

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



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Energy saving kitchen tips 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 4.5 percent of total energy use in U.S. homes. This number, combined with the energy use associated with refrigeration, dishwashing and hot water heating means that as much as 15 percent 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.

Small appliances equal energy savings

When preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such,

consider using small appliances like a crock pot, toaster oven, air fryer, microwave or warming plate instead of your conventional oven or stovetop.



These small appliances are a smart, energy-saving alternative, typically

using about half the energy of a stove.

Keep the oven door closed

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

>> Continued on page 20D.



2022 Education Grant applications available online

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2022 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, 2021, and grants will be awarded in spring of 2022. The application and further details can be found online at www.cornbeltenergy.com.

Applications for Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarships now available

Fourteen \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2022 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

- 8** scholarships awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members.
- 4** scholarships for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.
- 1** Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship awarded to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director.
- 1** LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship awarded to a student attending lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Illinois.

The deadline to apply for the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program is December 31, 2021. The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker Scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information, visit our website at: www.cornbeltenergy.com

HOW TO REPORT OUTAGES conveniently from your mobile device!

Every day the employees of Corn Belt Energy work hard to prevent and minimize the interruptions in power to our members.

Unfortunately, unforeseen events such as storms can often cause power outages. Corn Belt understands how inconvenient it is to be without electricity. We strive to make the process for reporting outages as easy as possible including from your mobile device.

SmartHub app instructions

1. Download the free mobile app for your Apple or Android device by searching for "SmartHub" in your app store.
2. Select the "By Name" button in the lower right section of the screen.
3. Type in "Corn Belt Energy" and click on the "Search" button, and select "Corn Belt Energy".
4. Make sure that "Corn Belt Energy" appears on the next screen and select "Confirm".
5. Enter your username and password. Then, select the "Login" button.

6. Please note: steps 1 - 5 will only need to be completed one time. Once you are logged in, you will only need to complete steps 6-8 to report an outage.
7. Click on the "Service Status" icon.
8. Click on "Report an Outage".
9. Confirm that the address listed is correct for the outage location, and type a comment (optional). Then, select the "Report Outage" button.

SmartHub from your computer

To access SmartHub from your desktop computer or laptop, simply click "Account Login" at cornbeltenergy.com and log in with your email address and password.

For more information, check out our short, easy-to-follow SmartHub video tutorial at www.youtube.com/cornbeltenergy.



Gerry Henning
Substation Foreman /
Journeyman

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

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?
I preform substation health checks monthly and fill on crews as needed.

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
Just being outdoors (sometimes) and working with the guys.

If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?
Life is extremely short so surround yourself with family and good friends as often as possible.

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?
Stay clear of any down wires, call in and have it checked out as soon as possible.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?
I enjoy spending time with my wife of 31 years and my kids and grandchildren. When I am by myself I enjoy deer hunting and all year I dabble with cooking food on a grill of some sort.

Who or what inspires you?
I have been inspired most from my parents, their zest for life and devotion to family.

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

Is there anything else that you would like to share with our members?
I've been truly blessed in my life with family and work, all things have been good.



More SmartHub features

Reporting outages is not the only benefit of SmartHub. You also have the ability to:

- View hourly, daily and monthly usage data
- Compare usage between hours, days, months or years
- Set usage thresholds and alerts
- Receive bill reminders
- Pay your bill quickly
- View Corn Belt Energy's social media feeds





Energy saving kitchen tips this holiday season

>> *Continued from page 20A.*

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 and rinse dishes before loading them, use cold water. Run the dishwasher with full loads only, and if possible, use the energy-saving cycle. Note that dishwashers that have overnight or air power dry settings can save up to 10 percent of your dishwashing energy costs.

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



Thank you for voting us Best Electrical Services Company

Thank you to everyone who voted for Corn Belt Energy Corporation in the 2021 Pantagraph Reader's Choice Awards!

We are honored and grateful to be voted the Best Electrical Services Company in the 2021 Best of the Pantagraph Reader's Choice Awards.



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