

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



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Sharing Success with our local communities

Corn Belt Energy has partnered with CoBank to help keep our local communities thriving. 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 \$56 million to groups such as volunteer fire departments, local schools and hunger relief programs.

As the name implies, the Sharing Success program is an opportunity for Corn Belt Energy to share its own financial stability with deserving organizations throughout our communities.

As a participant in this program, Corn Belt Energy donated \$10,000 in 2021 which was matched by CoBank for a total of \$20,000 to give to worthy local organizations. The 2021 local Sharing Success

grant recipients include the YMCA in Ottawa, Illinois, and the Children's Discovery Museum in Normal, Illinois.

The Ottawa YMCA

The YMCA located in Ottawa, Illinois, received a \$10,000 grant as a part of the Sharing Success program to help provide the means for children and families who would not normally be able to participate due to financial reasons to participate in after school programs, youth sports, teen programs, day camp, swimming and gymnastics instructions.

The YMCA is a charity focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Through their programs and services, the YMCA enables children to realize their potential, prepares teens for college, offers ways

for families to have fun together, empowers people to be healthier in spirit, mind and body; prepares people for employment, welcomes and embrace newcomers, and helps foster a nationwide service ethic.

For more information about the Ottawa YMCA, visit www.ottawaymca.org.

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Corn Belt Energy presents the YMCA in Ottawa with a \$10,000 Sharing Success grant. Pictured above from left to right: Ottawa YMCA Executive Director, Joe Capece, and Corn Belt Energy Board Member, Rob Angus.

The Children's Discovery Museum

The Children's Discovery Museum located in Normal, Illinois, received a \$10,000 grant as a part of the Sharing Success program to help the museum facilitate their mission "to inspire the love of learning through the power of play", and provide hands-on exhibits, classes and programs.

Annually, the Children's Discovery Museum serves over 100 schools through field trips and in classroom programs. In addition to offering a superb learning experience for local visitors, the Children's Discovery Museum is conveniently located next to the Amtrak station for visitor accessibility.



Corn Belt Energy presents the Children's Discovery Museum with a \$10,000 Sharing Success grant. Pictured above from left to right: Corn Belt Energy Vice President of Utility Services, Joe Priestley; Children's Discovery Museum Executive Director, Beth Wiseman; Corn Belt Energy Board Member, Jerry Starkey; and Chair of the Children's Discovery Museum Foundation Board, Rob Widmer.

For more information about the Children's Discovery Museum, visit www.childrensdiscoverymuseum.net.

Corn Belt Energy is a proud participant in the CoBank "Sharing Success" charitable contribution

program because this program is a great way for us to give back to the communities we serve.



BEAT THE PEAK TIP: During peak alert timeframes, avoid using large appliances.

Avoid running the dishwasher, washing machine or clothes dryer. Consider hanging your clothes to dry. Do not cook on an electric stove but consider using an outdoor grill, microwave, slow cooker or air fryer. Adjust the temperature settings on your refrigerator or freezer to the recommended operating range.

Corn Belt Energy's Beat the Peak app tells you when peak alerts are active by opening the app or allowing push notifications in your phone settings. Sign up and start making a positive impact by reducing electricity usage during peak times. Learn more at www.cornbeltenergy.com/btp

Download the free mobile app for your Apple or Android device by searching for "Beat the Peak" in the app store.



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 \$1,500 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.



Greg Yakle
Manager of Engineering

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

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?

Coordinate the engineering of distribution projects as well as service upgrades with the operations department. In addition I get to work on Distributed Generation policies, Net Metering policies and the analysis of those impacts.

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?

All of it really. I have worked in the industry for 28 plus years, and there have seen a lot of changes during that time, but none more than those going on currently. I am very interested in where Net Metering 2.0, solar, batteries, and EV's are intersecting and how Corn Belt can prosper from these technologies.

If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?

I think its important to look at new things and the opportunities they present.

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?

That would be electrical safety, specifically standby generators. Corn Belt monitors its system for back feed installation all the time. We have found at times that members generators have been hooked up incorrectly causing back feed on power lines. This is a very hazardous issue for our lineman and the public. Corn Belt provides specifications for Standby Generator and solar generation installations on its website to assist with proper installation.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?

I enjoy keeping our land scaping at home manicured. I am always thinning things out and moving things around. In addition I collect Matchbox cars from the 1960's and 1970's. I have approximately 700 cars. I often participate in on line auction of them.

Who or what inspires you?

My ancestors inspire me. They were hard working German immigrant farmers, as well as farmers in the South. They had a lot of set backs during the depression. I enjoy doing genealogy to on them and collecting pictures of them from different relatives, some of which I have never met. There are some funny cold call's I have had with relatives that they didn't know. I have done a genealogy book for my parents. I did a genealogy book this last fall for my Aunt Mary, which she gave each of her children for Christmas.

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

#optimist



Tips for a safe harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings

when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.

- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.

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