

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY

CORN BELT
ENERGY

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We're Here to Help You Save

When summer heats up, our electric bills tend to increase as air conditioners are working overtime, driving up home energy consumption. Corn Belt Energy is your local not-for-profit electricity provider, and we are committed to helping you beat the heat without breaking the bank.

As the temperatures get hotter over the next few months, we want to make sure you know about a range of energy-saving offerings designed specifically with you in mind. You can manage your summer energy consumption and costs by taking advantage of these programs and services.

Levelized Billing

When you sign up for Corn Belt Energy's levelized billing plan, your energy bill is calculated by averaging your previous 12 months of use. With levelized



billing, your monthly energy costs are easier to budget and manage, especially during seasonal fluctuations when bills tend to increase based on the weather. Levelized billing is a great option for anyone on a fixed income or those with highly variable seasonal needs.

Home Energy Audit

Corn Belt Energy's energy advisor is available to conduct a free energy audit of your home to identify areas where energy is wasted and provide recommendations on improving efficiency and lowering your monthly bills. Free energy audits are just one of the many perks of your co-op membership, so

we hope you'll take advantage of this valuable service.

Rebate Programs

When you make upgrades or purchases to reduce home energy use, those smart decisions should be rewarded. Corn Belt Energy offers rebates on Wi-Fi thermostats, heating and cooling equipment, and more. Visit cornbeltenergy.com to learn about our rebate programs and how you can receive money back in your wallet for making wiser energy choices.

You Have the Power

Small actions combined can have a big impact on summer



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energy bills. The best way to lower energy use during summer months is to raise the thermostat to the highest setting that's comfortable. For each degree of increase, it can save you 1% on your cooling cost.

Ceiling fans can also help you feel cooler, but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. On warm summer nights, fire up the grill to keep

additional heat out of the kitchen. Remember to change air filters often so your cooling system doesn't have to work harder than necessary.

Don't let energy bills take a toll on your summer fun. Corn Belt Energy is here to help manage your energy use, whether through efficiency programs and services or energy-saving advice from our local energy advisors

and to help make your summer more enjoyable!

Contact us to learn more about practical strategies to lower your use, trim your bills, and make this summer a breeze for you and your wallet

Visit cornbeltenergy.com for additional energy-saving tips, tricks, and advice.

FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Here are 10 easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer:



1. Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day



6. Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage)



2. Set your thermostat a few degrees higher



7. Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them)



3. Take cooler showers (this feels better in the summer, anyway)



8. Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weather stripping if needed)



4. Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of your oven



9. Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house



5. Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors



10. SHUT THE FRONT DOOR (don't air condition the outdoors)

Safe Electricity.org®
Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

Future leaders meet state officials during Youth Day



Students representing Corn Belt Energy met with State Representative Regan Deering while attending Youth Day in Springfield, IL

For more than 60 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. On March 5, approximately 200 high school students across rural Illinois represented 22 co-ops during Youth Day, including six from Corn Belt Energy.

"Youth Day offers students from across the state a firsthand experience of democracy in action as they engage with their elected representatives in Springfield," said Brooke Gross, member services manager at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and facilitator of its youth programs. "This annual event provides state senators and representatives a chance to inspire and support the next generation of leaders."

In addition to meeting elected officials, the students learned

more about their electric or telephone cooperative's role in their communities. They had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. He shared his journey from a small town in Illinois to his current role, emphasizing the importance of finding interesting and challenging opportunities. He encouraged students to pursue their passions and take risks.

"When you push yourself outside your comfort zone, it's uncomfortable at first, but you learn a lot," Frerichs said. "I'm guessing this is a room of people who want to do big things."

Participants also met Paris Van Dyke, the 2023-24 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative,

who was sponsored by Wabash Communications CO-OP during the 2023 Youth Day and Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. She spoke about her experiences representing Illinois' electric and telephone cooperatives.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for this experience two years ago because I really got out of my box and decided to try something new," Van Dyke said. "Be proud of yourself for sitting in the chairs that you are in today because you have an opportunity that not very many students get. So, take advantage of that, and just remember to say yes to the opportunities that come your way."

At the end of the day, students were interviewed for the chance to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., also sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year's trip is held June 16-23. Peyton Ford and Zackary Potts were selected and will represent Corn Belt Energy on the weeklong trip. They will meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn how cooperatives work, and gain valuable leadership skills. learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.



11 Electrical Safety Tips for Seniors

Electrical safety is crucial for everyone, but especially important for seniors. Adults over the age of 65 are at the greatest risk of death from fire and this risk increases with age, according to the National Fire Protection Association. As we age, our reflexes slow down, eyesight decreases and senses become less acute, making it essential to take extra precautions when handling electrical appliances.

Here are 11 ways for older adults to maintain a safe living environment:

Ensure that electrical appliances are in good working condition. Regularly inspect cords and plugs for damage or wear and tear.

Don't overload sockets or extension cords. Plugging too many appliances or devices into a single outlet can cause overheating and increase fire risk.

Limit the use of carpets and rugs, which are tripping hazards, and avoid placing extension cords under them to prevent overheating. To help prevent trips and falls, cords should not stretch across a room. For a safer and more permanent solution, consider having an electrician install additional outlets where needed.

Unplug appliances when not in use and before cleaning or repairing them.

Keep electrical appliances away from water and wet surfaces to prevent electric shock.

Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which are designed to prevent electric shock by shutting off power when a ground fault is detected. Install them in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor spaces.

Ensure proper lighting in all areas of the home, especially in hallways and staircases, to prevent trips and falls. Consider installing nightlights in bedrooms and bathrooms for better visibility.

Set hot water heaters to lower settings to prevent scalding.

When cooking on the stove, never leave pots and pans unattended, and avoid wearing loose clothing when cooking. Never open the oven door if something catches fire inside the oven. Consider using toaster ovens and small appliances that come equipped with an auto shut-off feature for added safety and convenience. This feature is designed to turn off the appliance automatically after a set amount of time or when a task is completed, reducing the risk of overheating or fire.

Use space heaters with caution.

Space heaters can offer added warmth to a senior, who may get cold due to circulation issues that are common with aging. Use space heaters with built-in safety features such as an automatic shut-off switch. Keep space heaters on a steady surface and at least three feet away from flammable objects such as curtains, bedding or furniture. Plug them directly into an outlet — do not use an extension cord or power strip — and unplug them when not in use.

Install smoke detectors on every floor and carbon monoxide detectors near all bedrooms. Test and replace the batteries twice a year — once in the spring and once in the fall.

And don't miss this bonus tip:

If someone in the home uses a medical device that requires electricity, have a backup power source ready in case of a power outage and be sure to alert us for priority restoration at 309-662-5330.



SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendar for Corn Belt Energy's 87th Annual Meeting!

**Friday, June 20, 2025 | Business meeting start time: 10:00 am
Normal Community High School, 3900 E Raab Rd, Normal, IL 61761**

Further details will be mailed to all members in the 2025 Corn Belt Energy Annual Report and will be available online at cornbeltenergy.com.

CONTACT US

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1 Energy Way, Bloomington, IL 61705 | Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

