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SAWNEE

Highliner

We're More Than Electricity, We're Service.

NOVEMBER 2009

Energy Rebate Reminder

Have you made energy efficient improvements at your home or business?

If so, you may be eligible for one of the many 2009 energy rebates from Sawnee EMC. You read that correctly... Sawnee will give you "cash" for making your home or business more energy efficient! If you've completed any of the following upgrades this year (2009), you may be eligible to receive a little extra jingle in your pocket this holiday season:

- **Attic Insulation** – Upgrade your attic insulation to an R-38 or greater and receive one half of the cost up to a maximum of \$200.
- **Ventilation** – Add an additional form of ventilation to your attic and receive one half of the cost up to a maximum of \$75.
- **Install a Programmable Thermostat** – Replace your existing manual thermostat with a programmable thermostat and receive one half of the cost up to a maximum of \$25.
- **HVAC Air Filter Replacement** – Purchase a minimum of \$10 worth of air filters and receive a rebate of \$5.
- **Solar/Photovoltaic Systems** – Install a photovoltaic system at your home and receive \$300 per kW up to a maximum of \$3,000 (*Member must participate in Sawnee EMC's Net Metering program to be eligible.*)

To be eligible for a 2009 energy rebate, the work must be completed and you must submit your receipts to us before December 31, 2009. Simply mail, fax or email a copy of your receipt to:

Sawnee EMC

Attention: Energy Services
543 Atlanta Highway
Cumming, Ga. 30040

Fax: 678-513-8106

Email: marketing@sawnee.com

Be sure to include your name, address and account number. For additional information or questions, please contact our Energy Services Department via email at the address listed above or by phone at (678) 455-7544.



Retail Rates Under Review

Several months ago, Sawnee announced that an extensive study was underway with regard to the various retail electric rates used to bill Sawnee members and many of these rates could be adjusted in early 2010 to better reflect the actual costs associated with providing service to the members. Sawnee has not experienced a major retail rate change in most of its retail rates in 20 years, even though many things have changed in the electric industry during that time. The cost of electric energy and Sawnee's operational costs have increased significantly and such increases over the years have been passed on to the members through the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) on the bill. The staff has received comments and suggestions from the members indicating they would like to see a change in the level of the WPCA; and to do this, rates must be revised.

Sawnee is also seeing tremendous pressure, from a cost standpoint, in the area of electric generation environmental compliance. The Clean Air Act regulations are impacting the cost of the electric energy that Sawnee purchases. These costs are going to continue to increase as more modifications to generation facilities occur at some of the plants which serve Sawnee members with electric energy.

Also, existing federal requirements, such as those found in the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA)

of 2007, are suggesting the manner in which utilities bill and collect revenue from their customers may change in the near future. For example, Sawnee is being urged to consider "unlinking" the retail rates so that members pay the full cost of service in their base charge and pay little or none of this cost in their energy rates. Also, we are being asked to eliminate certain rate design features, such as the "declining" block structure, which have traditionally existed across the nation in retail electric rates; allowing members to pay less per kWh when more energy is purchased.

"... the Board of Directors and the dedicated staff of Sawnee EMC are committed to keeping the members fully informed of issues facing the Corporation and, above all, controlling the costs you pay in your electric rates."

Additionally, we are tracking several proposals working their way through the U.S. Congress relating to climate change, mandates to purchase renewable energy, and mandatory energy efficiency measures. As we have noted on several occasions, in the Southeastern United States, "green energy" is not cheap. Our state's limited availability to sustainable wind and our limited solar exposure make both of these types of assets very costly.

Mandates to purchase green energy will add to an ever-increasing list of restrictions and mandates. Should any of these proposals currently in Congress become law, retail rates must increase in order to meet these new mandates.

It has yet to be determined exactly what retail rate adjustments may take place; the details are not currently available until more review and analysis has occurred.

So, what is the purpose of this message? The staff of Sawnee EMC wants you to know these issues are on the horizon. It seems a retail rate change is going to occur, at some point, and we know most people do not like this type of change and seek as much notice as possible. The goal is to keep any necessary changes as small as possible and limit any revisions to just those factors that are in need of revisions at this time. Using less energy will help, and we should all strive to be as energy efficient as possible. We have energy grants to help lower the cost of these improvements, but do them now...

Please know that the Board of Directors and the dedicated staff of Sawnee EMC are committed to keeping the members fully informed of issues facing the Corporation and, above all, controlling the costs you pay in your electric rates.

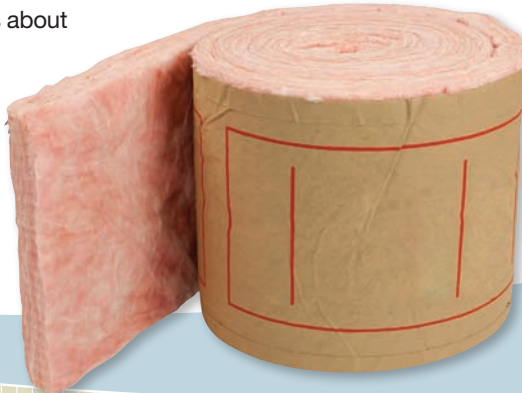
We are seeking suggestions and ideas from our members and ask that they contact us at marketing@sawnee.com or call us at (770) 887-2363 to offer their comments.

WINTER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Be sure that your home is ready for the cold winter days that lie ahead. By implementing the following energy tips, you can experience considerable savings this winter season.

- ▶ **Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower.** For every degree you set it above 68, you could add 3% to 5% more to your heating bill.
- ▶ **If you have a heat pump, choose a thermostat setting you are comfortable with...and leave it there!** Changing the setting by more than two degrees at a time can cause your auxiliary heat strips to operate, which can triple the energy consumption.
- ▶ **Install a programmable thermostat and program it correctly.** If used wisely, these thermostats can save you as much as 10% on your annual heating costs.
- ▶ **Check HVAC air filters monthly and clean or change them as needed.** A dirty filter will reduce the efficiency of your HVAC system; therefore, increasing the operating cost.
- ▶ **Be careful with space heaters.** One 1,500 Watt electric space heater will cost approximately \$0.15 per hour to operate on a high setting, regardless of the size of the space heater – that can really add up!
- ▶ **Reverse the direction on your ceiling fans in the winter (the fan should be turning in a clockwise position as you are looking up).** This will allow you to redirect the warm air from the ceiling level back down into the room.
- ▶ **Add insulation to the attic.** You can prevent heat from escaping through the ceiling by upgrading your attic insulation to an R-38 (approximately 16 inches of blown fiberglass).
- ▶ **Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows.** By sealing all cracks and openings to the outside, you can keep warm air in and cold air out.
- ▶ **Make sure fireplace dampers fit tightly and keep them closed when you are not using the fireplace.** Add a glass fireplace screen, if possible.
- ▶ **Insulate and seal knee-walls and knee-wall doors.** Knee walls are walls with attic space behind them and are typically under-insulated.

These tips will help make your home more energy efficient. If you have questions about what you can do this winter to improve your home's energy efficiency, contact our Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363, ext. 7544. Don't wait... get started now saving energy and money!



AUXILIARY HEAT CAN EQUAL HIGHER BILLS

Cold winter nights are around the corner and if you have a heat pump, now is the time to gain a better understanding of “how” it works. Have you ever wondered what the little green or blue light called “AUX heat” on your thermostat indicates?

Heat pumps are extremely efficient when the temperature is at or above 32 degrees. However, when it is below freezing, heat pumps use a form of “auxiliary” heat (usually electric heat strips) to assist in heating the home. When these auxiliary heat strips are in use, the cost to operate the heat pump is increased by 3 to 5 times over normal operation. **The auxiliary heat can also be activated by adjusting your thermostat by more than two (2) degrees at a time or by using the “emergency” heat setting.** There are times that auxiliary heat cannot be avoided; however, the most cost efficient approach is to keep the thermostat at a constant temperature (we recommend 68 degrees in the winter).

Be sure to have your heat pump serviced this season, especially if it has not been inspected in the last few years. Make sure your heat pump is operating at its best by not letting leaves build up around it and restricting the air flow.

By taking these tips into consideration, you can operate your heat pump more efficiently and save money this winter!

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“Nothing great is ever accomplished by one person.”

Sheryl Leach

CONTACT US

www.sawnee.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

Call Center Hours

Monday-Friday 7:00am-9:00pm

Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm

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"We're More Than Electricity, We're Service."

Dispose of CFLs Safely

Have you heard that compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) contain small amounts of mercury? Well, that's true, but don't worry... CFLs can be just as safe to use as traditional incandescent light bulbs. Use the same care when you handle a CFL as you would an incandescent bulb. Both are made from breakable glass, so install or remove the bulb by its base rather than putting pressure on the glass tube.

CFLs contain a small amount of mercury inside the glass bulb which has fueled comments about their safety, (FYI – a home thermometer has 100 times more mercury than a standard CFL) but the mercury is only released if the bulb's glass is broken. No mercury is released while the bulb is in use and in tack.

In the event that you do break a CFL, you should carefully remove the broken glass and use a wet paper towel to remove any tiny particles from the area. Place the glass and the



towel into a sealed bag and allow the room to air for a few minutes.

CFLs should be properly disposed of. Contact your local city or county public works department to find out where you can dispose of your used CFLs. Other disposal options can be found by visiting www.earth911.com. Plus, many home improvement stores now accept expired CFLs.

Here's Watts Cookin'...

Beefed up Baked Beans

- 1 lb. ground chuck
- 1 large onion
- 1 large bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- ½ cup yellow mustard
- 1 (20 oz) bottle ketchup
- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 1 large can of baked beans



Brown ground chuck over medium heat until done and drain. Mix all remaining ingredients in a large bowl and add browned meat. Mix well and pour into a large baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 1 hour and serve.

Submitted by: Effie Page