

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



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A Strong Foundation for the Future

After more than a decade serving as President and CEO of Corn Belt Energy, it is time for me to begin a new chapter.

Since becoming CEO in 2013, I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredible group of employees, directors, and members who care deeply about this cooperative and the communities we serve. Leading Corn Belt Energy has been one of the greatest honors of my career, and as I prepare to step away, I do so with tremendous gratitude for the people and experiences that have shaped my time here.

Much has changed in our industry since 2013. Technology has transformed the way we operate and communicate, member expectations have evolved, and the energy landscape continues to become increasingly complex. Through it all, Corn Belt Energy has continued to grow, adapt, and invest in the people, infrastructure, and technology necessary to serve our members well.

While I am proud of what



New President/CEO Ryan Campbell & Current President/CEO Don Taylor

we have accomplished during my tenure, those accomplishments have never belonged to one person. They are the result of talented employees who show up every day, committed to serving our members; a board of directors willing to thoughtfully guide the cooperative through change; and members who have continued to place their trust in us.

That is one of the things I have valued most about being part of a cooperative. Corn Belt Energy exists for the people we serve.

The decisions we make today have an impact well beyond tomorrow, and our responsibility is to leave the cooperative stronger for the next generation. That responsibility includes ensuring Corn Belt Energy has the right leadership for its next chapter, and I could not be more confident in Ryan Campbell as he prepares to take over as CEO.

Ryan has spent nearly 33 years at Corn Belt Energy. During that time, he has developed an extensive understanding of our operations, employees,

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membership, and the communities we serve. More importantly, he understands what makes this cooperative special.

Ryan knows where Corn Belt Energy has been, but he also has a clear vision of where it needs to go. His experience, leadership, and commitment to our members will provide important continuity while allowing the cooperative to continue evolving to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Leadership transitions naturally bring change, but I'm very confident about this one. Ryan isn't simply stepping into a new role; he has spent more than three decades helping build the organization he will now lead. I know he will approach this responsibility with the same commitment and care he has demonstrated throughout his career.

As I look toward Corn Belt Energy's future, I see a cooperative that is well positioned for what comes next. Our industry will continue to change. New technologies will emerge, the way energy is produced and delivered will evolve, and our members' needs will continue to grow. But the foundation of Corn Belt Energy remains strong.

We have dedicated employees, an engaged board of directors, and a clear commitment to the members and communities we serve. Those things give me tremendous confidence in the future.

As my time as CEO comes to an end, I want to say thank you. Thank you to our employees, past and present, for your dedication. Thank you to our board members for your leadership and trust. And most importantly, thank

you to our members for allowing me the privilege of serving your cooperative.

It has been an honor to be part of Corn Belt Energy's story.

I'm proud of where we've been; I'm grateful for the opportunity I've had to lead, and with Ryan at the helm, I know Corn Belt Energy is in great hands. I will remain your biggest fan.

The future is bright, and I look forward to seeing where the next chapter takes this cooperative.



DON TAYLOR

Funding Bright Ideas: Education Grants Available

Corn Belt Energy is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2026 Education Grants Program.

Five schools that serve children of Corn Belt Energy electric members will each receive a \$1,500 grant, and one school will be awarded the \$2,000 Jeff Reeves Memorial Education Grant to fund innovative programs that enrich students' learning experiences.

Teachers and administrators

from public or private K–12 schools are invited to apply. While schools do not need to receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, they must serve families within Corn Belt's footprint in Central Illinois. Multiple projects within the same school may be combined for a total award amount.

An impartial panel of judges will review all submissions. Preference will be given to projects and programs that

enhance learning opportunities and are not currently funded through the school's budget.

Application deadline:
December 31, 2026
Learn more and apply:
cornbeltenergy.com

For additional information, please contact: Megan Marlowe, Manager of Communications
309-664-9250

Education Grants in Action: Students Turn Learning into Conversation

Corn Belt Energy's Education Grants Program helps bring new learning opportunities to students throughout our service territory. At Corpus Christi Catholic School in Bloomington, grant funding helped students take learning beyond the classroom and behind the microphone.

The school used Education Grant funds to launch Voices of Virtue, a student podcast designed to provide real-world, hands-on experience and help students build confidence, communication, and leadership skills.

This spring, Corn Belt Energy had the opportunity to see that investment in action when a group of employees was invited to be featured on the podcast.

Students welcomed the Corn Belt Energy team to their school, provided them with a tour, and then took the lead in conducting interviews. During this experience, the students

asked the employees about their roles at the cooperative, as well as about leadership and how they apply leadership skills and virtues both in and out of the workplace.

The experience offered students an opportunity to practice skills that extend far beyond the microphone. From preparing questions and conducting interviews to engaging with professionals in their community, the students put their communication and leadership skills into practice.

For Corn Belt Energy, the visit was also an opportunity to see firsthand how an Education Grant can grow into something much bigger.

Supporting local schools and creating opportunities for young people are important parts of Corn Belt Energy's commitment to the communities we serve. Each year, the Education Grants Program provides funding for projects and programs that enhance students' learning experiences and may not otherwise be funded through a school's regular budget.

Seeing Voices of Virtue come to life, and then having the opportunity to sit across the microphone from the students who made it happen, brought that mission full circle.

That's an education grant in action.



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.

Call us today to schedule your free home energy audit at 309-662-5330

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