

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: DECEMBER 2019

ENERGY SAVINGS FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

For many of us, the best holidays involve home-cooked meals and wonderful aromas of turkey, stuffing and baked goods wafting throughout the house. It means a busy kitchen and a bustling house full of family and friends. If this rings true for you, despite the increased kitchen activity, you still have an opportunity to save energy during the holidays.

In addition to being the “heart of your home,” your kitchen could pump savings back into your wallet. According to the Department of Energy, cooking accounts for 1% of total energy use in U.S. homes. This number, combined with the energy use associated with refrigeration, dish washing and hot water heating means that as much as 21% of the energy in the average American home is used in the kitchen. So, saving energy here can have a significant impact on your household budget.

When choosing appliances, look for ENERGY STAR certified products that will use about 35% less energy and save more than 8,000 pounds for greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Small appliances equal big energy savings

When preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a crock pot, toaster oven, microwave or warming plate instead of your

conventional oven or stove top. These small appliances are a smart, energy-saving alternative, typically using about half the energy of a stove.

Don't peek!

Opening the oven door can lower the temperature by as much as 25 degrees and causes your stove to work harder (consuming more energy) to return to the desired cooking temperature. If your recipe calls for baking the dish more than an hour, it is not necessary to preheat the oven. If your oven is electric, you can likely turn the oven off for the last five to ten minutes of cooking and allow the residual heat to complete the job. Clean burners and reflectors increase efficiency and offer better heating, so don't neglect this small but important task.

Just as keeping the oven door closed seals in efficiency and enables the stove to operate more economically, the same rules apply to the refrigerator and freezer. Keep the doors closed as much as possible so cold air doesn't escape. However, leaving the door open for a longer period of time while you load groceries or remove items you need is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.



If you are entertaining a large group, you may be able to give your furnace a brief holiday. When your oven is working hard and you have a house full of guests, the heat from the stove and the guests will keep your house comfortable, enabling you to turn down the thermostat.

Clean up with energy savings

When it's time to clean up, extend fellowship to the kitchen, and wash and dry dirty dishes by hand. This uses less energy than a dishwasher. However, don't leave the water running continuously, or you will waste energy. If you do use the dishwasher, run the dishwasher with full loads only, and if possible, use the energy-saving cycle.

By adapting these efficient practices in your kitchen, energy savings will be one more thing to be thankful for this holiday season.



May your holiday season be merry and bright

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities.

Given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at Corn Belt Energy, we are grateful for you, the members of our co-op.

One of our founding principles as a co-op is “Concern for Community.” While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to help our community thrive.

Reflection

In looking back at this past year,

we're grateful that we were able to make a positive impact in the community. Through programs such as the Corn Belt Energy Education Grants and Sharing Success, we were able to help throughout the community.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to partner with local schools to raise awareness of the importance of electrical safety through Live Line Demo. This year, we visited with students from over 20 schools.

There are other ways we can help the community, whether we're providing information about electric vehicles, or helping you find ways to save energy at home, we want you to know we're here to help.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you – the members of the co-op – and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Corn Belt Energy family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!

Sharing Success grant recipients

Corn Belt Energy has partnered with CoBank to help keep our local communities vibrant. The Sharing Success program is made possible by Corn Belt Energy's board of directors in partnership with CoBank, a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it serves.

CoBank has established a fund to match charitable contributions made by its cooperative members. The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role cooperatives play in their individual communities throughout the country. CoBank and its members have together contributed more than \$36 million to date.



LeRoy Emergency Ambulance Service Inc.

The LeRoy Emergency Ambulance Service Inc., located in LeRoy, Illinois, received a \$5,000 grant as a part of the Sharing Success program. The grant helped pay for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic courses for students enrolled in the fall 2019 EMT class.



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois received a \$5,000 grant as a part of the Sharing Success program to assist with their new facility located in Peoria, Illinois, which will open toward the end of 2019. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois provides a supportive home away from home for families with children receiving medical care and this new facility will include 22 guest rooms.



Tammy Rever
Operations Assistant /
Dispatcher

How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?
29 years

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?
I handle all communications in the Operations Department, talk to members about power issues, forestry, street lights and many other issues. I also dispatch the linemen and work closely with warehouse, mechanics, forestry, engineering and member service representatives.

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
I like being in the middle of outages small or large. I enjoy knowing what's going on, who's dispatched and what caused the outage.

If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?
Take one day at a time and Philippians 4:13 which says, "I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me."

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?
Never assume a downed power line is dead. Stay in your vehicle or tractor until line personnel gives the okay.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?
I like house cleaning, dishes, laundry, and mowing as well as writing books, boating and fishing.

Who or what inspires you?
Animals! I care about every animal domestic or wild, and I love hearing about the heroes who step in and rescue animals.

If you had to select a hashtag to describe yourself, what would it be?
#VeryCaringandLovingPerson

Is there anything else that you'd like to share with our members?
Always call in your outage. Don't waste time thinking your neighbor is out also. You may be the only person out. Call it in right away.



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 > Notifications > Manage Contacts. You may also add additional phone contacts on this screen.

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.

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.

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

