

# The Sawnee Highliner

Volume 29 . Issue 1

At Sawnee EMC,  
We're More Than Electricity,  
We're Service.

+ *Energy Saving Information and Tips Made Simple*

+ *Electric Generation - Where Does Your Power Come From?*

+ *Sawnee EMC Announces 2009 Rebates and Incentives*

## Save Energy Now. It's Simple.

Want to start saving energy at your home or business today? It's simple and easy. Use our proven energy saving ideas below:

1. **Turn down the temperature on your water heater.** Many electric water heaters are set to 140 degrees, which is hotter than necessary for showers and washing clothes. Water at this temperature may also pose a safety hazard for children and the elderly. Set your water temperature at 120 degrees and start saving.

2. **Vacuum your refrigerator coils twice a year.** If your refrigerator or

freezer's condensing coils are exposed (look on the back of the unit), they can get dirty or dusty and force them to work inefficiently. Newer models may have an access plate that can be removed in order to clean the coils. Do not place an object that can conduct electricity in this area...and safely replace the cover once completed.

3. **Set your thermostat back when you leave home.** When you are at home, set the thermostat at 68 degrees and reduce it even more when you leave. If you have an existing manual thermostat, replace it with a programmable one. Save further by

contacting Sawnee EMC about a possible rebate for replacing your old non-programmable thermostat.

4. **Shut down your computer if it won't be in use for more than two (2) hours.** When you're finished using your home computer, turn it off. Keeping it on is like leaving lights on in an empty room.

Got questions? We are here to help! Contact our Energy Services Department at (770) 887-2363 or via email at [marketing@sawnee.com](mailto:marketing@sawnee.com) to learn more about these and other energy saving tips.



## POWER FOR OUR LIVES: Where Does Electricity Come From?

If you're like most people, you often arrive home after a long day at work, flip on the light switch and settle into your evening routine, maybe watch a little TV from your favorite easy chair while enjoying the warmth from your heat pump or natural gas furnace.

It's hard for us to imagine a time when we were not able to enjoy the comforts made possible by electricity, because most of us have always had electric power in our homes. We know that when we "flip the switch", the lamp, the stereo and our computer are all going to come on and power up.

But, even though electricity is a convenience we tend to take for granted, there are people behind the scenes working hard each and every day to make sure we have all the electricity we need to enjoy these conveniences and pleasures of life. Have you ever stopped for a

moment and considered "how" electricity gets to and into your home? In Georgia, most of our electricity is produced at large electric generating facilities that are powered by fuels such as coal, natural gas or nuclear. Once produced, this energy travels along high-voltage transmission lines, a sort of interstate highway system for electricity, that crisscross the state. These high-voltage lines connect to local distribution facilities, known as substations, that take the electricity and deliver it over their system of distribution lines to homes, businesses, schools and other locations.

As you might imagine, it takes enormous amounts of electricity to power a large, fast-growing state like Georgia and the area that Sawnee EMC serves. That's why utilities like ours, along with our power supply partners, are continually looking ahead, examining growth patterns and estimates so that we

can take the necessary steps to ensure that there is an adequate supply of electricity when we need it for the future. The other thing to keep in mind is that electric supply planning is a long-range exercise. On average, it takes an extended period of time (e.g. 8 to 10 years) to plan and build a new coal-fired or nuclear power generation facility. And, because of the length of time that it takes, we are literally planning today for your needs far out into the future. By doing that, we can help make sure Georgia has the affordable and reliable electric energy it needs to grow and prosper.

So, the next time you settle into that easy chair, remember that the electricity you are using arrives after much planning and coordination. It is, in fact, brought to you by the hard work and planning of thousands of individuals throughout the state who toil each day to ensure that you can have a better life.

## Energy-Saving Rebates for 2009 - CHECK THEM OUT!

There is no time like the present to make cost-saving energy efficient upgrades to your home or business! Making your home or business more energy efficient will not only make it more comfortable, but it will also save you money on your electric bill. Worried about how much it will cost to make some changes? Don't worry - Sawnee EMC will help you to pay for certain upgrades or improvements through our 2009 Rebate and Incentive Program. Listed below are the current rebates that Sawnee EMC offers:

### RESIDENTIAL REBATES

- **Insulation upgrades** - Bring your attic insulation value up to R-38 and receive a rebate up to ½ the total cost, not to exceed \$200.00.
- **Ventilation upgrades** - Install additional ventilation to your attic through turbines, ridge vents, turtle backs or power ventilators and receive a rebate up to ½ the total cost, not to exceed \$75.00. Please note, rebate does not apply if existing ventilation was removed or replaced.
- **Install a programmable thermostat** - Replace your existing manual thermostat with a new programmable one and receive a rebate up to ½ the total cost, not to exceed \$25.00.
- **HVAC air filter replacement** - Purchase a minimum of \$10 of air filters and receive a rebate of \$5.00 (does not apply to fiberglass air filters).
- **Solar/photovoltaic systems** - A one-time rebate of \$300.00 per kW, up to a maximum of 10 kW or \$3,000.00 per installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems. Please note that any installed PV system must meet Sawnee EMC's Net Metering guidelines.

### COMMERCIAL REBATES

- **Purchase energy efficient office equipment** - Purchase Energy Star® qualified office equipment to replace existing equipment and receive a rebate up to ½ of the cost, not to exceed \$100.00.
- **Programmable thermostats** - Replace an existing manual thermostat with a programmable one and receive up to ½ of the total cost, not to exceed \$25.00 per HVAC system.
- **Lighting upgrade** - Upgrade your existing lighting systems with a higher efficiency system and receive a rebate up to ½ the total cost, not to exceed \$500.00.
- **Solar film window tinting** - Apply solar film window tint to existing windows and receive a rebate up to ½ of the total cost, not to exceed \$150.00.
- **Upgrade equipment** - Replace a capital-intensive piece of equipment when the replacement piece results in substantial kilowatt savings and receive a rebate up to ½ the total cost, to a maximum of \$1,000.00.
- **Install energy management system** - Install an energy management system that can be used to control lighting, HVAC settings and other office functions and receive a rebate of ½ of the total cost, up to a maximum of \$500.00.

Got more questions? Please contact our Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at [marketing@sawnee.com](mailto:marketing@sawnee.com). Please note that the above rebates apply to work completed in 2009 only.

## Operation Round Up Gives Back

*Your pennies continue to add up and that is good news for charities and area lower, middle and high school teachers in Sawnee's service area.*

Times are tough, but please consider supporting Operation Round Up if you don't already. Take a look at how your spare change has helped so many in need right here at home:

### **March of Dimes Foundation**

\$5,000 to implement the NICU Bedside Reading Program at Northside Forsyth Hospital.

### **The Place of Forsyth County**

\$6,000 to provide funding for rental assistance and the Hands Across Forsyth Program.

### **Fragile Kids Foundation**

\$5,874 to purchase medical equipment for medically fragile children.

### **North Fulton Community Charities**

\$7,525 to assist in a van conversion for a young woman with spina bifida.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

\$4,630 to purchase energy efficient items for current projects.

Did you know that the Sawnee Foundation also provides assistance to educators in schools located in Sawnee's territory? It's true...this funding is made possible through the Foundation's "Bright Ideas" Program. It allows local area teachers to apply for grants for school projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

If you are a local area teacher, please be sure to visit our web site at [www.sawnee.com/bright\\_ideas](http://www.sawnee.com/bright_ideas) for additional details.

Sign up today. It's simple, easy and can be stopped at any time you desire. Help us help those in need and it only costs "pennies" a month. Thank you for your support.



**Quotable Quote**

“He who forgets the language of gratitude can never be on speaking terms with happiness.”

Author Unknown

**Contact Us**

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

**Business Hours**

Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm

**Call Center Hours**

Mon.-Fri. 7:00am-9:00pm

Sat. 8:00am-5:00pm

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**Statement of Nondiscrimination  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Electrification Administration  
Appendix A  
Statement of Nondiscrimination**

Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, citizenship or veteran status shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Michael A. Goodroe, President and Chief Executive Officer. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**HERE'S WATTS COOKIN'**

**Mother's Chocolate Pound Cake**

- 3 cups White Lily all-purpose flour
- 3 heaping tbsp. cocoa
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup Crisco
- 2 sticks butter
- 5 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla



Sift together flour, cocoa and baking powder. Cream sugar, Crisco and butter until smooth and creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until smooth after each addition. Add flour mixture and milk alternately, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Add vanilla. Bake in a greased and floured tube pan at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

*Thanks to Elizabeth Wofford. Send us your recipe - if we print it, we'll credit your account \$5.00.*