

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: JANUARY 2021

Staying connected

When we say that we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smart phones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member of an electric co-op, there’s so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

We depend on you because you power our success, and when Corn Belt Energy does well, the community thrives because we’re all connected.

our energy efficiency programs and rebates. When you download our SmartHub app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and access a menu of additional options for potential savings and more.

When you follow Corn Belt Energy on social media, you can stay up to date on programs and services, rebate offerings, power restoration efforts, and more.

By connecting with us, you can get real-time updates from your co-op. That’s why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. If we can’t connect with you on these platforms or in person, you could miss out

on potential savings or important information.

Corn Belt Energy relies on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure that we can provide the highest level of service that you

expect and deserve.

Updated contact information can even speed up the power restoration process during an outage. That’s because when you call to report an outage, our automated system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage-management system predict the location and the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for Corn Belt Energy crews to correct the problem.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can—whether that means contacting our energy advisor to discuss rebate programs, attending our annual meeting, providing feedback on a recent visit or call with our employees, or simply downloading our SmartHub app.

Corn Belt Energy exists to serve our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local community, we’re better prepared to answer the call.

To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit cornbeltenergy.com or call 800-879-0339.

We look forward to connecting with you!



We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we’d like to help you maximize the value you can get from Corn Belt Energy through a variety of programs, products and services that we offer our members. For example, we can help you save money on your energy bill through

Don't Waste. Insulate!

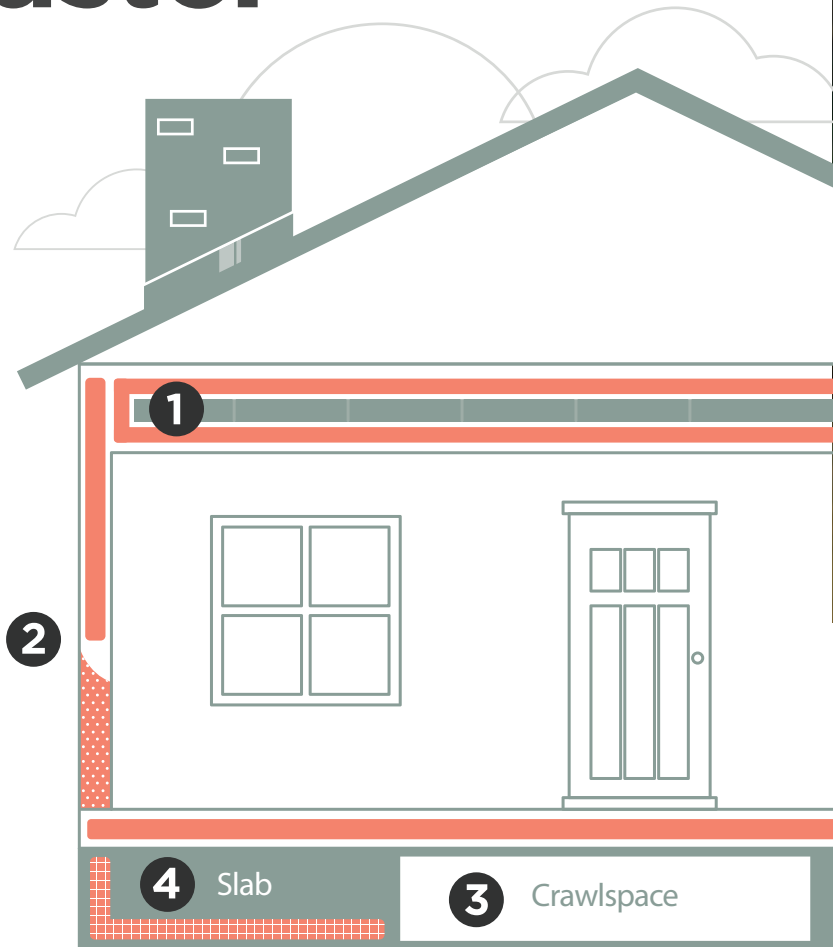
Properly insulating your home reduces heating and cooling costs, and improves comfort. R-values measure a material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value rating, the greater the effectiveness of the insulation. Below are recommended R-values for areas of the home that should be insulated.

**Recommendations on R-values are subject to regional climate conditions.*

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

TYPES OF INSULATION

-  Batt
-  Foam
-  Blow-in



1

DUCTWORK

Whether it's made of metal or plastic (PVC), insulated ductwork protects your investment in conditioned air year-round. Minimal R-values of 4.3 are recommended for blanket-style wraps secured with tape. Insulated ductwork rated at R-6 is also available.

2

EXTERIOR WALLS

There are multiple options for insulating exterior walls. Rock wool or blown in cellulose of R-13 to R-20 value are preferred behind drywall, but each inch of blown-in polyurethane foam insulation provides an R-value of 3.9.

3

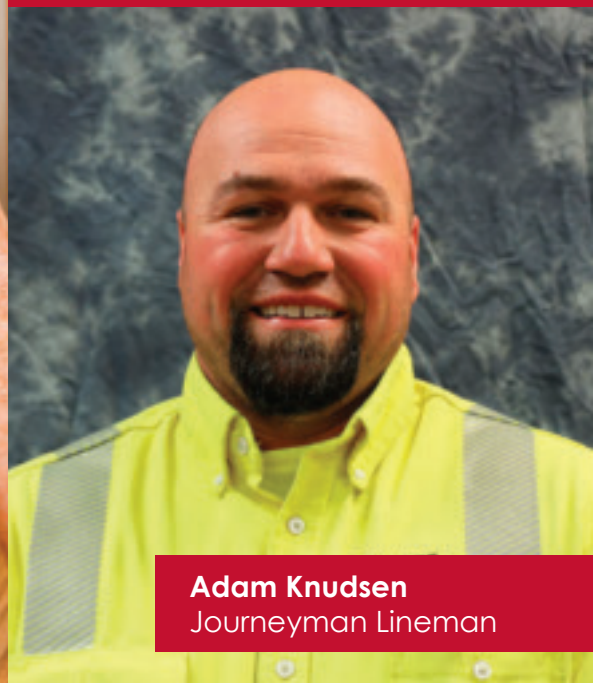
BENEATH LIVING SPACE

Whether your home has a full basement, a crawl space or an attached garage, having insulation under the living space floor will help increase comfort year-round.

4

SLAB FOUNDATION

Properly installed foam boards around the exterior edge of the slab of an existing home can reduce heating bills by 10 percent or more.



Adam Knudsen
Journeyman Lineman

Three easy DIY projects to save energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

- 1. Insulating your electric water heater.** Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills.
- 2. Seal air leaks with caulk.** The average American family spends over \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around

windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money.

- 3. Weather strip exterior doors.** One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

For more energy efficiency tips, visit www.cornbeltenergy.com or call our energy advisor at 800-879-0339.

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

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?
Giving our members the best quality service that I can.

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
Restoring power and trouble shooting.

If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?
There's no "right way" to do the wrong thing. Do it right the first time.

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?
Treat every downed powerline as if it were energized.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?
I enjoy hunting and fishing with my family.

Who or what inspires you?
My son, he inspires me to work hard and set a good example for him to follow.

If you had to select a hashtag to describe yourself, what would it be?
#lineman24-7,365

Is there anything else that you would like to share with our members?
There is no such thing as a "day off" for linemen, we are always available for our members.



Ways to pay your electric bill

AutoPay: Contact us today to set up AutoPay and never miss a payment date again. Payment will be debited from your account on the payment due date. You will need a checking account number & bank routing number, or a debit or credit card. We accept VISA, Mastercard & Discover.

SmartHub: Download the SmartHub app or access your account online at

www.cornbeltenergy.com. You will need a checking account number & bank routing number, or a debit or credit card. We accept VISA, Mastercard & Discover.

Phone payment: Call us at 800-879-0339 to pay your bill by phone. You will need a checking account number & bank routing number, or a debit or credit card. We accept VISA, Mastercard & Discover.

Dropbox: You may drop off your payment in the dropbox outside of our Bloomington office at 1 Energy Way, Bloomington, IL. We only accept check or money order as payments via dropbox.

Mail: You may mail your payment to Corn Belt Energy, 1 Energy Way, Bloomington, IL 61705. We only accept check or money order as payments via mail.

Budget billing can help in planning monthly budgeting



Are you looking for a way to budget your monthly electric bill so that you are not surprised with fluctuations throughout the year?

Budget 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 Budget

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 Budget Billing program is completely free for members with accounts in good standing and with at least 12 months of service history. Call us today at 800-879-0339 to sign up and for more information.

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

