

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: OCTOBER 2020

The importance of cybersecurity awareness

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and the theme is “Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart,” aimed to empower individuals and organizations to own their role in protecting their part of cyberspace. By increasing awareness and enhancing understanding of basic cybersecurity practices, we can all work together to combat cyberthreats. Each of us has a critical role to play to ensure the security of our personal and professional data.

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month is spearheaded by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The overarching message of this year’s theme, ‘If you Connect it, Protect it,’ dives into the importance of keeping connected devices safe and secure from outside influence. With more people spending time at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever before, connected devices are an integral part of how we communicate and access services essential to our well-being. Data collected from these devices can include highly-specific information about a person or business, which can be exploited for criminal gain.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to shed light on these security



vulnerabilities, while offering guidance surrounding simple security measures to limit the susceptibility of threats for common devices.

This year, the Cybersecurity Awareness Month’s main weekly focus areas will revolve around:

- Understanding and following general security hygiene for connected devices and home networks;
- The importance of maintaining the security of connected devices for remote workers;
- How connected devices play a pivotal role in the future of healthcare; and,
- The overall future of connected devices for consumers, professionals and the public domain.

If everyone does their part—implementing stronger security practices, raising community awareness, educating vulnerable audiences or training employees—our interconnected world will be safer and more resilient for everyone.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month continues to build momentum and impact with the ultimate goal of providing everyone with the information they need to stay safer and more secure online. Corn Belt Energy is proud to support this far-reaching online safety awareness and education initiative.

For more information about Cybersecurity Awareness Month and how to participate, visit staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/.

PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR MEMBERS



Tips to stay warm during cooler months

Heating your home uses a lot of energy, so making a few changes can add up to noticeable savings on your energy bills. Corn Belt Energy is here to help by providing you with these money-saving tips:

Take advantage of sunny days

Take advantage of the sun's radiant heat energy and open your curtains and window shades during sunny days. Let your home make use of those rays!

Close your curtains at night

When it gets dark, shut your curtains. This acts as another layer of insulation and keeps warmth in your rooms.

Adjust your thermostat

Program or adjust your thermostat to no higher than 68 degrees during the winter months for maximum cost savings. And make sure to turn down the temperature a few more degrees when you're sleeping and when you leave the house.

Utilize ceiling fans

Hot air travels upward. If you have high ceilings, use your ceiling fans on a low, clockwise setting to circulate that heat back down.

Close off unoccupied rooms

Close the heat registers and doors of unoccupied rooms during the winter months.


Close fireplace damper

Make sure to close your fireplace damper when not in use; you don't want your warm air leaking out through the chimney!

Prevent drafts

Check around your windows and doors for drafts. A tube of caulk and some weather stripping can go a long way to seal your home from blustery winds.

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Power On

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, we recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working to maintain social distancing. Some employees worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person member visits to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our members.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. We also continue to provide information about financial assistance to those members in need.

And while we certainly missed visiting with so many of our members in person, we learned to use technology more effectively and found ways to stay connected using online video platforms and social media.

We care about this community because we live here too. We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, we’re encouraged to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1938, Corn Belt Energy was built to serve members in this community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On.



Tyler Duff
Dispatcher / Member
Accounts Representative

How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?
1 year

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?
My role at Corn Belt is a little diverse as I help with operations and member accounts. So where help is needed I go. Also, I work with accounting in running payments and making sure our payment system and the bank records are correct.

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
I enjoy helping members and problem solving when issues arrive.

If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?
You never know what the future will bring, so always make the best use of the present.

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?
Always assume wires are hot. Whether your working at home or see downed power lines. Electricity is dangerous as you can't always tell if it's on or not.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?
My hobbies include racing, fishing, and spending time with my family.

Who or what inspires you?
I believe my family has inspired me the most. Whether it's staying humble in the good times or pushing past the hard times.

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

Is there anything else that you would like to share with our members?
I'm grateful to serve all our members.



Spread out your monthly energy costs

With Budget Billing from Corn Belt Energy, your monthly electric bill becomes a “rolling average” of your electric usage for the most recent 12 months.

For more information and to sign up today, contact us at 800-879-0339.





Contact us today about **REBATES**

water heaters • air source heat pumps • geothermal • electric vehicle chargers

How do air source heat pumps work?

Air source heat pumps transfer heat between a house and the outside air.

The unit is connected by refrigerant-filled tubing to an indoor component. The indoor unit contains a fan, indoor coil, and a supplemental resistance or propane/natural gas heating backup.

Depending on whether the heat pump is in a cooling or heating mode, the refrigerant moving through the system makes the indoor coils either hot or cold. A blower draws room air in through a filter and pulls it across the indoor coil.

As the air passes by the coils, it either gathers or gives off heat—depending on whether the coils are hot or cold. Warm or cool air travels through ductwork and registers into the house's rooms.

What are the advantages of air source heat pumps?

Cost. Heat pumps give off less heat at one time than do conventional gas furnaces, which means that they don't turn off and on with the same frequency as a gas furnace, and therefore circulate more air throughout the house.

Air source heat pumps are controlled by the same type of thermostat used for forced-air



systems and trim electricity use by as much as 30-40% in moderate climates.

Are rebates available for the purchase of air source heat pumps?

Yes, Corn Belt Energy offers up to \$1,000 in rebates for air source heat pumps.

For more information about air source heat pump rebates or other Corn Belt Energy programs, services or rebates, please visit our website at cornbeltenergy.com/rebates or call us at 800-879-0339.

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

