



THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 35 • Issue 4

5 Ways to “Spring” Into Energy Efficiency

Spring is the perfect time to make your home more energy-efficient. Here are five (5) low-cost suggestions that will save both energy and money.

1. Seal the cracks and gaps around your home. Now is a good time to add weather-stripping and caulking around leaky windows. Need help? Consider visiting www.togetherwesave.com to view a video on how to use a caulking gun to seal up leaks around doors, vents, ductwork and windows.

2. Change HVAC filters regularly. HVAC system filters need to be changed monthly during peak usage; this can lower your monthly energy bills and help your system last longer. Dirty filters restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system, making it work harder than it needs to on hot summer days.

3. Clean out the refrigerator. Now is not only a good time to throw out the leftover holiday fruit cake, but to also check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, it should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency.

When it's time to replace your old refrigerator, be sure to buy one that is ENERGY STAR® rated. Energy-efficient appliances can save as much as \$100 per year based on calculations from the “Together We Save” website.

4. Think sun block. TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates that by pulling the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. By blocking the sun, your house will stay cool and comfortable in the heat of the summer.

5. Operate your thermostat efficiently. Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be. Sawnee EMC recommends setting your thermostat at 78 degrees in the cooling mode.

To learn even more ways to cut your home energy bill, visit www.sawnee.com/energy or contact one of Sawnee's Energy Services Representatives at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.com.

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

April is a promise that
May is bound to keep.”

~ Hal Borland

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SUMMER IS AROUND THE CORNER



MAKE SURE YOUR AC IS READY!

Don't wait until you get a surprise on your summer electric bill or you come home to a house that isn't cool... make sure now that your air conditioner will be ready when you need it this summer. Here are a few ways to keep your HVAC system running as efficiently as possible:

- **Make sure you have a HVAC professional service your system regularly;** once per year is preferred. Also, request that they clean the condensing coils.
- **Operate the cooling equipment wisely.** To get the most out of your AC unit and to save money, operate it on a "conservative" temperature setting. Experts recommend keeping your thermostat on 78 degrees during the summer months. You should set it at an even higher temperature for the times when you are away from home.
- **Allow for air flow around the outdoor unit.** Provide at least two (2) feet of clearance on all sides and five (5) feet at the top of the unit for proper ventilation.

- **Change the filters regularly;** once per month during peak usage. Dirty filters can restrict the air flow through your system, reduce efficiency and lead to other problems.

- **Do not close off areas of your home unless there is a "return vent" in that area.** The system must be able to circulate air completely.

- **Make sure your cooling equipment is the right size for the area.** Units that are too large can cycle "on" and "off" and sometimes do not run long enough to remove moisture from the air, resulting in high humidity levels inside the home, which affects comfort as well.

By following these simple tips, you can help improve the overall efficiency of your HVAC system and hopefully lower your cooling cost this summer. For additional information on how to make your home more energy efficient, visit our Energy Center at www.sawnee.com/energy.

Sawnee EMC's GREEN POWER PROGRAM

As part of Sawnee EMC's ongoing commitment to support the environment, while still meeting the energy needs of its members, SEMC offers electric energy from certified earth-friendly sources, which is commonly referred to as "Green Power."

Sawnee EMC's Green Power resources are helping lessen the demand for electricity that is produced by conventional sources such as nuclear, coal and natural gas.

Green Power is available to Sawnee members on a "first come, first served" basis and is available in two (2) different size "blocks". A 100 kWh block is \$3.00 per month and 150 kWh block is \$4.50 per month. Members can purchase as many blocks as they desire, while supplies last. Sawnee EMC's program is Green-e Certified by the Center for Resources Solutions (CRS). Please see the certified Product Content Label below which displays the types of renewable resources used in Sawnee EMC's Green Power program.

PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL			
The product is sold in blocks of 150 kilowatt-hours (kWh). The product will be made up of the following renewable resources.			
Green-e Energy Certified New ³ Renewables in Sawnee EMC Green Power Program		Generation Location	
	2014 ¹	2015 ²	
-Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
-Geothermal	0%	0%	
-Eligible hydroelectric	0%	0%	
-Solar	0%	0%	
-Wind	0%	0%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	

1. The 2014 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2014.
 2. The 2015 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased during the preceding year.
 3. For energy supplied in 2014, New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 2000. For energy to be supplied in 2015, New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 2001.

For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Sawnee EMC includes: Coal (27%), Nuclear (19%), Oil (0%), Natural Gas (53%), Hydroelectric (1%), and Other (1%).

The average home in the United States uses 900 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EPA]

For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation, (770) 887-2363, <http://www.sawnee.com/greenpower.aspx>.

 Green-e Energy certifies that Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 1-888-63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org.



Put the squeeze on lost energy: INSULATE YOUR CRAWLSPACE

Uninsulated crawlspaces waste energy, increasing your utility bill. Insulating your home's crawlspace can potentially save you approximately \$155 a year.

It's sometimes surprising just how much energy – and money – you can lose through an uninsulated crawlspace. Here's a tip from Sawnee EMC that can help make your home more energy efficient and comfortable, while saving you money.

How you insulate your crawlspace depends on whether it is ventilated or unventilated.

In an **unventilated crawlspace**, experts recommend sealing and insulating the foundation walls rather than the sub-floor. There are several benefits to this approach.

You will use less insulation, you won't need to insulate piping and ductwork that are within the conditioned part of the house and air sealing between the house and the crawlspace is less critical. However, there is a risk of damage to the insulation by rodents, pests or water. In addition, the crawlspace must be airtight, with access located inside the home through the sub-floor unless an insulated access door is built and maintained.

In a **ventilated crawlspace**, any and all holes in the floor above must be carefully sealed to prevent air blowing into the house. In addition, the insulation should be covered with a house-wrap or faced with a vapor barrier. Experts also advise installing a polyethylene vapor cover over the dirt floor.

For other tips on how to save energy, visit the Sawnee EMC Energy Center at www.sawnee.com/energy.

Here's WATTS Cookin'

Shoeppeg Salad

Ingredients:

3 cans shoeppeg corn, drained	1 Vidalia onion, chopped
1 can LeSeur Peas, drained	1 cup sugar
1 large jar chopped pimentos, drained	½ cup red wine vinegar
	½ cup canola oil

Instructions:

Mix together corn, peas and pimentos. Set aside. In a sauce pan add sugar, red wine vinegar and oil. Bring to a boil and then pour over corn mixture. Refrigerator overnight. Add onion one hour before serving.



Thanks to Gayle Doster for the recipe! Do you have a recipe to share with us? If we print it, we'll credit your account \$5.00. Send your favorite recipe to marketing@sawnee.com.