

# THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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## Sawnee EMC Announces \$8 Million Retirement of Patronage Capital

Sawnee EMC will soon be refunding approximately \$8 million to over 130,000 active and former Sawnee members through a general retirement of patronage capital. This patronage capital retirement is for all customers who received electric service from Sawnee EMC at any time during 2005 or 2006.



As outlined in Sawnee's Bylaws, patronage capital is an allocation of the revenue received in excess of operating costs and expenses each year; those funds are then assigned to each member of record for that particular year.

Active Sawnee EMC members, who received service at any time during 2005 or 2006, will receive their portion of this patronage capital retirement in the form of a "credit" on their March 2023 electric bill. Active members will soon receive a letter, which provides details about this general retirement, including the amount of their refund, as well as a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Former members who no longer have an active Sawnee EMC account, and have a valid address on file, will be mailed a check to their last known address on or around April 4, 2023. It is important that former Sawnee EMC members notify us of their

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### CONTACT US

Web Address & Email:

[www.sawnee.coop](http://www.sawnee.coop)  
[customerservice@sawnee.coop](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.coop)

Business Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Physical Address:

543 Atlanta Highway  
Cumming, GA 30040

Customer Call Center:

Mon. - Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday – 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: (770) 887-2363

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### QUOTABLE QUOTE

**Quality is not an act, it is a habit."**

— Aristotle

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



## SAWNEE EMC PURPA PROCEEDING

# NOTICE OF PURPA HEARING

Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation will hold a hearing to facilitate the consideration and determination of standards established by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. This hearing is held pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq., and particularly pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §§ 2621, 2622, 2631 and 2632. The hearing will be held at **543 Atlanta Road, Cumming, Georgia** starting at 9:00 am on May 9, 2023. The following standards will be considered at the hearing:

1. To promote the use of demand-response and demand flexibility practices by consumers to reduce electricity consumption during periods of unusually high demand, and to establish rate mechanisms to recover the cost of promoting said practices.
2. To consider measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector, including establishing rates to promote and improve EV charging options and public EV charging infrastructure.

The hearing will be governed by the “Rules for Conducting Proceedings Required by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021)” (“Rules”), which was adopted by the Board of Directors of Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation on July 21, 2022. A copy of the Rules may be obtained at Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation’s headquarters during normal business hours. The headquarters is located at 543 Atlanta Road, Cumming, Georgia 30040 and its lobby is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm EST/EDT. A copy of the Rules may also be accessed online at [sawnee.coop/purpa](http://sawnee.coop/purpa).

In accordance with 16 U.S.C. § 2631, the United States Secretary of Energy, any affected electric utility, and any electric consumer of an affected electric utility has a right to intervene and participate as a formal party of record in the hearing. Please see Rule 4 concerning the procedure for intervention.

Any member of Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation that does not desire to intervene and participate as a formal party of record nonetheless will be given the opportunity to make an oral or written statement expressing his or her positions and or views on the foregoing standards. Please see Rule 5 concerning the procedure for making such statements.

All members must sign in at the hearing no later than 10:00 am to ensure that they are able to participate in the hearing. Please see Rule 11 concerning the conduct of the hearing.

Detailed information about Sawnee EMC’s PURPA Proceedings can be found online at [sawnee.coop/purpa](http://sawnee.coop/purpa) or by contacting Sawnee EMC’s PURPA Officer, Mr. Blake House, at 678-455-1510 or via email at [blake.house@sawnee.coop](mailto:blake.house@sawnee.coop). Thank you.



**Sawnee EMC’s Directors and Staff wish to thank our members for ranking us #1 in Customer Satisfaction in the nation.**



**#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](http://jdpower.com/awards)

# ANNOUNCING 2023 Residential Energy Rebates

Anytime is a good time to get more energy efficient, but it is even better when a Sawnee EMC rebate can help pay for a portion of it. Below is information about the energy rebate programs\* available in 2023.

- **INSULATION UPGRADE:** Increase your attic insulation to an R-49 level or greater and receive ½ of the cost, up to \$200. The home must be at least five (5) years old.
- **ELECTRIC HYBRID WATER HEATER:** Replace an existing standard water heater with a heat pump water heater and receive a \$100 rebate.
- **NEW HVAC UNIT:** Replace an existing HVAC unit with a new 17 SEER unit. Please note, the yellow ENERGY GUIDE label located on the outdoor unit must clearly state 17 SEER or greater. Recipients must also agree to participate in one of Sawnee's Load Management programs to receive the rebate of \$50 per ton.
- **DUCT SEALING:** Receive a rebate of ½ of the cost, up to \$100, for sealing all accessible HVAC ductwork with mastic.
- **HVAC TUNE UP:** Receive a rebate of ½ of the cost, up to \$20, for each outside HVAC unit, when you have a "tune up" performed by a licensed HVAC technician. **Tune ups for "gas furnaces only" do not qualify.**
- **VARIABLE SPEED POOL PUMP:** Replace a conventional single speed swimming pool pump with a variable speed pump and receive ½ of the cost, up to \$100 per pump.

## PLEASE NOTE...

The rebates contained herein only apply for work completed in 2023. Please be sure to visit [sawnee.coop/rebates](http://sawnee.coop/rebates) for additional information and limitations on 2023 energy related rebates and incentives.

- **LEVEL 2 CHARGER REBATE:** Receive a one-time \$200 rebate for installing a Level 2 electric vehicle charger. Must participate in one of Sawnee EMC's Time of Use rates for the required one (1) year minimum period.
- **SMART THERMOSTAT:** Receive a one time \$25 rebate, per smart thermostat. Recipients must also agree to participate in one of Sawnee's Load Management programs to receive the rebate.
- **LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS:**
  - **Smart Savers Thermostat Program** – Receive an annual credit of \$30, per thermostat, for enrolling an eligible smart thermostat into the program at [sawnee.coop/smartsavers](http://sawnee.coop/smartsavers). Credit placed on account in \$10, per thermostat, amounts on July, August and September billing statements.
  - **Load Management Switch Program** – For each central HVAC load management switch installed, receive an annual credit of \$30, per switch. Credit placed on account in \$10, per switch, amounts on June, July and August billing statements. Sign up at [sawnee.coop/switch](http://sawnee.coop/switch).

## ARE YOU A COMMERCIAL MEMBER?

If so, please be sure to visit us online at [sawnee.coop](http://sawnee.coop) for a list of rebates that your business may be eligible for.

Questions? Contact a member of Sawnee EMC's Energy Services staff at 770-887-2363 or via email at [energy\\_services@sawnee.coop](mailto:energy_services@sawnee.coop) if you have any questions about rebate eligibility.

\* Certain restrictions and limitations apply. Please see all details at [sawnee.coop/rebates](http://sawnee.coop/rebates).

## Retirement of Patronage Capital

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forwarding address when they discontinue electric service. This helps to ensure that these members receive their future patronage capital retirements.

In addition to the general retirement of patronage capital, it is important to remember that Sawnee EMC also retires patronage capital to the estates of deceased members. Many thousands of dollars are claimed each year by families of former members who are now deceased. If you know of someone who has recently passed away, and they were once a Sawnee EMC member, please remind the executor of their estate to contact our Customer Service Center at (770) 887-2363, by text at (678) 999-8124, or via email at [customerservice@sawnee.coop](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.coop) to learn about how to claim their patronage capital funds.

Sawnee EMC is committed to supporting the principles that make the electric cooperative business model a success. Over the previous five (5) years, Sawnee EMC has retired over \$56.2 million to active and former members through retirements of patronage capital.

If you have any questions about this patronage capital retirement, please contact our Customer Service at (770) 887-2363 or via email at [customerservice@sawnee.coop](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.coop).

For more information, a list of FAQ's or to watch our short informational video visit [sawnee.coop/patcap](http://sawnee.coop/patcap).

## Here's WATTS Cookin'

### Pecan Brussel Sprouts

#### Ingredients:

*1 pound fresh Brussels sprouts (rinsed)*

*4 slices bacon*

*1 shallot (rinsed)*

*1/2 cup pecan pieces*

#### Instructions:

Peel any blemished leaves from sprouts and discard. Trim stems from bottom of sprouts, cut sprouts in half, and then slice thinly; set aside. Preheat large sauté pan on medium 2–3 minutes. Cut bacon into half inch pieces (easy to do with kitchen shears) and add to pan. Cook 4–5 minutes, stirring often, or until bacon just begins to crisp. Meanwhile, chop shallot. Stir in shallot and pecans; cook 3–4 minutes, stirring often, or until bacon is fully crisped. Add sprouts. Cook 3–4 minutes, stirring often, or until desired tenderness. Serve.



Thanks to William Randlett 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).