

# THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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## SAWNEE EMC ANNOUNCES

### \$10 Million Retirement of Patronage Capital

Sawnee EMC will soon be refunding approximately \$10 million to over 94,000 active and former Sawnee members through a general retirement of patronage capital. This patronage capital retirement is for all customers who received electric service from Sawnee EMC at any time during 2001.

As outlined in Sawnee's Bylaws, patronage capital is an allocation of the revenue received in excess of operating costs and expenses in a given year; those funds are then assigned to each member of record for that particular year.

Active members of Sawnee EMC, who received service at any time during 2001, will receive their portion of this patronage capital retirement in the form of a "credit" on their March 2018 electric bill. Active members will soon receive a letter, which provides details about this general retirement; including the amount of their refund, as well as a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Former members who no longer have an active account with Sawnee EMC, but have a valid forwarding address, will be mailed a check to their last known address on or around April 2, 2018.

Sawnee EMC is committed to supporting the principles that make the "cooperative" business structure a success. Over the previous five (5) years, Sawnee EMC has retired over \$45.1 million to members through general retirements of patronage capital.

It is important that former Sawnee EMC members notify Sawnee of their new mailing address when they discontinue electric service. This helps to ensure that these members receive their future patronage capital retirements.

In addition to the general retirement of patronage capital, it is important to remember that Sawnee EMC also retires

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#### CONTACT US

Web Address & Email:

[www.sawnee.com](http://www.sawnee.com)

[customerservice@sawnee.com](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.com)

Business Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Physical Address:

543 Atlanta Highway  
Cumming, GA 30040

Customer Call Center:

Mon. - Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: (770) 887-2363

Fax: (678) 947-3368

Text: (678) 999-8124

TDD: (770) 781-4271



#### QUOTABLE QUOTE

**The moment you take responsibility for everything in your life is the moment you can change anything in your life."**

— Hal Elrod

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

# Changes in Weather Will Change Energy Bills

No one ever likes to receive a high bill. However, the fact is, weather contributes to energy usage more than anything... especially during the cold winter months for those that heat with electricity. Some Sawnee members could experience higher electric bills in the coming months.

As winter progresses, keep in mind that on very cold days, a heating system must operate longer to keep it warm indoors. Due to its direct correlation, cold weather can cause an increase in electricity usage. Weather makes a difference in electricity consumption and the staff of Sawnee EMC wants its members to be aware of steps they can take to be energy efficient as temperatures change.

- **Lower the thermostat:** Set your thermostat as low as possible while remaining comfortable in your home or business. We recommend a temperature setting of 68 degrees in the winter. In general, you can reduce your heating costs by 2 percent for every degree you lower the thermostat.
- **View your energy usage:** It's a free, online resource created specifically for you. View your daily and hourly energy usage at [www.sawnee.com](http://www.sawnee.com). Click the "My Usage" button to login to SmartHub in order to view your usage data and start taking a closer look at when you are using the most electricity. Also, note the temperature for the day – you'll likely see that you use more electricity when the weather is colder or hotter. Use this energy data to develop an energy efficiency plan for you and your family all year long.
- **Need information on the go?** Download the free Sawnee EMC app today – simply search "Sawnee EMC" on Google Play or the Apple App Store.
- **Visit the Energy Center:** Online and easy to access, Sawnee EMC's Energy Center at [www.sawnee.com/energy](http://www.sawnee.com/energy) provides energy saving tips, energy calculators and energy saving videos that can help you gain a greater understanding of your electricity usage. There is a great deal of information at the Energy Center and we hope you will check it out soon.

Questions? Contact a member of Sawnee EMC's Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at [marketing@sawnee.com](mailto:marketing@sawnee.com). or text us at 678-999-8124.

## Patronage Capital, (cont.)

patronage capital to the estates of deceased members. In the past 12 months, approximately 576 such retirements were made, totaling approximately \$462,000. If you know of someone who is deceased, and they once were a Sawnee member, please remind the executor of their estate to contact our Customer Service Center at (770) 887-2363, by text at (678) 999-8124, or via email at [customerservice@sawnee.com](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.com) to learn about claiming their patronage capital.

Sawnee EMC is committed to supporting the principles that make the "cooperative" business structure a success. Over the previous five (5) years, Sawnee EMC has retired over \$45.1 million to active and former members through general retirements of patronage capital.

If you have any questions about this patronage capital retirement, please contact our Customer Service Department at (770) 887-2363 or via email at [customerservice@sawnee.com](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.com).

# ANNOUNCING: 2018 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY REBATES

Anytime is a good time to get more energy efficient, but it is even better when you can receive a Sawnee EMC rebate to help cover some of the cost. Below is information about the energy rebate programs available to residential accounts in 2018.

- **INSULATION UPGRADE:** Increase your attic insulation to a level of R-49 or greater and receive ½ of the cost, up to \$200. The home must be at least five (5) years old.
- **SECOND REFRIGERATOR / FREEZER TURN IN:** Replace your second refrigerator or freezer, which must be working and at least 10 years old, with an Energy Star model and receive a rebate of \$30, plus free removal of the old unit. This rebate does not apply to the replacement of the main kitchen refrigerator.
- **ELECTRIC HYBRID WATER HEATER:** Replace an existing water heater with a hybrid heat pump water heater and receive a \$100 rebate.
- **NEW HVAC UNIT:** Replace an existing HVAC unit with a new 17 SEER unit. Please note, the yellow ENERGY GUIDE label located on the outdoor unit must clearly state 17 SEER or greater. Recipients must also agree to participate in Sawnee's Load Management program in order to receive the rebate.



- **DUCT SEALING:** Receive a rebate of ½ of the cost, up to \$100, for sealing all accessible HVAC ductwork with mastic. Visit Sawnee's Energy Center ([www.sawnee.com/rebates](http://www.sawnee.com/rebates)) for full details.
- **HVAC TUNE UP:** Receive a rebate of ½ of the cost, up to \$20, for each HVAC unit, when you have a "tune up" performed by a licensed HVAC technician. Tune ups for "gas furnace only" units do not qualify.
- **PROGRAM-IT:** Sawnee EMC will pay a one-time incentive of \$5 per thermostat for submitting proof of programming a HVAC thermostat to ENERGY STAR guidelines. Visit [www.sawnee.com/programit](http://www.sawnee.com/programit) for instructions and details on how to upload your thermostat images.
- **VARIABLE SPEED POOL PUMP:** Replace a conventional swimming pool pump with a variable speed pump and receive ½ of the cost, up to \$100 per pump.

**Are you a commercial member?** If so, please be sure to visit us online at [www.sawnee.com](http://www.sawnee.com) for a list of rebates that your business may be eligible for. Questions? Contact a member of Sawnee EMC's Energy Services staff at 770-887-2363 or via email at [marketing@sawnee.com](mailto:marketing@sawnee.com) if you have any questions about rebate eligibility.

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** The rebates above only apply for work completed in 2018. Please be sure to visit [www.sawnee.com/rebates](http://www.sawnee.com/rebates) for additional information and limitations on our 2018 energy related rebates and incentives.

# Take Caution While Using a Space Heater

This winter has been a chilly one so far, and we are all trying to keep warm in different ways. Some of us have an occasional need to take the chill out of specific areas of our home, and we often use a space heater to keep us warm.

Consider the following when using an electric space heater:



- Never place any flammable objects within three (3) feet of the heater.
- Never use a space heater near water... especially bathtubs and showers.
- Keep children and pets away from heaters.
- Be sure to place the heater on a sturdy, flat surface to avoid tipping over.
- Always check the cord for frayed wires or signs of excessive heat.
- Never leave a space heater running unattended for an extended period.
- Always turn it off when you go to sleep.
- Remember, electric space heaters can affect your electric bill. A space heater uses approximately \$0.13 per hour. If you are using a space heater six or more hours a day, each day of your billing cycle; this can really add up on your next electric bill.

Questions? Contact our Energy Services Team at 770-887-2363 or via email at [marketing@sawnee.com](mailto:marketing@sawnee.com).

## Here's WATTS Cookin' Roasted Butternut Squash Soup

### Ingredients:

<i>1 large butternut squash</i>	<i>2 Tbsp. butter</i>
<i>Olive oil</i>	<i>3-½ cups chicken or vegetable stock</i>
<i>Salt &amp; pepper</i>	<i>¼ cup whipping cream, optional</i>
<i>1 large yellow onion</i>	

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut squash in half, lengthwise and scoop out seeds. Add ½ of water to a baking dish and place squash in it, cut side up. Coat with olive oil and sprinkle, to taste, with salt and pepper. Roast on middle rack for 45 minutes to one hour, until squash is soft. Let cool. Chop onion and sauté with butter in a large pot. Season onion with salt and pepper. Remove from heat when onion is soft. Scoop out cooled squash from shell and add to onion. Add stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer about 15 minutes. Blend with an immersion blender or food processor until smooth. Stir in cream, if desired. Serve with a dollop of sour cream.



👉 Thanks to Rob Schneider 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).