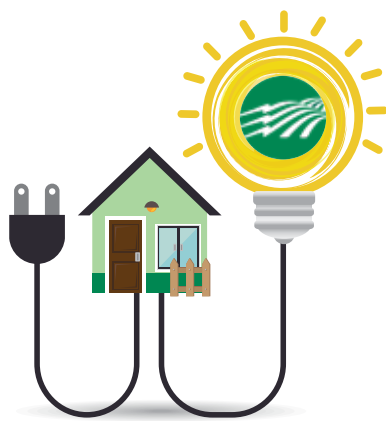


# THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 38 • Issue 4



## Introducing **Virtual Solar**

Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation now offers residential and small commercial members the opportunity to purchase solar energy under a new program called "Virtual Solar". The energy comes directly from several utility scale solar projects in Georgia, with whom Sawnee EMC has agreements for purchasing the output.

Through the Virtual Solar Program, participants will be able to receive the energy benefits and offsets that onsite solar energy offers, without the challenges that can occur with owning and operating a solar system.

Sawnee members can sign up to purchase the energy output from up to two (2) "blocks" of solar panels per account; with each block consisting of ten (10) utility scale solar panels. The price per block, per month, is \$15.50 for billing months October through March, and \$21.75 for April through September. When you participate in the program, you receive the average energy output that ten (10) solar panels generate, on average, in a given month. The program is available to accounts billed under Sawnee's "Residential" (Schedule "H") or "Small Commercial" (Schedule "SC") rates.

► **If you are interested in this program, please be sure to visit [www.sawnee.com/virtual-solar](http://www.sawnee.com/virtual-solar) for more details, including "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding this exciting new program.**

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### CONTACT US

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### QUOTABLE QUOTE

**There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still. "**

**— Franklin D. Roosevelt**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

*"Our new Virtual Solar Program gives our members the opportunity to purchase solar energy without making the upfront investment of installing a rooftop solar system themselves."*

—Blake House,  
Vice President of  
Member Services

*Virtual Solar, continued*

"There has been a growing interest from our members about the use of renewable energy; and many of them say they would prefer to purchase it from the cooperative," states Blake House, Vice President of Member Services. "Our new Virtual Solar Program gives them the opportunity to purchase solar energy without making the upfront investment of installing a rooftop solar system themselves." Mr. House further states, "For many people, installing a solar system on their roof is too expensive or is not possible, due to certain constraints.

Sawnee's Virtual Solar Program is not intended to reduce a member's monthly electric bill, but rather offers an easy, convenient way for interested members to meet a portion of their monthly electric needs, with solar.

Certain limitations and sign-up restrictions apply. To learn more about or to sign up for Sawnee's Virtual Solar Program contact Sawnee's Call Center at 770-887-2363, email [customerservice@sawnee.com](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.com), text 678-999-8124 or through Facebook Messenger.

## Sign up for Sawnee Smart Savers Program!

We have always known our members were smart... but some of them have even gone "over and above" and purchased smart thermostats. This technology allows users to adjust their thermostat remotely to help keep their home's HVAC systems operating as efficiently as possible. Sawnee has gotten involved in this effort, and to assist members, we have created our Smart Savers Program\*. This is an energy saving, load management program specifically for members with certain smart thermostats.

So, how does the Smart Savers Program work? By enrolling a qualifying thermostat into the program, you agree to allow Sawnee to make brief, limited adjustments to the thermostat's settings during times of peak demand. In the past, you have heard us refer to these peak periods as "load management" periods, which are generally limited to fifteen (15) days or less during the months of June through August.

What's the best part? Each enrolled thermostat receives a \$36 bill credit. Additional bill credits continue for each summer that you remain enrolled. Below are all of the details you need to know about this exciting new program!

- **Participant must have a residential account with Sawnee EMC**
- **Must have, or purchase and install, at least one (1) Internet-connected HVAC thermostat which controls either a central air conditioner or heat pump**
- **Must enroll at least one (1) thermostat, from the approved thermostat list, into the Sawnee EMC Smart Savers Program**



For more even more information, to find out your eligibility or to sign up, visit [www.sawnee.com/smartsavers](http://www.sawnee.com/smartsavers).

*\*Certain restrictions apply and only certain thermostats can participate.*

# IS YOUR AC READY FOR

# SUMMER?

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

- **Make sure you have a HVAC professional service your system regularly, and request that they clean the condensing coils.**
- **Operate the cooling equipment wisely. To get the most out of your AC unit, operate it on a conservative temperature setting. We recommend keeping your thermostat on 78 degrees during the summer months. You should set it at an even higher temperature for the times you are away from home.**
- **Allow for the airflow 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 airflow 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.**

## AC TUNE UP REBATE

If you have your AC tuned up in 2018, send us the invoice! You may qualify for our rebate of ½ of your cost, up to \$20, per unit.

Send your invoice to [marketing@sawnee.com](mailto:marketing@sawnee.com), fax to 678-513-8106 or mail to our Energy Services Department at the address on the front page of the newsletter.

By following these simple tips, you can help improve the overall efficiency of your AC system and lower your energy usage this summer. For additional information on how to make your home more energy efficient, visit our Energy Center at [www.sawnee.com](http://www.sawnee.com).





## Lineworkers Light Up Our Lives

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate themselves to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Approximately 120 SEMC lineworkers maintain over 10,000 miles of line in Sawnee EMC's service territory.

We depend on our entire staff to keep the co-op running smoothly, but on April 9, 2018, we will honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time — day or night, weekday or weekend — if the lights go out, they are there.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in the wind and rain, or in freezing and icy conditions. They often work around the clock until the electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers — both locally and around the country — that light up our lives. Remember, your power works because they do!



Follow us at [facebook.com/SawneeEMC](https://facebook.com/SawneeEMC) and use #ThankALineman on all social media to show your support.

## Here's WATTS Cookin' Balsamic Potatoes

### Ingredients:

2 sweet onions, chopped

1 ½ lbs. potatoes, peeled and quartered

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

¼ cup olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

### Instructions:

Place potatoes and onion in large bowl. In a small bowl, combine vinegar, oil, salt and pepper. Pour oil mixture over potatoes and onions and stir to coat potatoes. Pour potato and onion mixture into a roasting pan. Bake at 450 degrees for 30 minutes.



👉 Thanks to Peggy Anderson 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](mailto:marketing@sawnee.com).