

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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Small Change Makes a BIG Difference

Whether it is a penny, nickel or dime, the act of Sawnee EMC members donating small change can make a big difference for the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation. The Foundation was established by Sawnee EMC in 2003 as an avenue to give back to our local communities; and it has helped out in many ways. The best opportunity for members to join in with the Foundation is to participate each month in Operation Round Up.

Through Operation Round Up, participating Sawnee EMC members can opt in to “round up” their electric bill each month to the next highest dollar. That difference, 100% of that seemingly small change, goes directly to the Foundation and is then distributed to local charitable organizations within our communities. The Foundation also helps local teachers by way of its Bright Ideas grant program. Bright Ideas is a path for teachers to receive funding for classroom projects or programs that may not have been funded otherwise. It can mean a tactile board for a special needs class or a hands-on learning opportunity to creatively teach science to students.

Since the Foundation’s inception, over \$3.8 million has been gifted to local charitable organizations and teacher recipients.

You can go online to sawnee.com/oru to sign-up or contact our Customer Call Center at 770-887-2363.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this worthy program and lastly for being a member of Sawnee EMC.

From all of us at Sawnee EMC, Happy Holidays and blessings to you and your loved ones!



Sign up for
Operation Round-Up
on a reoccurring monthly
basis or consider making a
one-time donation on
your December Sawnee
EMC electric bill.

CONTACT US

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

**Growth is the only
evidence of life. "**

— John Henry Newman

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

5 Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people prefer the winter and love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the summer with warm temperatures and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high energy bills are never fun. As your trusted energy partner, Sawnee EMC is here to help you find ways to manage your home's energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five (5) tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1.

Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home. When you are sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it even lower.

2.

Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is a simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3.

Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

4.

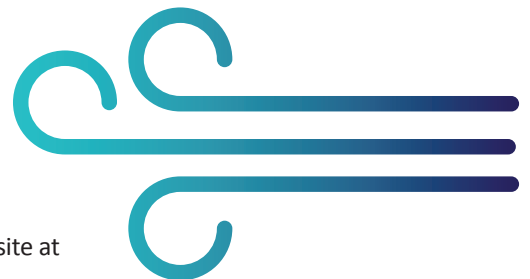
Consider your approach to appliance use.

When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Also, use a toaster oven or air fryer when possible. Finally, look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5.

Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

By being proactive when it comes to saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce your monthly energy bills. Visit our website at sawnee.com for additional energy-saving tips.



Co-ops Helping Co-ops in Need... It's the Cooperative Way!

After Hurricane Ian left path of destruction in October, Sawnee EMC and other Georgia electric cooperatives answered the call for help and sent line crews to south Florida to assist a sister electric cooperative in need. The story below is an excerpt from a local Florida news outlet about restoration efforts during the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. **We are very proud of our staff who stepped up to help those in need.**

Restoration Crews Lead the Charge to Restore Power

In the wake of the worst natural disaster to ever hit Southwest Florida, North Fort Myers was the home base for a recovery army.

A contingent comprised of nearly 3,200 boots on the ground — and up in the air repairing power lines, transformers and more — filled the grounds at the Lee County Civic Center with an overflow for additional bucket-truck parking off Bayshore near the Posse Arena.

Power company restoration line crews, along with tree and debris removal personal, came from across the state and country to assist LCEC the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, which left more than a quarter million customers in Cape Coral, Pine Island, Sanibel, North Fort Myers, Lehigh and other communities within the co-op's service area without electricity.

The tally at last count was 3,154 personnel, not including support staff and suppliers.

“With the assistance of so many, it is remarkable how quickly the system was rebuilt and although there is much work still to be done, Lee County Electric Cooperative is proud of how employees rose to the challenge. Behind the scenes, the more than 400 LCEC employees each play a vital role in restoration. From packing meals for field crews to inputting timesheets to doing laundry to setting up a resource center for employees who lost their homes, our employees focus on their roles to aid in the thorough LCEC restoration process.

“Even those employees who sustained major losses during Hurricane Ian have worked 12-16 hour shifts each and every day to energize the community as quickly and safely as possible. Life, families and all other personal priorities are put on hold for our customers, and we wouldn't have it any other way.”

Those responding in the mutual aid effort included: Alabama Power, Amicalola EMC, Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Asplundh, Baldwin EMC, Black Warrior EMC, Canoochee EMC, Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, Cherokee Electric Cooperative, Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative, City of Troy, Clark Public Utilities, Clay Electric Cooperative, Coastal Electric, Cobb EMC, Covington Electric Cooperative Inc., Coweta-Fayette EMC, Energy Louisiana, Flint Energies, Grady EMC, Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Habersham EMC, Haugland Electric, Irwin EMC, Jackson EMC, Joe Wheeler EMC, Little Ocmulgee EMC, Middle Tennessee Electric, Mitchell EMC, North Georgia EMC, Ocmulgee EMC, Okefenoke REMC, Pea River Electric Cooperative, Peace River Electric Cooperative, Pike Electric, Planters EMC, Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative, Sawnee EMC, Snapping Shoals EMC, Southern Alabama Electric Cooperative, Southern Pine Electric, SPE Group, Sumter EMC, Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative, Talquin, Texas Electric Cooperatives, The Satilla Rural Electric Membership Cooperative, Tombigbee Electric Power Association, Walton EMC, Washington EMC, West Florida Electric, FPL, Duke Energy, Florida Electric Cooperative Association (FECA).

Source: The article above appeared in the Cape Coral Breeze on October 19, 2022.

Happy Holidays from Sawnee EMC

View our special holiday message at sawnee.com/holiday.

Sawnee EMC's Board of Directors and staff wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season!

A Holiday Throwback

The following story was taken from an article attached to the very first newsletter published by Sawnee EMC (then known as Forsyth County Electric Membership Corporation) in December 1940.

There was a farm woman in Georgia who had once lived in the city. When she moved back to the farm, she took with her all the family's electrical equipment, including a string of holiday lights.

But the family farm was far away from the power lines of the local utility company. Sadly, she was forced to store away the electric iron, the radio, the percolator, refrigerator, toaster, holiday lights and other electrical items she had become used to while living in the city. She now ironed with a sadiron and sewed by the kerosene lamp. The children thought the holidays were very drab without the bright, brilliant electric lights. Eight holiday seasons went by - eight holidays without lights.

Then the neighbors got together and organized a cooperative to bring in electric power to their farms... the REA co-op. The woman was able to get her electric equipment out of storage and once again put it to work. She was full of joy because she knew how electricity could change lives and lift their burdens.

And for the ninth holiday season, when she looked at the bright lights, she thought how they symbolized all the good things electricity can bring.

Here's WATTS Cookin' Easy Quiche

Ingredients:

3 eggs

1.5 cups heavy cream

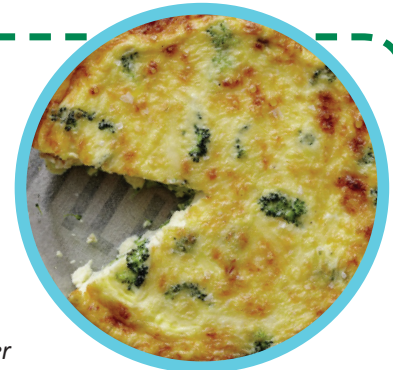
Broccoli florets or 1 small head broccoli, steamed and chopped

1.5 cups sharp cheddar cheese

1.5 cups mozzarella cheese

1 medium onion, sauteed in butter

Salt to taste



Instructions:

Beat eggs. Stir in remaining ingredients. Pour into a round baking dish and bake at 350 for one hour or until the center is firm.

👉 Thanks to Lisa Santangelo 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.