

# THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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## 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 use. On average, these items can be responsible for up to 10% of the electricity used each month.

Sawnee EMC can help you drive a stake through the heart of these 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 energy vampires is to plug components 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](http://sawnee.com/vampires) to see how these common items can affect your energy consumption.

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### QUOTABLE QUOTE

**Thinking: the talking of the soul with itself. "**

**— Plato**

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

# Facts About SAWNEE'S WPCA Charge



Sawnee EMC staff is often asked, "What is the wholesale power cost adjustment or "WPCA" charge on my electric bill?" We would like to take this opportunity to provide some insight into exactly "what" the WPCA is and "why" you see it each month on your Sawnee EMC billing statement.

Its main purpose is to recover cost differences between what was billed to us by our power suppliers, and what is being recovered through our retail rates. Since wholesale electric energy costs change throughout the year, we like other electric utilities nationwide, must have a flexible mechanism that allows us to adjust our budgeted revenue for those variations. Additionally, WPCA helps to address unexpected changes in our operating costs, such as a hurricane or an ice storm, that is not reflected in our revenue estimates.

Wholesale purchased power costs are driven primarily by the cost of the "fuel" used to produce your electricity and the cost of natural gas is one of those components and, like many items in our everyday lives, natural gas has also increased substantially in the last 12 months.

Sawnee EMC recognizes that increases in electric bills can cause a strain on many of our members. While you can rest assured that Sawnee EMC's staff is working hard to minimize the impact of these increases, we also encourage you to seek ways to conserve energy and be efficient with the electricity you use. Visit us online at [sawnee.com/wpca](http://sawnee.com/wpca) to learn more about WPCA and steps you can take to reduce your energy usage and monthly bill.

Sawnee EMC remains dedicated to educating and providing you with energy-saving tips and strategies to help keep your energy usage as low as possible. We can work together to help you learn how you can make energy efficient decisions at your home.

If you have additional questions about the WPCA or need additional information, please contact our Customer Call Center at (770) 887-2363, text 678-999-8124 or via email at [customerservice@sawnee.com](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.com).

## Key Takeaways

- Sawnee EMC is committed to delivering reliable power and quality customer service at the lowest possible cost.
- The Board of Directors and the staff of Sawnee works hard to minimize the impact of any necessary price increase.
- Sawnee EMC offers tools and resources to help you control your energy usage.
- Learn more at [sawnee.com/wpca](http://sawnee.com/wpca).

# Fall Energy Saving Tips

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

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



## Maintaining Your Furnace

- Check your air filter regularly; clean or replace it at least every other month. A clogged filter forces your HVAC fan to work harder, which wastes energy.
- In the heating mode, experts recommend you set the thermostat on 68 degrees.
- 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 duct tape.



## Sealing and Insulating

- Locate and seal air leaks around your home. You probably already know where your home's drafty areas are, but even hidden drafts can hurt your energy efficiency. You 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 it is in good condition. If it's dry, cracked or damaged, it's time to replace it. Self-adhesive strips are available at most hardware stores and are easy to install.
- Take a quick look in your attic if possible. Add attic insulation if your existing insulation is insufficient. This is one of the most important thermal barriers in your home. Sawnee's Energy Services Experts recommends an insulation value of R-49 in the attic.
- Consider installing foam gaskets behind light switches and outlet covers on exterior walls, especially if these areas feel drafty. They may be 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.

# Sawnee Foundation Accepting Applications for 2023 Youth Scholarships



In the spring of 2023, the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation will be awarding scholarships to a select group of students residing in Sawnee's service area who pursue a secondary education at an accredited college or technical school. High school seniors, including public, private and home-schooled students, who live in a household served by Sawnee EMC, may apply.

Applications are available on the Foundation's website at [sawnee.com/scholarships](http://sawnee.com/scholarships). Students may also visit their high school guidance office for an application. Completed application must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 20, 2023 to be considered.

Over the past 17 years, the Sawnee Foundation scholarship program has benefited hundreds of local students and awarded over \$1 million in scholarships. The program is reserved solely for students whose parent or guardian are members of Sawnee EMC. The funds used for the scholarship program are derived from abandoned patronage capital.

For additional questions on this program, please contact Cindy Badgett, Director of External Affairs, at 678-455-1399 or via email at [cindy.badgett@sawnee.com](mailto:cindy.badgett@sawnee.com).

## Here's WATTS Cookin' Old Fashioned Pumpkin Bread

### Ingredients:

3 cups purpose flour	1/2 tsp salt	1 1/2 cups pumpkin
2 tsp baking soda	1 cup oil	2/3 cups water
1 tsp cinnamon	3 cups sugar	2/3 cups chopped pecans
1 tsp nutmeg	4 eggs	

### Instructions:

In a bowl, combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. In a separate bowl combine oil, sugar, eggs, pumpkin and water. Stir all wet ingredients in flour mixture. Fold in pecans. Pour batter into three buttered and floured loaf pans. Bake at 350F for 50-60 min. Check for doneness around 50 minutes.



👉 Thanks to Zdenka Adams 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).