

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



Working Together to Lower Demand

When outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder weather drives us indoors, where we rely more heavily on home heating systems, more lighting and household appliances. Heating systems run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. Combine that with the fact that most people use electricity at the same times—typically in the mornings and early evenings—and the result is significant pressure on our electric grid.

Corn Belt Energy works closely with Wabash Valley Power Alliance, our generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, to plan for these seasonal weather patterns and changes and ensure you have reliable power every day of the year. This partnership involves detailed resource and infrastructure planning to make certain electricity is available whenever you need it. However, it's important to remember that our local system is part of a much



larger regional and national electric grid.

During the winter months, when homes and businesses across the country are using more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can approach—or occasionally exceed—available supply. This is especially true during severe weather events, such as ice storms, sudden temperature drops or equipment malfunctions that reduce generation capacity. In rare cases when demand threatens to outpace supply, the regional grid operator may call for temporary, controlled

outages—often referred to as rolling blackouts—to prevent broader system failures. If such a situation arises, Corn Belt Energy will provide timely updates and information to members.

To prepare for these scenarios and minimize risks, Corn Belt Energy and our G&T partner take proactive measures to strengthen reliability year-round. These include routine system maintenance, tree trimming, and investments in grid modernization, among others. These proactive steps are designed to ensure our portion of the grid remains resilient even under extreme conditions.

>> *Continued on page 18B*



Working Together to Lower Demand

>> Continued from page 18A

Yet, maintaining a reliable electric system requires a collective effort—and every member plays a vital role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress.

You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use, especially on the coldest days of winter:

1. Lower your thermostat slightly. Even reducing the temperature by a few degrees can help.
2. During the winter months, energy use peaks in the morning between 6:00–9:00 a.m. and

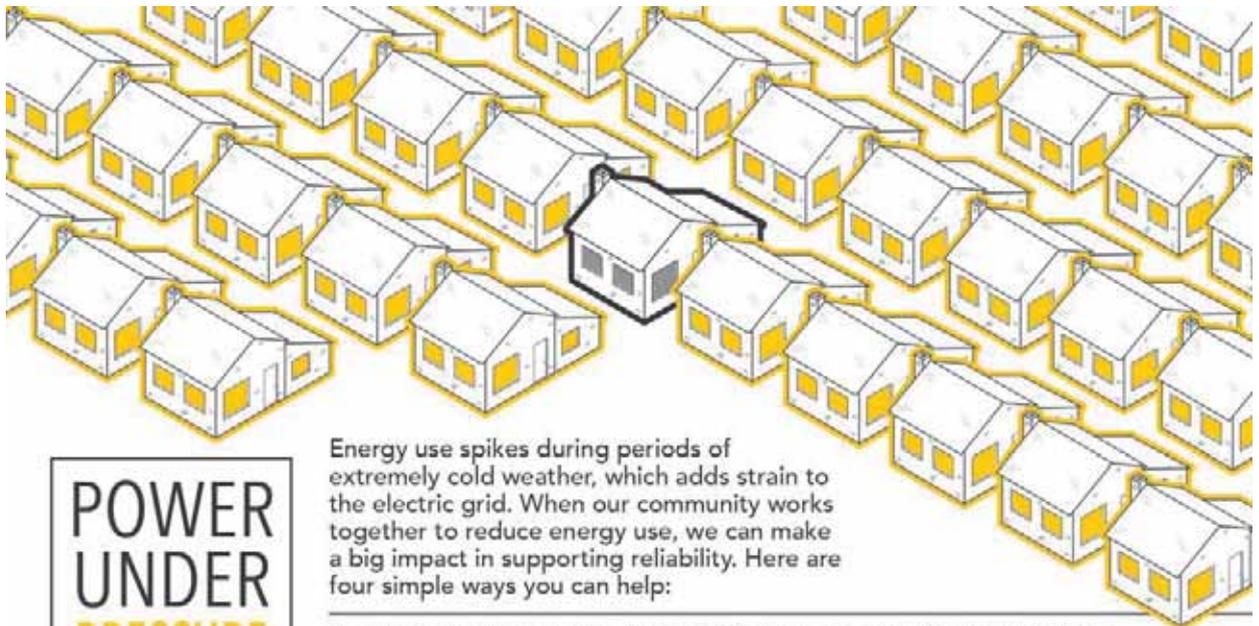
again in the afternoon from 4:00–7:00 p.m. To help reduce strain during these peak times, delay using large appliances. Instead, run dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers during off-peak hours, such as midday or late evening.

3. Adjust your water heater. Setting it to 120 degrees F and spacing out showers helps conserve both energy and hot water.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect

unused items to reduce energy waste.

Understanding how winter weather impacts electricity demand is key to maintaining system reliability. By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bill—you also help strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community.

Together, through small actions and shared awareness, we can ensure that our homes remain warm, our lights stay on and our local grid continues to serve us reliably throughout the season.



**POWER
UNDER
PRESSURE**

Four Ways to
Ease Grid Strain
This Winter

Energy use spikes during periods of extremely cold weather, which adds strain to the electric grid. When our community works together to reduce energy use, we can make a big impact in supporting reliability. Here are four simple ways you can help:

1. Lower your thermostat. Even a difference of a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances. Run them in the evenings or midday when demand is lower.
3. Lower your water heater to 120 degrees and avoid back-to-back showers.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Electronics and lighting add up. Unplug any unused items.

Last Call for Youth Tour 2026 Applications

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 three 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!)

**Application deadline-
February 20, 2026**

YOUTH DAY - March 25, 2026, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Hotel, 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.

YOUTH TOUR - June 15-22, 2026, 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.

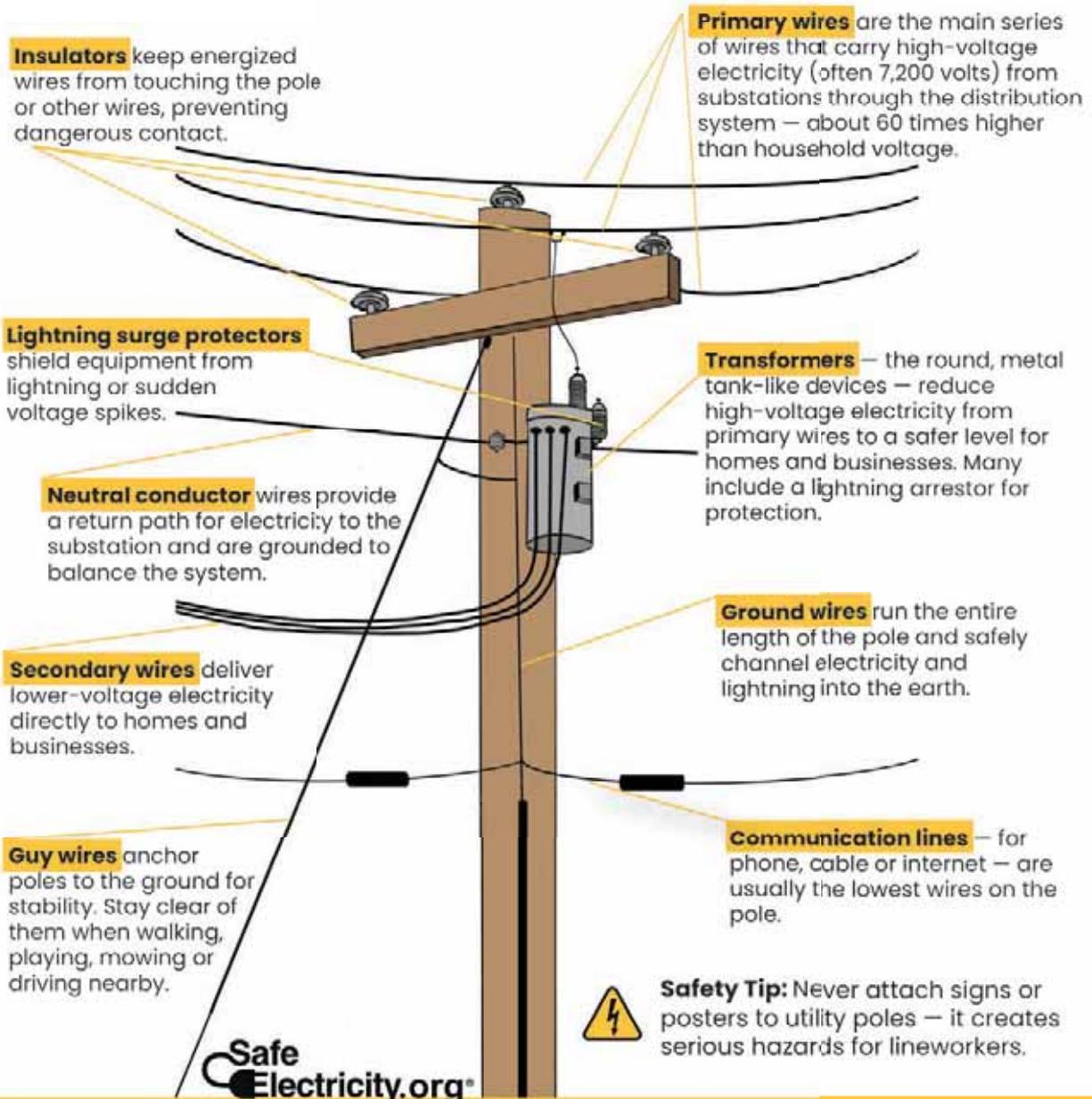
For more information and application, scan the QR code below



The parts of a **POWER POLE**

Ever wonder what's on a power pole and how it delivers electricity to your home? Learning about each part can help you and your family stay informed – and safe.

Here are some common parts found on power poles. Equipment can vary depending on location and service needs.



CONTACT US

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

