

COMPANY PROFILE

Updated November 2014



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION

MAIN OFFICE LOCATION

1 Energy Way, Bloomington, IL 61705

Our facility is approximately five miles southeast of Bloomington, located at the intersection of US 150 and Towanda Barnes Road, also known as "Downs Crossing"

CONTACT INFORMATION

800-879-0339 | 309-662-5330 | 309-663-4516 fax

www.cornbeltenergy.com

MEDIA CONTACTS

Don Taylor, President and CEO

Hillary Cherry, Director of Communications

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the quality of life of our members and support the communities we serve, by cooperatively providing reasonably priced energy with exceptional service.

ABOUT US

The largest not-for-profit electric cooperative in the state, Corn Belt Energy powers the lives of over 35,000 homes and businesses throughout 18 counties in Central Illinois. We employ over 85 people, maintain over 5,000 miles of line, and distribute electricity from Wabash Valley Power Association, a generation and transmission cooperative based in Indiana. We also supply natural gas to Nicor customers through the Customer Select program.

Founded in 1938, Corn Belt Energy is owned by the members it serves and is committed to providing reliable and affordable electricity. The cooperative is governed by 13 directors who are residential members. Energy efficiency, education and safety are top priorities in addition to distributing energy.

Corn Belt Energy is a member of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association (NRECA) and has been a member of Touchstone Energy since its inception in 1998.

Counties served: Bureau, Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Henry, Kendall, Knox, LaSalle, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Marshall, McLean, Piatt, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford

BRIEF HISTORY

On Sept. 12, 1938, the McLean County Farm Bureau Board of Directors approved a Rural Electrification Administration (REA) project to bring electricity to the farmers of the area. Following numerous meetings to formulate the cooperative structure, acquire right-of-way, hire staff and secure a \$1,164,000 REA loan to build 1,146 miles of distribution line, "Corn Belt Electric Cooperative" employees placed the first pole on April 10, 1939, and strung the first wire on May 4. By August of that year, the first 100 miles of line were energized northwest of Kappa and 200 farms were electrified in McLean and Woodford counties.

As the cooperative grew, it became a key part of the Bloomington business community. The first office was located at 508 N. Main Street, then shifted to the old Farm Bureau Building at 109 W. Monroe. In 1943, the co-op offices moved to 315 E. Front Street. In 1954, Corn Belt Electric moved to 1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, where office, administration and support facilities were located.

On January 1, 1999, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative (serving ten counties) merged with Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative of Princeton (serving eight counties). The merger created a new organization known as Corn Belt Energy Corporation.

In January 2002, we built a new headquarters facility at Downs Crossing, approximately five miles southeast of Bloomington, located at the intersection of US 150 and Towanda Barnes Rd.

In the past 75 years, our membership base has changed dramatically from primarily farmers to an ever-increasing number of urban, suburban and commercial accounts. While retaining our rural farm heritage, we now serve many of the new residential subdivisions and commercial areas in Bloomington-Normal and other communities.

About the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC)

www.aiec.coop

Based in Springfield, AIEC is the service organization for member electric and telephone cooperatives for the state of Illinois and their associate organizations. AIEC serves as a liaison for its 28 member-cooperatives and works with governmental agencies and other organizations dedicated to the growth and development of Illinois and the improvement of the economic welfare of its citizens.

The AIEC also provides its members with the advantages of a large utility operation without sacrificing the local control and local ownership essential to the spirit of these tax-paying Illinois businesses. These include engineering services, coordination of safety programs, training of line personnel, legislative research and information, member communication programs, printing and publications, public relations, and group purchasing of materials and supplies.

About the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

www.nreca.org

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization dedicated to representing the national interests of cooperative electric utilities and the consumers they serve. The NRECA Board of Directors oversees the association's activities and consists of 47 members, one from each state in which there is an electric distribution cooperative. The chief spokesman for the nation's electric cooperatives is NRECA Chief Executive Officer Glenn English.

Founded in 1942, NRECA was organized specifically to overcome World War II shortages of electric construction materials, to obtain insurance coverage for newly constructed rural electric cooperatives, and to mitigate wholesale power problems. Since those early days, NRECA has been an advocate for consumer-owned cooperatives on energy and operational issues as well as rural community and economic development.

NRECA's more than 900 member cooperatives serve 40 million people in 47 states. Most of the 864 distribution systems are consumer-owned cooperatives.

About Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA)

www.wvpa.com

A generation and transmission cooperative based in Indianapolis, WVPA provides wholesale electricity to 28 electric co-ops in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri.

About Touchstone Energy

www.touchstoneenergy.com

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand represents a nationwide alliance made of more than 700 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives in 46 states. Touchstone Energy co-ops collectively deliver power and energy solutions to more than 40 million members every day. Electric cooperatives distribute power for 75% of the U.S. land mass over 2.4 million miles of power lines.

Electric cooperatives were established to provide electricity to rural America, and now make up the largest electric utility network in the nation. Touchstone Energy is the national brand identity for that network.

Electric Cooperatives of Illinois

