

Here's to a Bright 2022!

Another holiday season has come and gone and we are ready for a fresh start in 2022. Why not make a New Year's resolution to be more energy efficient? To give you a head start, Sawnee EMC has compiled a list of things below you can do to make your home or business more energy efficient.

LIGHTING: This is perhaps the easiest way to increase energy efficiency. It can be as simple as changing a light bulb.



- Upgrade to LEDs. They come in a wide variety, are more affordable than ever and last a long time.
- For outdoor lighting, use photocell units, which automatically turn on when it gets dark. Motion sensor lighting is another great option. A combined motion sensor and photocell unit is the best of both worlds.

HEATING AND COOLING: Avoiding air leaks can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable, especially as we find ourselves in the coldest months of the year.



- Having proper insulation in the attic, crawl space and other areas can help significantly.
- Windows are frequent culprits of pesky air leaks, so seal them with caulk or weather stripping.
- Check, clean or change your HVAC filters once a month, or as needed.
- Close fireplace dampers when not in use so warm air does not escape.

WATER HEATING: A hot shower or bath on a cold day is one of life's simple pleasures; but be sure you are using hot water wisely.



- It's to your energy advantage to wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Wash clothes in cold water.
- When the time comes to replace your water heater, choose an ENERGY STAR qualified unit.

Keep in mind, this list is just the tip of the energy efficiency iceberg. Visit our Energy Solutions Center at www.sawnee.com for more tips and advice on ways to get the most out of your energy. Happy New Year to you and yours!

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

There is a thin line that separates laughter and pain, comedy and tragedy, humor and hurt."

— Erma Bombeck

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Are Space Heaters Efficient for My Home?



Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But sometimes people will use space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your monthly energy bills. Whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are **not** a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. Items like caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy and money. Depending on the size and age of your home, adding insulation could be a great next step. Taking these

proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

Keep in mind, a space heater will cost approximately \$0.17 per hour to operate. That doesn't seem like a great deal of money, but it can add up especially if you are operating multiple space heaters in your home. Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or an extra blanket. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation and maintain warmth.

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home this winter, contact our Energy Services Teams at 770-887-2363 or **energy_services@sawnee.com**. We're here to help you manage your energy use.

Insulation Rebate

If you upgrade your attic insulation to a R-49, **Sawnee EMC will help lessen the load with a rebate of up to \$200.**

Read about the program in full detail at **sawnee.com/rebates**.

Certain limitations and restrictions apply.



GET CONNECTED

When we say that we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smart phones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member-owner of an electric co-op, there’s so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

As a member of Sawnee EMC, you help to power good in our local community through initiatives like Operation Round Up, a program unique to electric co-ops that allows you to round up your electric bill and put 100% of that change to good use locally.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we’d like to help you maximize the value you can get from Sawnee EMC through a variety of programs, products and services that we offer our members. For example, we can help you save money on your energy bill through our free online energy audits and rebates on a variety of energy efficient upgrades. When you download our app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and access a menu of additional options for potential savings and more.

When you sign up for text alerts/push notifications, you can receive notices on outage and restoration information, billing updates... all of which is customizable to meet your needs.

By connecting with us, you can get real-time updates from your co-op. That’s why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. If we can’t connect with you on these platforms or in person, you could miss out on potential savings or important information.

Sawnee EMC relies on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure that we can provide the highest level of service that you expect and deserve.

Updated contact information can even speed up the power restoration process during an outage. That’s because when you call to report an outage, our automated system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage-management system predict the location and the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for Sawnee EMC’s crews to correct the problem.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can—whether that means applying for a rebate, providing feedback on a recent visit or call with our employees, or simply downloading our app.

Sawnee EMC exists to serve our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local community, we’re better prepared to answer the call. To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit sawnee.com, call 770-887-2363, text 678-999-8124 or email customerservice@sawnee.com.

We look forward to connecting with you!

SAWNEE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
APPENDIX A

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) **fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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Here's WATTS Cookin'

Avocado Dip

Ingredients:

6 avocados (peeled, pit removed,
and chunked small)
1 can (15 oz.) corn, drained

1 can (15 oz.) black beans,
drained & rinsed
1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
1 cup salsa verde

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients into a mixing bowl and gently stir together. Serve right away with tortilla chips or refrigerate for 1-3 hours.



👉 Thanks to Paige Edwards 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.