



# THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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

As a Sawnee EMC member, you have a unique opportunity to support The Sawnee EMC Foundation's 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 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 are enrolled 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 cent or as much as \$1.

In the first quarter of 2025, the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation gifted \$10,700 to the following charitable organizations:



- Friendship Christian School, Inc.
- Junior Achievement of Georgia, Inc.
- North Metro Miracle League, Inc.
- American Legion, Inc. - Cumming Post 307

The Sawnee Electric Foundation also provided \$5,945.28 to local area teachers at The Alliance Academy for Innovation, Kilough Elementary School and Whitlow Elementary School, through the Foundation's Bright Ideas Program. These funds are used to implement programs and classroom projects that otherwise may not have been funded. Lastly, the Foundation was able to provide \$10,000 for scholarships at the University of North Georgia Cumming Campus.

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.

### CONTACT US

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### QUOTABLE QUOTE

**The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."**

— Dr. Suess

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

# Efficiency Upgrades to Help You Save This Summer

Spring and summer are perfect times for Sawnee EMC members to do energy efficiency home upgrades and DIY energy projects. So, if you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote energy efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy, money, and increase home comfort:



**Install a smart thermostat.** It can be one of the simplest ways to manage home energy usage and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone or tablet. You can purchase an ENERGY STAR® certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you approximately 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. Sawnee EMC has a \$25 rebate for certain smart thermostat models – learn more about the criteria and limitations at [sawnee.coop/rebates](https://www.sawnee.coop/rebates).



**Check the attic insulation.** If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home and whether you use a contractor. Sawnee EMC offers a \$200 maximum rebate for upgrading attic insulation. Learn more at [sawnee.coop/rebates](https://www.sawnee.coop/rebates).



**Seal air leaks.** While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, it's a tried-and-true way to weatherize your home. Sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also further improve the seal of your home.



**Consider LED lightbulbs.** Speaking of smart, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at your home. While it may not be a fit for every household, smart lighting can help you set a schedule for when and how your lights turn on or off. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness levels—and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Plus, it's all controlled through an app on your device.

If you want to make your home more energy efficient but you're not sure where to start, consider taking Sawnee EMC's Home Energy Adventure. It's a free online tool to help you create an energy efficiency plan for your home. Check it out today at [sawnee.coop](https://www.sawnee.coop) under "Energy Solutions." Questions? Contact a member of Sawnee EMC's Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at [energy\\_services@sawnee.coop](mailto:energy_services@sawnee.coop).

# April 14th is Lineman Appreciation Day



In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, linemen begin their day often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate **Lineman Appreciation Day on April 14th**, it is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our everyday lives.

Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Sawnee EMC's line crews travel throughout our seven (7) county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local distribution system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible.

When the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

On April 14th, join us as we celebrate the remarkable people who ensure reliable power. The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible. Lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



**RATED #1**  
BY THE PEOPLE  
THAT MATTER  
MOST —  
**OUR MEMBERS**



**Best in Customer Satisfaction with Residential Electric Service among Cooperatives, 2 out of 3 years.**

For J.D. Power 2024 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](https://www.jdpower.com/awards).



**APRIL IS  
SAFE DIGGING MONTH**



Sawnee EMC Members...

**Dig Smart.  
Dig Safe.**

Before you dig, call **811** or visit **call811.com** to get underground utility lines marked/located. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.

**Here's WATTS Cookin'  
Reuben Baked Potatoes**

**Ingredients:**

- 4 medium to large golden potatoes
- Olive oil
- Maldon salt
- Black pepper
- 1/3 lb. sliced corned beef, chopped
- 1/2 cup sauerkraut (optional)

- 8 slices Swiss cheese
- 1 Tbsp. fresh parsley for garnish

**Dressing:**

- 3/4 cup Dukes mayo
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1 tsp franks red hot sauce



- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2-1 tsp onion powder
- Salt
- Ground black pepper
- Fresh parsley for garnish

**Instructions:**

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line 8x8 baking dish with foil. Coat all sides of potatoes with olive oil and sprinkle maldon salt on top of each, to taste. Cook until tender and fork can easily reach the center, about 40 minutes. Mix dressing ingredients together & refrigerate. Cut potatoes lengthwise and dress them with butter, salt, pepper, corned beef pieces. Add two slices of Swiss cheese to top of each potato. Stick them back in the oven for up to 10-12 minutes until cheese is melty and corned beef is getting crispy edges, then top the potatoes with the dressing.

👉 Thanks to Lauren Van Duzer 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).