

# THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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## Lineman Appreciation Day

For Sawnee EMC's linemen, weathering a storm is just another day on the job. On April 8th we pause and take time to celebrate **Lineman Appreciation Day**, an acknowledgement of the challenging work our linemen do each and every day. Part of their commitment is to ensure that our members have reliable electricity at their home or business.

Throughout the year, our line crews support daily member needs, such as repairing a streetlight in your subdivision, as well as projects that will help modernize and strengthen our distribution system to improve reliability and resiliency.

Sawnee EMC linemen perform work that ensures power flows to vital infrastructure such as hospitals and water treatment facilities and to everyday home conveniences – always keeping safety top of mind. Through all types of weather events, including those in the extreme heat and cold, they rise to the occasion and diligently accomplish tedious work to serve our almost 200,000 members.

"Our linemen are the steady hand leading into, throughout, and after a storm. They serve our communities during emergencies, ensuring our members' electricity is restored swiftly and, more importantly, safely," said Chet Blackstock, Vice President of Operations. "Our linemen play an indispensable role in the life of our community. Without their exceptional dedication and commitment, we would lack the dependable electricity essential for everyday life."

The next time you see one of our ~125 Sawnee EMC linemen, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing. After all, they are the power behind your power. **Join us as we recognize them on April 8th and thank them for their exceptional service.**

Take to your social media in April and **#ThankALineman**



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### QUOTABLE QUOTE

**Many of life's failures are people who do not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."**

— Thomas Edison

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

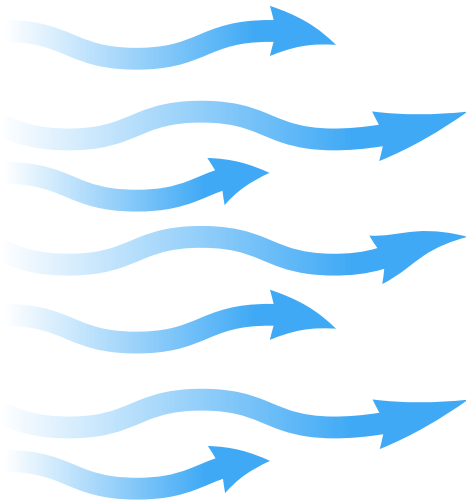
# Is Your AC Ready for this Summer?



*If you have your AC "tuned up" in 2024, send us the invoice! You may qualify for our rebate of up to \$20 per unit. Send to [marketing@sawnee.coop](mailto:marketing@sawnee.coop), fax to 770-454-0139 or mail to the attention of "Energy Services Department" at the address on the front page of the newsletter.*

*Certain limitations apply, visit [sawnee.coop/rebates](http://sawnee.coop/rebates) for details.*

Do not wait until you unexpectedly come home to a hot house or you get a high summer electric bill...make sure now that your AC unit will be ready when you need it. Below are a few ways to keep your HVAC system running efficiently this summer season:



- Make sure you have a HVAC professional service your system regularly, and request that they clean the condensing coils.
- Operate the cooling equipment wisely. To get the most out of your AC unit, operate it on a conservative temperature setting. Experts recommend keeping your thermostat on 78 degrees during the summer months. You should set it at an even higher temperature when nobody is at home.
- Change the filters regularly; consider once per month during peak usage. Dirty filters can restrict the airflow through your system, reduce efficiency and lead to other problems.
- Do not close off areas of your home unless there is a return vent in that area. The system must be able to completely circulate air.
- Allow for the airflow around the outdoor unit. Provide at least two feet of clearance on all sides and five feet at the top of the unit for proper ventilation.

By following these simple tips, you can help improve the overall efficiency of your AC system and lower your home's energy usage this summer. For additional information on how to make your home more energy efficient, visit our Energy Solutions [Center at sawnee.coop](http://www.sawnee.coop)...and stay cool this summer.

# The Sawnee Electric Foundation's Operation Round Up Makes a Difference

As a Sawnee EMC member, you have a unique opportunity to support Operation Round Up, a program that provides financial support to 501 (c) (3) charitable organizations, local teacher classroom grants, and youth scholarships within the communities served by Sawnee EMC. All of this from members simply "rounding up" their power bill.

Participating in the Sawnee Foundation's Operation Round Up Program is voluntary; and the average contribution per member is only about \$6 per year. For example, if your electric bill is \$98.76, and you participate in Operation Round Up, your bill would be rounded up to \$99.00, and 24 cents would go directly to the Foundation and donated to charity. Monthly donations can be as little as one penny or as much as \$1.

In the first quarter of 2024, the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation gifted \$27,590 to the following charitable organizations:

- Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc.
- Cumming First United Methodist Church
- Forsyth County Humane Society, Inc.
- Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Too, Inc.
- American Legion
- Prevent Blindness Georgia
- Georgia Police K9 Foundation, Inc.
- Good Shepherd Clinic of Dawson County, Inc.
- Teacher Reuse Exchange, Inc.

The Sawnee Electric Foundation also provided \$2,876.94 to local area teachers at Avery Elementary School and Settles Bridge Elementary School, through the Bright Ideas Program, to implement programs and classroom projects that otherwise may not have received funding. Lastly, the Foundation was able to provide \$10,000 to help fund scholarships at the University of North Georgia – Cumming Campus which is served by Sawnee EMC.

Participate in Operation Round Up and be part of making a difference in your community. Visit [sawnee.coop/oru](http://sawnee.coop/oru) to enroll to round up your bill each month or make a one-time donation.



*Through the collective giving by thousands of Sawnee member-owners, a significant amount can be raised each year. To date, more than **\$4.9 Million** donations through Operation Round Up have been received since 2003. All donations are tax-deductible.*

## Sawnee EMC

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

*Source: energy.gov*



Sawnee EMC is

# INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE

The energy industry is changing, but electric co-ops are known for adapting to their local members' needs. As we plan for changes and challenges ahead, innovative solutions are essential.

Here are a few ways we're innovating for the future.



### Use of Advanced Technologies

Drones aid in power line inspection and maintenance. Smart meters provide real-time data and help pinpoint service issues.

### Preparing for Increased Energy Use

The demand for electricity is increasing as more technologies are electrified. Co-ops are exploring innovative solutions like battery storage to meet demand.

### Energy Solutions for Members

Co-ops provide innovative efficiency services like appliance rebates and flexible billing options to help members manage their energy use.

### Strength in Numbers

By working with and learning from other co-ops, we are uniquely positioned to improve service for our local communities.

Want to learn more? Contact a member of our team at 770-887-2363, [customerservice@sawnee.coop](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.coop), [sawnee.coop](http://sawnee.coop), text 678-999-8124 or chat online at [sawnee.coop](http://sawnee.coop).

## Here's WATTS Cookin' Buffalo Chicken Wing Dip

### Ingredients:

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 oz. Frank's Hot Sauce | 20 oz. can of chicken, drained   |
| 12 oz. cream cheese     | 2-3 cups shredded cheddar cheese |
| 8 oz. ranch dressing    |                                  |

### Instructions:

Combine all ingredients until well blended. Spread into a casserole dish and bake at 350 degrees until bubbly, approximately 30 minutes.



Thanks to Colleen Hattler 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.coop](mailto:marketing@sawnee.coop).