

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



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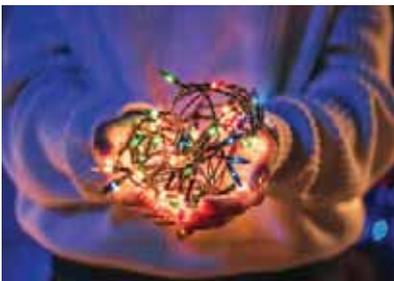
May Your Holidays Be Merry and Bright

As November begins, it's hard to believe we'll soon gather with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth. Still, as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also increase energy use and pose a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards, making it crucial to stay cautious and alert.

As your local electric cooperative, Corn Belt Energy cares about your well-being. This month, we'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season. By following these tips, you can ensure your safety and save on your energy bills.

Safety first.

As a family, we eagerly anticipate the holiday season and the joy of decorating our home. Before we embark on our festive preparations, I always ensure to check electrical cords



and light strands for any signs of wear and tear. This simple act not only ensures our safety but also adds to the anticipation of our home being beautifully lit. I also take a moment to verify the suitability of our outdoor lights, adding to the excitement of our outdoor decorations.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the most important safety measures is to test smoke alarms often. I make it a point to test mine on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. This simple act,

which takes only a few seconds, could save lives, so please make it a habit.

'Tis the season for savings.

As we all know, the holiday season is a time for joy, but it's also a time to be mindful of safety and energy savings. With a few simple precautions and smart choices, you can ensure a safe and energy-efficient holiday for your family.

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests impacts home energy use. You can lower your bills by taking a few small steps to save energy during the

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holiday season.

I like to remind my family members to remember the thermostat. Since heating and cooling consume the majority of home energy, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when family or friends are stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. These lights not only add a festive touch but also significantly reduce your energy

consumption. LEDs are the most energy-efficient lighting options and last much longer than traditional bulbs, making them a sustainable and cost-effective choice for your holiday decorations.

There's no denying that one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food—not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers, and toaster

ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For additional advice, visit our website at cornbeltenergy.com. We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.

From your friends at Corn Belt Energy, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

Corn Belt Energy hosts 3rd Annual EV Car Show

Despite the weather, Corn Belt Energy hosted its 3rd Annual EV (Electric Vehicle) Car Show on September 27, 2024.

The car show was held in conjunction with National Drive Electric Week, which, according to their website, "is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more."

The wind didn't deter members and non-members from enjoying a wonderful family night; we had a great turnout.

Over 40 vehicles were on display from dealerships and local EV owners. Some electric vehicles on display were a Ford

Mustang Mach E, GMC Hummer, Nissan Ariya, Rivian R1T, Tesla Cybertruck, and many more!

More than just a viewing opportunity, the event was designed to be interactive, providing hands-on experiences that truly engaged attendees. Heartland Community College shared insights about their Electric Vehicle program, NORD Outdoor Power demonstrated battery-powered lawn equipment and tools, local electricians answered questions about home EV charger installation, and solar companies provided information on solar with battery backup.

But the excitement didn't end there! In addition to the face-painting station, there were

multiple games, food trucks, and free ice cream for everyone in attendance.

We owe it all to our fantastic community. We couldn't have done it without every dealership, EV owner, vendor, attendee, and volunteer support. Your contribution is invaluable to us, and we're grateful for your support. THANK YOU!

To find out more about Corn Belt Energy's Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates and our specialty Electric Vehicle time-of-use rate, please visit <https://www.cornbeltenergy.com/programs-services/electric-vehicle>.



Is a Ductless Mini-Split System Right for Your Home?

How would you like a personalized comfort zone within your home? One where the temperature is customized to your liking and may be different than the temperature in the shared living areas or other rooms in the house. This flexibility and customization are precisely why mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, and their energy efficiency aspects are so popular.

Let's unpack some mini-split basics and explore whether this type of system is a good choice for your home heating and cooling needs.

A mini-split system is a type of HVAC equipment used for heating and cooling, allowing you to control the temperature in individual rooms or spaces. Similar to central heating and cooling, mini-split systems have two main components—an outdoor compressor and an indoor air-handling unit(s). A narrow conduit links the indoor unit(s) to the outdoor compressor.

While central heating and cooling systems feature an indoor unit connected by long lengths of ductwork, mini-splits are typically ductless. This means energy is not lost traveling through long stretches of ductwork. Installing the air-handling unit in a desired room or area enables you to control the temperature more precisely, reducing energy consumption. That's because you're adjusting the temperature to a single room or space rather than the whole home.

Is a mini-split system right for you?

Mini-split systems are a popular option in home additions, or to supplement heating and cooling in a space that may be furthest away from the main living area, such as a finished attic or basement. In these instances, it may not be feasible to install or extend the ductwork required in traditional central cooling and heating systems. In contrast, mini-splits are relatively easy to install requiring a small hole for the conduit connecting the indoor and outdoor units. Most systems can handle up to four indoor rooms or zones connected to one outdoor unit. Each of the zones can be customized because each includes a thermostat that enables you to heat or cool the space as needed, saving energy and money over time.

Cool solutions

Mini-split systems bring additional benefits. They are quiet, improve indoor air quality and are typically easy to install. Many come with remotes to make temperature control even easier, and because of their smaller size, mini-split systems have many placement options for indoor and outdoor units. One of the greatest benefits of

mini-splits is that they typically have a higher SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating than traditional central heating and cooling systems. The higher the unit's SEER rating, the more energy efficient it is.

Additional considerations

However, according to the Department of Energy, "mini-splits cost about \$1,500 to \$2,000 per ton of cooling capacity. That's about 30% more than central systems (not including ductwork) and may cost twice as much as window units of similar capacity."

While the technology is improving and evolving, those in particularly colder climates may need a fuel backup to run a mini-split system. Aesthetics are another factor to consider, as some homeowners don't like the appearance of the indoor units, which are more visible than central air conditioning vents.

If you're considering an upgrade or additional heating and cooling equipment, talk to a qualified technician to learn if a ductless mini-split system could work for your home.

MINI-SPLITS AT A GLANCE

Mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, heat/cool a home through an outdoor unit that connects to one or more individual indoor air handlers, which are typically mounted on a wall. Depending on the size of your home and personal preferences, a mini-split system is worth considering when you need to replace or upgrade your heating/cooling system.

Mini-Split System Benefits:

- Zone-controlled heating/cooling
- Higher energy efficiency ratings
- Easy to install
- Good for heating/cooling home additions

Mini-Split System Considerations:

- Potentially higher upfront cost
- Appearance
- May require electrical upgrades
- Not as effective in large spaces

The infographic includes a photograph of a technician in a blue shirt working on a wall-mounted indoor unit. Below the text are images of an indoor air handler and an outdoor condenser unit.



Lineworker's Safety Rodeo 2024

Line personnel from Corn Belt Energy Corporation (CBEC) took part in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo, organized by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Thursday, Sept. 19.

Fifteen teams from 12 electric co-ops and one municipal electric utility participated in the friendly competition, along with seven individuals competing on their own. The rodeo showcased the skills lineworkers use to work safely and efficiently.

Landon Finch, Evan Reynolds, and Cole Sinn from CBEC represented their co-op at the rodeo held at the LLCC Line School Yard in Springfield. They competed against teams from across Illinois in events

testing agility, speed, and accuracy. While these skills were part of the judging criteria, participants were primarily evaluated on safe work practices.

Line personnel took part in team and individual events, including the 40-foot climb, hurt man rescue, and cross-arm change. The cutout change was a team event, and the day concluded with a head-to-head climbing challenge.

Scores for each event were based on completion time and the proper execution of the task and safety. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing

inappropriate procedures or methods.

Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts.



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