

# POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: JANUARY 2025

## New Year's resolution: be energy efficient year-round

### Seal in comfort and savings

As energy consumers, we can all contribute to conserving resources and lowering our bills.

Here are some practical tips to enhance your home's energy efficiency throughout the year.

### Know your energy consumption

Are you curious about your energy consumption? Do you want to see how your usage changes when the kids are away for a weekend or after you've removed that old freezer from the basement?

SmartHub allows you to track your electricity usage, showing you how many kilowatt-hours you're consuming. This ability enables you to adjust your home to lower your electric bill if you choose to do so! The opportunities for saving energy are endless! SmartHub also allows you to pay your bill, sign up for Autopay and Paperless billing, report an outage, and much more! You can download the free SmartHub mobile app for your smart device from your app store.

### Adopt no-cost ways to save energy

Small changes can lead to significant savings:



- Turn off lights and unplug electronics such as chargers when not in use.
- Close or lower window coverings to regulate the temperature indoors.
- Change your air filters regularly as recommended.
- Use ceiling fans strategically: counterclockwise in summer and clockwise in winter to force warm air down.
- Grill outdoors in summer to keep the heat out of the kitchen.

### Insulate your home

Weatherproofing is key to maintaining comfort and

reducing energy use:

- Check for air leaks around windows and doors using the wet finger or tissue test.
- Apply caulk or weather stripping to prevent drafts.
- Remember to keep doors closed to maintain indoor temperature.

### Get smart with your thermostat

Optimize your heating and cooling by using your programmable thermostat's features — many homeowners never use them — and allow it to adjust the temperature when you're asleep or away.

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- Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat for automatic adjustments. (We have a rebate for qualifying Wi-Fi thermostats!)
- In general, adjust the thermostat a few degrees up or down for energy savings.

### Energy efficiency rebates

If you're considering updating your cooling system to enhance your home's comfort, replacing your water heater for more efficient appliance performance, or installing an electric vehicle (EV) charger to support your eco-friendly lifestyle, we have exciting rebate opportunities available.

Take advantage of these incentives to make your upgrades more affordable while improving your home's energy efficiency.

### Explore solar energy

For many homeowners, solar

panels are a great way to help the environment and save on electric bills. Still, there are many factors to consider before diving in and installing a system:

- First, ask yourself, what are my goals? If your primary goal is to save money on your electric bill, you can achieve this through our free energy audits, which can identify areas of the home for maximum energy savings.
- Consult Corn Belt Energy early in the process. As your electric cooperative, we want to be your source for energy and information. We will provide valuable information about:
  - Interconnection requirements.
  - Cost considerations.
  - Potential tax credits available for renewable energy installations.
- Choose a reputable

contractor/installer. The easiest way to compare solar providers is to create a document that includes the details of each company, all on one page. Research options through websites, local Better Business Bureaus, renewable energy associations, and state offices. Filter your list by asking questions, checking their past installations, comparing at least three bids, and checking references.

By implementing these tips, you'll save on energy costs and contribute to a more sustainable community.

For more tips on building an efficient home, exploring rebate programs, or questions, please visit [cornbeltenergy.com](http://cornbeltenergy.com) or call us at 309-662-5330.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES AVAILABLE

COMFORT  
SYSTEMS

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EV  
CHARGERS



SCAN BELOW  
TO LEARN MORE



For more info, visit us at [cornbeltenergy.com](http://cornbeltenergy.com) or call 309-662-5330



## Youth Day and Youth Tour 2025

Students of Corn Belt Energy Cooperative and Corn Belt Energy employees are eligible to attend the Youth Day in Springfield, IL, and the Youth to Washington Tour! Up to eight students will be selected to attend Youth Day in Springfield.

In addition, up to two students will be chosen to represent Corn Belt Energy by attending an all-expense paid, week-long trip to Washington D.C., with other winners from across the nation. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see our government at work and tour national sites, monuments, and museums. To be eligible, the student(s) must currently be a high school sophomore or junior and be able to attend the trip to Washington D.C. in June, if selected.

Students must reside in a home served by Corn Belt Energy. (Home School students may participate as well!)

**YOUTH DAY - March 5th, 2025,  
Wyndham Springfield City Centre,  
Springfield, IL**

For over 60 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to gain experience from today's public officials. Each year, over three hundred outstanding students get an up close and firsthand look at democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives during Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day. Over the years, thousands of students have learned how government works and why it's important for every citizen to get involved in it. State senators and representatives have the opportunity to inspire and encourage the leaders of tomorrow during this annual event, held in Springfield.

**Application deadline- February 3, 2025**

**YOUTH TOUR - June 15th to 23rd, 2025 - Washington D.C.**

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. for a week in June

every year since the late 1950s.

Students apply and are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative. We believe that students should see their nation's capital up close, learn about the political process and interact with their elected officials.

Students gain a personal understanding of American history and their role as a citizen by meeting their Representative and Senators. While student groups are organized at the state level, they all come together for Youth Day, where they get to meet each other and hear featured speakers who provide insight to the important roles electric cooperatives play in their communities.

For more information and application, scan the QR code below





# 2025 Nominating Committee meeting scheduled

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Corn Belt Energy office, in Bloomington, at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Any cooperative member who is interested in being nominated to the Board of Directors should contact a committee member prior to the meeting. The committee can nominate no more than two individuals for each expired Directorship.

As an alternative, any active cooperative member may also be nominated for election by petition. Any fifty active members of the Cooperative, by their petition, may propose the name of any qualified member as an additional nominee.

The nominated person must have

active service in the Board district of the vacancy, and no other Directors can live in the same township.

Petitions to nominate Directors must be filed at Corn Belt Energy's office no later than Monday, April 21, 2025. The election to fill the Director seats will occur at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Friday, June 20, 2025, at Normal Community High School in Normal.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 11 active members who represent the membership in the operation of the Cooperative. The detailed procedure for choosing a Director is stated in our cooperative bylaws, which can be found at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com).

# Now accepting Director nominations

The terms of the following Corn Belt Energy Directors will expire at the 2025 Annual Meeting on June 20:

- Pete Borowski, District 1
- Beth Beachy, District 2
- Terry Longman, District 3

The Board of Directors has appointed the following persons to the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in a district seat currently up for re-election, contact one of these persons or an existing Director with your credentials by January 27:

- Bruce Thomas, 3011 Clearwater Ave. Bloomington, IL 61704
- Todd West, 2273 Knox Rd 2250 E Victoria, IL 61485
- Albert Hagenbuch, 3438 E. 11th Rd. Utica, IL 61373
- Darrin Schertz, 485 County Rd 2570 E. El Paso, IL 61738
- Ken Schertz, 14025 Lara Trace Bloomington, IL 61705
- Lora Warren, 17303 Backbone Rd West, Princeton, IL 61356
- Bart Bittner, 19754 E 1300 North Rd. Bloomington, IL 61705
- Stanley Otto, 6938 E 1700 North Rd. Danvers, IL 61732
- Debbie Birkey, 27993 Townline Road Mackinaw, IL 61755
- Mark Young, 27126 Golden Acres Dr. LeRoy, IL 61752
- Rachel Torbert, 13325 Autumn Rd. Wapella, IL 61777



## CONTACT US

309-662-5330 | [cbec@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com) | [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#)  
1 Energy Way, Bloomington, IL 61705 | Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

