

Slaying Energy Vampires

Did you know that you are sharing your home with energy vampires? This occurs when electronic devices continue to use electricity even when they are not in operation. On average, these items can be responsible for up to 10% of the electricity used each month.

The staff of Sawnee EMC can help you drive a stake through the heart of these energy vampires, thus saving you energy and money. One way to identify energy vampires is to look for devices with remote controls (e.g. TVs, DVRs, and audio equipment). Then target gaming consoles, computers, monitors, and printers, as well as chargers for cell phones, small DVD players, and laptops.

Chargers use energy even when they're not charging a device. An easy way to seal the coffin on these energy vampires



is to plug components of your computer or home entertainment system into a power strip. With a single flip of a switch, you can completely cut their use of power.

Ready to see what your energy vampires are costing you? Visit our online Energy Vampire Slayer at sawnee.com/vampires to see how these common items can affect your energy consumption.

CONTACT US

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

— Oscar Wilde

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Fall Energy Savings Tips

Autumn brings with it a whole new set of household chores, from winterizing your outdoor plumbing to raking leaves. It is also the time of year when most of us fire up our furnaces for the first time in several months. If you have energy efficiency on your mind this fall, use these tips to make sure you're set up to save.

MAINTAINING YOUR FURNACE

- Check your air filter monthly and replace it as recommended. A dirty filter forces your HVAC fan to work harder, which wastes energy.
- In the heating mode, be sure to set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower.
- Check for leaky air ducts. With your system running, use your hand to feel along the length of accessible ductwork. If you find a leak, seal it with mastic or contact a HVAC technician for a consultation.

SEALING AND INSULATING

- Locate and seal air leaks around your home. You
 probably already know where your home's drafty
 areas are and can seal these gaps with caulk or
 spray foam.
- Inspect weather stripping and replace it as needed. The rubber gaskets around your doors and windows are great at blocking drafts, but only when the weather stripping is in good condition.
 If it's dry, cracked or damaged, it's time to replace it. Self-adhesive strips are available at most home improvement stores and are easy to install.

 Add or replace attic insulation if your existing insulation is insufficient. This is one of the most important thermal barriers in your home. Sawnee's Energy Services Team recommends an insulation value of R-49.

 Consider installing foam gaskets behind light switches and outlet covers, especially if these areas feel drafty. They can indicate weak spots in your wall insulation.

KEEPING WARM

- Run your ceiling fans clockwise and at low speeds during heating season. This will redistribute the warmest air in the room, allowing you to set the thermostat a little lower without sacrificing comfort.
- Open the shades on sun-facing windows during the day to get free solar heat, but close them after dark to add a little extra insulation. Heavy drapes work best.
- Dress in warm clothes around the house. If you feel cold, try throwing on one more layer before turning up the thermostat.
- Make sure your HVAC vents aren't blocked by furniture, drapes or other obstructions. To help them direct warm air into the center of the room, you can buy easy-to-install vent deflectors.

Questions? Contact a member of our Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at **marketing@sawnee.com**.

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Power On: October is National Co-op Month

October is National Cooperative Month. Sawnee EMC – and all co-ops across the U.S. – are celebrating the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities.

While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, seven (7) cooperative principles set them apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's

economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

Electric co-ops provide power for many Georgians, with 41 electric co-ops serving approximately 4.5 million members statewide. Sawnee is the 9th largest of more than 900 electric cooperatives in the United States.



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Sawnee Electric Foundation Accepting Applications for 2021 Youth Scholarship Program



In the spring of 2021, the Sawnee Electric Foundation will be awarding scholarships to a number of students residing in Sawnee's service area. High school seniors, including public, private and home-schooled students, whose parents or legal guardians are active members of Sawnee EMC may apply.

Applications are available on our website at **sawnee.com/ scholarships**. Students may also visit their high school

counselor for an application. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 12, 2021 to be considered.

Over the past 15 years, the Sawnee Electric Foundation scholarship program has benefited more than 200 local students and awarded over \$850,000 in scholarships. The program is reserved solely for students whose parents or legal guardians are Sawnee EMC members. Scholarships are funded from unclaimed patronage capital.

For additional questions on this programs, please contact Cindy Badgett, Director of External Affairs, at 678-455-1399 or via email at cindy.badgett@sawnee.com.

Here's WATTS Cookin'

Microwave Coffee Cup Scramble

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 2 Tbsp milk
- 2 Tbsp shredded cheddar cheese
- Salt and Pepper

Instructions:

Coat a 12 oz. microwave-safe coffee mug with cooking spray. Add eggs and milk, beat until blended.

Microwave on high 45 seconds. Stir. Microwave until eggs are almost set, 30-45 seconds longer.

Top with cheese; season with salt and pepper.



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.

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