

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: DECEMBER 2018

Scholarship applications available online for high school seniors

In spring 2019, twelve scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. The fund was designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family,” while also providing a means for co-ops and individuals to honor deceased members of the co-op family through memorial gifts.

Six scholarships will be awarded to students who are children of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative, including Corn Belt Energy members. One scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The remaining four scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are children of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors. One scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will be awarded to help pay for costs associated with lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Military veterans and relatives of



cooperative members, employees and directors are eligible to apply. Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives. Applications and

deadline information are available at www.cornbeltenergy.com.

For more information, please contact Hillary Cherry, Director of Communications & Marketing, at 309-664-9250 or by email at hillary.cherry@cornbeltenergy.com.



Where to find outage information

Corn Belt Energy makes every effort to prevent power outages. However when outages do occur, we strive to keep our members informed.

Once you have reported your outage by phone or SmartHub, you may be wondering where to find updated information including outage causes and estimated safe restoration times.

Several options exist for members to find additional information. You can check our website, Facebook or Twitter for updates on major outages. We usually post status updates for larger outage events (those affecting 500 co-op members or more). You can also view a live outage map at cornbeltenergy.com to check the extent of the outage.

If you don't have internet access, we also post status updates on our main phone greeting at 800-879-0339 and you can listen for updates on the following local radio stations:

- 1230 WJBC-AM
- 101.5 WBNQ-FM
- 104.1 (B104) WBWN-FM
- 98.9 WJEZ-FM
- 107.7 & 92.1 The Bull WIBL-FM
- Cities 92.9 WRPW-FM
- Magic 99.5 WZIM-FM
- 89.1 / 103.5 WGL-FM

If you experience a power outage, rest assured that we're working to restore power to your home or business as quickly and safely as possible.

Help us keep our records up-to-date

If you have changed your phone number or disconnected your landline phone and are now using a cell phone number, Corn Belt Energy would like for you to help us keep our records updated.

Check your latest bill stub or log in to your online SmartHub account to see which number(s) are currently linked to your account. Phone numbers listed on your account can be found in SmartHub by going to My Account > My Profile > My Information > Update My Billing Address + Contact Information.

To update your phone number(s), simply call us at 800-879-0339, email us at cbec@cornbeltenergy.com, or correct the info on your

next bill stub. We can record up to three numbers to associate with your account, including cell phones. We won't sell or share your contact information with anyone else.

By having your current phone number(s) on file, it will also help our automated outage reporting system to work efficiently. When you call in to report an outage, our automated system takes the phone number you are calling from and checks it against phone numbers we have on file in our account management system. If your number is on file, it makes outage reporting faster and more efficient.



Save some green with LEDs this holiday season

The Clark Griswolds and Christmas-light-gun wielding Martha May Whoviers (How the Grinch Stole Christmas) of the world can rejoice a bit more this holiday season by switching to LED lights when decorating. While it's tempting to use the non-LED lights you have on hand, doing so can make your electric bill higher.

That's because LED lights consume 80 to 90 percent less power than incandescent lights, which could make your December and January energy bill look more like it belongs to your Grinch-like neighbor. LEDs last a lot longer too: 3,000 hours on average or about 10 times longer than the traditional type.

Safe Electricity offers these additional benefits of decking the halls with LED Christmas lights:

- You can connect numerous strings (20-plus) together while traditional lights are more limited in the amount you can link per

outlet. (The number varies depending on the type of lights and what else is drawing energy on the circuit you're using.)

- They don't produce heat like their predecessors, making them more child and pet friendly.
- They pose almost no fire danger around dry trees or wreaths. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fires originating with Christmas trees cause 6 deaths, 16 injuries, and \$14.8 million in direct property damage each year.
- LED lights come in a wide range of colors, are usually brighter than the incandescent variety, and often offer more modern features such as dimmers, light pattern settings, and petite battery-operated versions for smaller indoor displays.

Although LEDs can cost a bit more to purchase, they'll save you money in the long run, especially if you go all out decorating your home for the holidays. The estimated electrical

costs for a modest display (about 15 strands of lights) would cost about \$11 in electricity if you used incandescent bulbs for five hours per night for 30 nights. (And that's just a start for the Clark Griswolds out there.) All things being equal, using LEDs would only cost approximately \$1.65.

With any type of lights, always refer to strand instructions and make sure your Christmas lights are endorsed by a reputable testing laboratory.

Those with modest displays who switch to LED lights can buy more stocking stuffers or egg nog this holiday season. Decorators extraordinaire who create a jaw-dropping display worthy of traffic jams could save hundreds on their energy bill. Either way, saving green is just one more reason to be jolly.

For additional safety tips, visit cornbeltenergy.com or SafeElectricity.org.



2019 Education Grant applications available online

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2019 Education Grants Program. Five schools that serve children of Corn Belt electric members will each be awarded a \$1,500 grant and one school will be awarded the \$2,000 Jeff Reeves Memorial Education Grant to fund innovative programs that enrich students' education.

Teachers and administrators of public or private K-12 schools may apply; the facility does not need to receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, but must serve families within our footprint in Central Illinois. Multiple projects within the same school can be combined to a total of the awarded grant amount.

The application deadline is December 31, 2018, and grants will be awarded in spring of 2019. The application can be found online at www.cornbeltenergy.com. For more information, please contact Hillary Cherry, Director of Communications & Marketing, at 309-664-9250 or by email at hillary.cherry@cornbeltenergy.com.

Pay the same amount each month with Levelized Billing

Levelized Billing gives you a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bill, without ever having to play "catch-up" at the end of the year. With Levelized Billing, your monthly electric bill becomes a "rolling average" of your electric usage for the most recent 12 months. By averaging your changes in usage over a 12-month period, your bill will



remain fairly consistent every month, even in very cold or hot months when usage may be significantly higher.

Our Levelized Billing program is completely free for members with accounts in good standing and with at least 12 months of service history. Members can deactivate the Levelized Billing program at any time

by contacting our Billing Department at 800-879-0339.

Please note: If a member on Levelized Billing becomes delinquent or enters into a delayed payment agreement, they will be removed from the program.

CONTACT US

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

