



# THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 43 • Issue 12

## *Happy Holidays from Sawnee EMC*

This story was taken from an article in the very first newsletter published by Sawnee EMC (then known as Forsyth County Electric Membership Corporation) in December 1940.

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## A Holiday Throwback

There was a farm woman in Georgia who had once lived in the city. When she moved back to the farm, she took with her all the family's electrical equipment, including a string of holiday lights.

But the family farm was far away from the power lines of the local utility company. Sadly, she was forced to store away the electric iron, the radio, the percolator, refrigerator, toaster, holiday lights and other electrical items she had become used to while living in the city. She now ironed with a sadiron and sewed by the kerosene lamp. The children thought the holidays were very drab without the bright, brilliant electric lights.

Eight holiday seasons went by - eight holidays without lights.

Then the neighbors got together and organized a cooperative to bring in electric power to their farms... the REA co-op. The woman was able to get her electric equipment out of storage and once again put it to work. She was full of joy because she knew how electricity could change lives and lift their burdens.

And for the ninth holiday season, when she looked at the bright lights, she thought how they symbolized all the good things electricity can bring.

View our special holiday message at [sawnee.coop/holiday](http://sawnee.coop/holiday).



### QUOTABLE QUOTE

**May your walls know joy,  
may every room hold  
laughter, and every window  
open to great possibility."**

— Mary Anne Radmacher

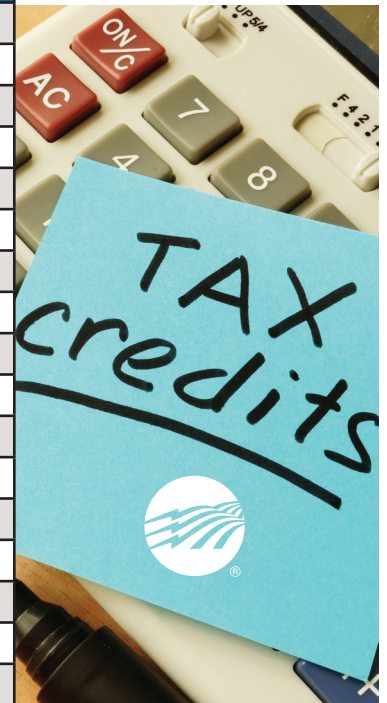
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Sawnee EMC's Board of Directors and staff wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season!

## A Homeowner's Guide to Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficient Upgrades

The Inflation Reduction Act, passed by Congress in 2022, provides federal tax credits and deductions that may help homeowners reduce energy costs for energy efficient upgrades. While there have been federal tax credits in the past, there will be new items available for a tax credit for 2023 and beyond. Please be sure to do your research and speak with your tax professional about how you might take advantage of these tax credits as certain situations may impact how tax credits are applied. Below, for reference, is a chart that outlines some of the various federal tax credits available, beginning with the 2023 tax year.

EQUIPMENT TYPE	TAX CREDIT FOR 2023-2032 TAX YEARS
Solar (electricity)	30% of cost
Fuel Cells	30% of cost
Wind Turbine	30% of cost
Battery Storage	30% of cost
Heat Pump	30% of cost, up to \$2,000
Heat Pump Water Heater	30% of cost, up to \$2,000
Biomass Stove	30% of cost, up to \$2,000
Geothermal Heat Pump	30% of cost
Solar (water heating)	30% of cost
Efficient Air Conditioners*	30% of cost, up to \$600
Efficient Heating Equipment*	30% of cost, up to \$600
Efficient Water Heating Equipment*	30% of cost, up to \$600
Electrical Upgrades for New Electric Equipment*	30% of cost, up to \$600
Insulation Materials*	30% of cost
Windows, Including Skylights*	30% of cost, up to \$600
Exterior Doors*	30% of cost, up to \$500 for doors
Home Energy Audits*	30% of cost, up to \$150
* Subject to cap of \$1200 per year	



You can also find additional details about each of these federal tax credits at [https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal\\_tax\\_credits](https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits).

Remember, Sawnee EMC offers energy rebates and incentives for certain energy upgrades made in 2023. The deadline to submit your supporting documentation for Sawnee EMC's rebate program is December 31, 2023 and limitations do apply, so please be sure to visit [sawnee.coop/rebates](http://sawnee.coop/rebates) for full details.

Please contact a member of Sawnee EMC's Energy Services Team at 770-887-2363 or via email at [marketing@sawnee.coop](mailto:marketing@sawnee.coop) for questions or if you need any additional information.

## Reliable Power for Today - and Tomorrow

Closing out a year and ringing in a new one sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. It's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're headed. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of this great cooperative.

The Sawnee EMC team is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering - and empowering - our community.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our service area. You may not realize it, but Sawnee EMC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy providers and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. Our current energy resource mix is made up of natural gas, nuclear, coal, and renewables such as solar, biomass and hydro power.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it. In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, we are using technology to enhance our local distribution grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

*"The Sawnee EMC team is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services."*

Michael A. Goodroe, *President and CEO*



Advanced metering infrastructure, also known as "AMI", enables two-way communication between the co-op and our members. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps Sawnee EMC save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from limbs that are likely to fall.

One of the best methods for improving our service to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Georgia and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition. As we turn our focus to 2024, Sawnee EMC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.

All the best!



**Sawnee EMC is #1 in Customer Satisfaction  
with Residential Electric Service among Cooperatives,  
2 out of 3 Years!**

For J.D. Power 2022 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](https://www.jdpower.com/awards)





# Keep it Safe this Holiday Season



As you decorate for the holidays, please remember these important electrical safety tips:



- Carefully follow the instructions concerning the safe installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Use lights and other electrical decorations that carry a certified label from an independent tester, such as “UL approved”.
- When decorating outdoors, only use lights that are approved for outdoor use.
- Consider LED decorations, which create much less heat and use far less energy.
- Carefully inspect each decoration before plugging it into an electrical outlet. Frayed or cracked wires, as well as loose connections, may cause personal injury or fire.

- Always replace any damaged items – it is not worth the risk to use them.
- Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords to exterior surfaces.
- Do not overload extension cords – they can overheat.
- Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strings clear of standing water.
- Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.
- Turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed and be sure to use a timer to control your energy cost.

Have fun and enjoy this holiday season... just remember to be safe!

## Here's WATTS Cookin' Vegetarian Enchiladas

### Ingredients:

1 pkg. portabella mushrooms or gourmet variety mushrooms  
1 pkg. frozen or fresh zucchini noodles

1 box frozen spinach  
Scallions  
Can black beans  
Can enchilada sauce (small)

Sour cream  
Bag shredded cheddar  
Bag shredded Colby Jack  
8 large tortillas

### Instructions:

Chop mushrooms and scallions - sauté with a little butter - add zucchini if fresh and not frozen. Microwave zucchini (if frozen) and spinach. Drain and squeeze water from spinach, zucchini and beans. Place the above in bowl, add 1/4 bag of each cheese and a couple tablespoons of sour cream and gently mix together. In rectangular baking dish cover bottom with enchilada sauce. Lay out a tortilla and spoon desired amount of mixture in, roll/wrap and place in baking dish - repeat. Top enchiladas with remaining sauce and cheeses. Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes. Serve with Spanish or Mexican rice.



Thanks to Denise Carleton 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)