Drive slowly. Children often dart between parked cars and may be wearing dark colored costumes.
-  Make sure your children's costumes are flame resistant and decorate them with reflective tape.
-  Make sure costumes fit properly and children can see well through masks.
-  Remind children to only go up to houses with porch lights on.
-  Never allow your children to eat unwrapped candy.

These suggestions should help you and your little wizards and skeletons have a safe Halloween.

*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.

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

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 2002

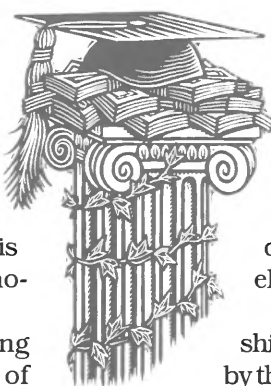
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

High school seniors scholarship money available

Corn Belt Energy is pleased to announce that for the eighth 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 \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students who are sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. The deadline for applications to be returned to Corn Belt Energy is no later than Tuesday, Decem-



ber 31, 2002.

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 1-800-879-0339, or 1-800-654-1088, ext. 235. Download an application on our Web site www.cornbeltenergy.com; or visit our office in Downs at the intersection of US 150 and Towanda-Barnes Road approximately 5 miles SE of Bloomington.

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 #4 on your touchpad. Or stop by our office located in Downs at the intersection of US 150 and Towanda-Barnes Road approximately 5 miles SE of Bloomington. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Honor the American

FLAG

The stars and stripes of the American flag hold a place of pride in the hearts of Americans. We hold dear our flag as the symbol of our nation's continuing struggle for freedom. Our flag has seen its share of bloodshed, victories and defeats as it has stood proudly beside our soldiers during wars. Those soldiers have helped to preserve our flag and what it represents. Honor our nation's veterans on November 11th by celebrating Veteran's Day. And honor our flag by learning how to properly display and care for this symbol of America.

★ Flying the flag

- Display from sunrise to sunset, never allowing darkness to fall while the flag is raised. The flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if it is illuminated at night.
- Do not display during rain, sleet, snow or other inclement weather unless using an all-weather flag.
- Never allow the flag to touch

anything below it.

- Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.
- Do not mark on or personalize the flag in any way.
- Allow the flag to fall freely.
- Hoist the flag quickly and lower it ceremoniously, never allowing it to touch the ground.

★ Flying at half mast:

When flying the flag at half-mast, raise it first to the top and then lower to half-mast (half way between the top and bottom of the mast). When lowering the flag, first raise it momentarily to the top and then lower. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff until noon. The President of the United States may designate other days the flag should be displayed at half-mast.

★ Folding the flag:

First fold the flag in half width-wise twice. Starting at the striped end, fold one corner over to make a triangle. Fold this triangle over and repeat until only the

stars are showing. Then tuck the last piece inside the folds. A properly folded flag is a triangle showing the blue stars. For a demonstration of folding the flag properly, visit the Web site www.americanflags.com

★ How to dispose of the flag:

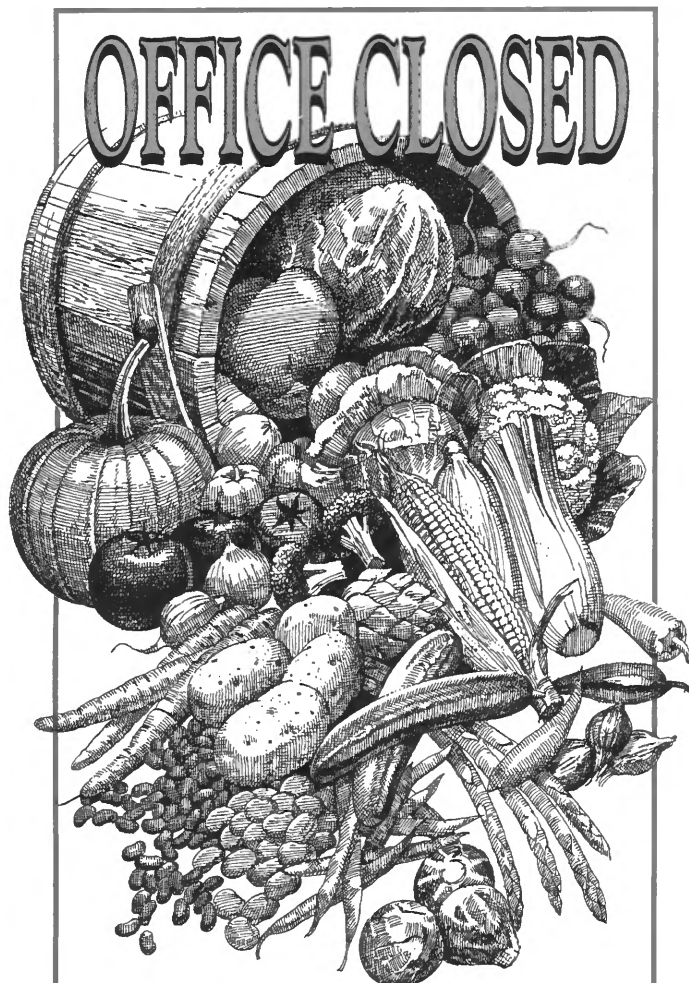
Never throw a flag away! When the flag is so worn it is no longer a fitting symbol to be displayed, destroy it in a dignified manner, preferably by burning the flag and burying the ashes. Many American Legion and VFW Chapters conduct flag burning ceremonies, often on Flag Day, June 14th. Contact your local chapter about this ceremony.

For more information on proper flag etiquette, visit www.vfw.org. You can also request a free copy of the VFW's "Our Flag" brochure by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Flag Brochure, VFW Citizenship Education Dept., VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas, MO. 64111.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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.



Office closed for Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 28 and
Friday, November 29.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088

Help with energy bills

If you anticipate difficulty paying your CBEC electric bill, contact our Member Services Department, 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
Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation 1800 5 th Street Lincoln, IL 62656-9117 217-732-2159	DeWitt Menard Logan Piatt Mason
Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation 1122 E Marietta Street Decatur, IL 62521-1324 217-428-2193	Macon
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency, Inc 56 N Vermilion Street Danville, IL 61834-1335 217-443-2705	Ford Iroquois Vermilion
Kendall-Grundy Community Action 500A Countryside Center Yorkville, IL 60560-1063 630-553-9100 (Kendall) 815-941-3262 (Grundy)	Kendall Grundy
Mid Central Community Action, Inc 923 E Grove Street Bloomington, IL 61701-4201 309-829-0691 (McLean) 815-844-3201 (Livingston)	McLean Livingston
Project NOW Inc. 418 19 th Street Rock Island, IL 61204-3970 309-793-6391	Henry Mercer Rock Island
Tazwood Community Services, Inc Field Shopping Center 2005 S Main Street Morton, IL 61550-2915 309-266-9941 309-694-4391	Tazewell Woodford
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

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

DECEMBER 2002

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, March 29, 2003**, at Normal Community West High School in Normal, Illinois.

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 March 29, 2003, annual meeting: Myron Erdman (District 1), Janice Reimer (District 1), Thomas Johns (District 2), Scott Baum's replacement (District 4), and Charles Meisenheimer (District 7).

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, Ottawa, 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**, 7627 1745 N Avenue, Sheffield, 61361; **Peter Borowski**, 3017 Thornwood Lane, Bloomington, 61704; **Leo Miller**, 4767 E 1950 North Rd., Danvers, 61732; **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 a.m. on December 19, 2002**, at the Corn Belt Energy Corporation office located at One Energy Way, Bloomington, Illinois, approximately five miles southeast of Bloomington just east of the intersection of US 150 and Towanda-Barnes road.

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. Cooperative phone numbers are (800) 879-0339 or (800) 654-1088 ext. 232.

Mark your calendar

The 65th Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, March 29, 2003

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088

HAPPY HOLIDAYS...

from the board of directors and employees of Corn Belt Energy.

Our offices will be closed:

Tuesday, December 24 • Wednesday, December 25 • Wednesday, January 1, 2003



CHRISTMAS TREE 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

At the junction of US 150 and Towanda Barnes Roads
Office hours 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday



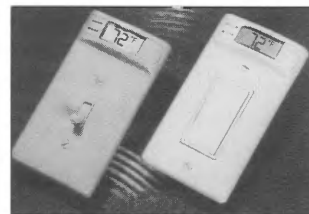
This holiday season...

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 #4 on your touchpad. Or stop by our office located in Downs at the intersection of US 150 and Towanda-Barnes Road approximately 5 miles SE of Bloomington. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



PLATE PALS

**Switch Cover
Thermometers**



Only **\$10.95** 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 ext. 235

**Corn Belt Energy
Corporation**

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Scholarship money offered

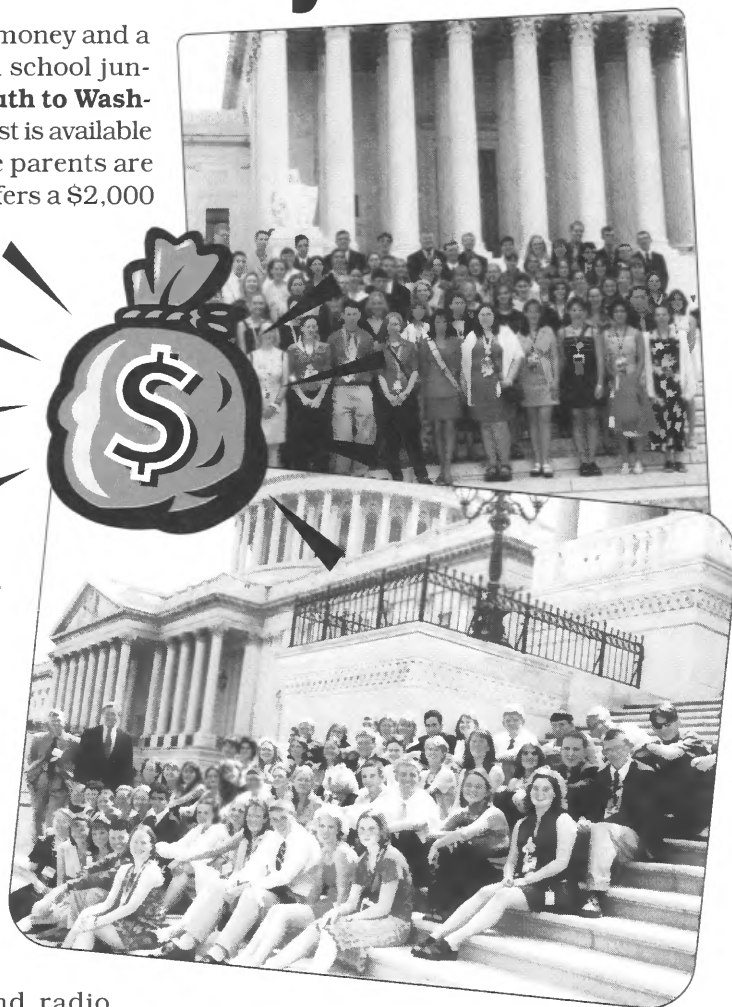
Four thousand dollars in scholarship money and a trip to Washington, D.C. is offered to high school juniors and seniors competing in the **44th Youth to Washington Scholarship Competition**. The contest is available to those junior and senior students whose parents are Corn Belt Energy **members**. The contest offers a \$2,000 scholarship to the winner, and two runners-up will each receive \$1,000 scholarships. In addition to the scholarship money, the winner 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 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 Museums, tickets to a play at Ford's Theatre, and a twilight cruise on the Potomac River are also included.

To compete for the scholarship and trip, students simply select a topic that markets/promotes the cooperative's image, products and services to its members and non members on a 30 second radio commercial and a 60 second VHS/CD. Students interested in competing should visit our Web site www.cornbeltenergy.com to download the contest information. Students who are unable to access the Corn Belt Energy Web site information should call (800) 879-0339 or (309) 662-5330 ext. 235, for entry material.

Entries should be submitted to Corn Belt Energy, PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816 no later than noon on Friday, February 14, 2003. The winners will be selected and announced the first week of March. Winners are asked to appear at our annual meeting of members on March 29 at Normal Community West High School in Normal, Illinois.

Scholarship winners may use tuition money at accredited two-year or four-year colleges, universities or vocational/technical schools. Scholarships must be used within 12 months of high school graduation. 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.



IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SPONSOR:	Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Fund	ELIGIBILITY:	Must be a high school senior. A parent must be a member of CBEC.
PRIZES:	Three \$1,000 scholarships	TO WIN:	Complete an application.
		DEADLINE:	Noon, Tuesday, December 31, 2002.

For more information, visit our Web site www.cornbeltenergy.com or call (800) 879-0339 or (800) 654-1088 ext. 235.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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DETACH HERE

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Illinois Cooperative Association

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS