

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



The Season of Giving

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another—and at Corn Belt Energy, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase—it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve—our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit



A group of Corn Belt Energy employees and their families volunteering at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast.

of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

We're proud to support local students through the Youth Tour program, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action and dream big about their futures. That's giving in the most meaningful way, by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the

communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too, and we love sharing it.

You'll often find our team out in the community coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on nonprofit boards, and partnering with organizations to strengthen our local economy. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving back isn't a requirement, it's just what you do.

>> Continued on page 18B

>> Continued from page 18A

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We're here to help, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At Corn Belt Energy, we believe concern for community is more than a value—it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially

grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at Corn Belt Energy, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season.

The Good Kind of Audit

Colder weather typically results in higher energy bills, and with cooler temperatures right around the corner, we'd like to remind you about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money.

As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help you get there. That's why Corn Belt Energy offers free home energy audits. An energy audit provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency.

Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas and ultimately keep more money in your wallet. An energy audit can also identify potential safety issues surrounding electrical wiring and HVAC systems, making your home safer.

So how does it work?

First, request the energy audit by calling our office at 309-662-5330. The audit is conducted at your home by our trained and certified energy advisor.

What to expect during the audit

The energy audit has three parts: evaluation, energy testing, and recommendations.

First, our advisor examines your home's energy use and identifies problem areas. They look at elements such as doors, windows, insulation levels, and major appliances. They also ask about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

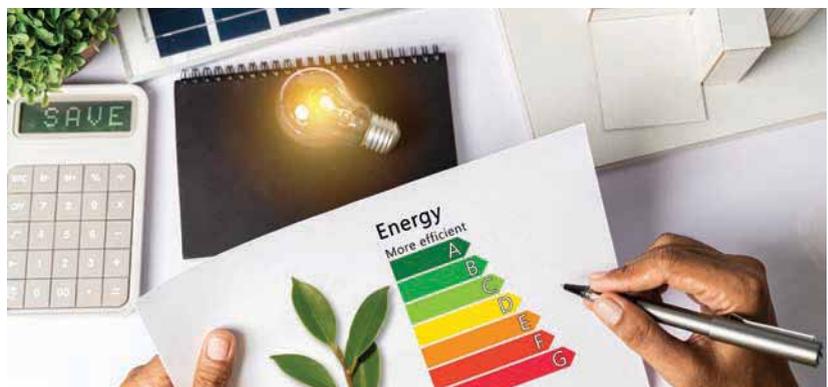
The energy advisor will conduct a **blower door test** to evaluate how well your home is sealed against air leaks. During this process, specialized equipment temporarily lowers the air pressure inside the house, making it easier to identify gaps or weak points where outside air can enter. To pinpoint these areas more precisely, the advisor will also use **thermal imaging technology**, which highlights temperature differences on walls, windows, and doors. Together, these tools provide a clear picture of your home's energy efficiency and reveal opportunities to improve comfort, reduce drafts, and lower utility costs.

The power to save is in your hands

Finally, the advisor will provide you with a detailed evaluation. This is a written report with a description of your home, an analysis of your energy use, recommendations regarding energy consumption and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money. One of the greatest values of an energy audit is helping you understand how you use electricity and more importantly, identifying ways to use it more efficiently.

Additionally, making improvements and upgrades based on the evaluation can increase your property value—all the more reason to schedule an audit for your home.

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.



Preparing for the Big Hunt

As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Power lines and utility equipment are often out of sight — and out of mind — especially in wooded or rural areas. Ignoring them can lead to serious injuries or even death.

Before you climb that tree stand, look up and out

Never install a tree stand near a power line or on a utility pole. Electricity can arc — jump through the air — up to 10 feet from high-voltage lines. This means you don't even have to touch a wire to be at risk of electrocution.

Never shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous

scenario: those who get within 50 feet of a downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Keep these tips in mind to stay safe and avoid costly or dangerous incidents:

Scout the area. Before hunting, take time to scout your area during daylight. Look for power lines, poles and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.

Power safely. If you're using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, don't use it inside a cabin or RV, or in a confined area. Make sure it's used outside where there is plenty of ventilation.

Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment. Never fire near or toward poles, lines, substations or transformers. A stray bullet could knock down a line, interrupt power or create a deadly hazard.

Keep your distance. Always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines, poles and other electrical infrastructure when

setting up or taking down tree stands.

Never climb a utility pole. Even if it looks like the perfect vantage point, don't do it. Poles carry high-voltage lines, and climbing them can be deadly.

Don't use utility poles for support. Tree stands or blinds should never be attached to or supported by power poles or electrical equipment.

Know the danger of downed lines

If you come across a downed power line or damaged electrical equipment, stay at least 50 feet away, even if it doesn't appear to be live. Power lines can still carry electricity when on the ground, posing a risk of shock or electrocution. Call 911 or your utility right away to help prevent a dangerous situation.

Whether you're a seasoned hunter or heading out for the first time, staying aware of your surroundings could save your life.



HUNTING SAFETY

- Before you begin a hunt, note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment. Dense trees can make them hard to see.
- Obey all signs that advise electrical hazards, especially when placing a tree stand.
- Never use power poles to support a tree stand.
- Never shoot at power lines or electrical equipment.
- When setting up and taking down the stand, make sure you don't make contact with any overhead electrical equipment.
- If you're using a portable generator on your trip, don't run it in a confined area.

For more information visit:





Lineworker's Safety Rodeo 2025

Line personnel from Corn Belt Energy Corporation participated in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Thursday, September 25. Eighteen teams from 13 electric co-ops and two municipal electric utilities participated in the friendly competition. Ten competed individually. The event was held at the LLCC Line School yard in Springfield.

Corn Belt Energy personnel competed as two teams: Landon Finch, Evan Reynolds and Cole Sinn, and Chris Burnett, Mitchell Cleaver and Zach Gaines. Cody Collins competed as an individual.

They competed against teams from across Illinois in events

using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in an armor rod install, cutout change, hurt man rescue, 40-foot transition climb and transition climbing challenge.

Scores for each event are based on completion time, 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.



CONTACT US

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

