

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 46 • Issue 2

Sawnee EMC Announces \$6 Million Retirement of Patronage Capital

Sawnee EMC will be retiring approximately \$6 million in patronage capital to approximately 137,500 current and former members who received electric service from the Cooperative during 2008 and/or 2009. As outlined in Sawnee EMC's Bylaws, patronage capital is defined as an allocation of the revenue received in excess of operating costs and expenses in a given year. Those funds are then assigned to each member of record for that particular year.

Sawnee EMC members eligible for this retirement will receive a letter which provides details about the general retirement, including the amount of their refund, and frequently asked questions. Active Sawnee EMC members will receive a credit on their March 2026 Sawnee EMC electric bill. Former members with a valid address on file



will be mailed a check to their last known address around April 1, 2026. It is important for former members to keep their mailing addresses updated to ensure receipt of future retirements.

In addition to the general retirement of patronage capital, Sawnee EMC also retires patronage capital to the estates of deceased members. If you know of someone who has recently passed away, and they were once a Sawnee EMC member, please remind the executor of

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CONTACT US

Web Address & Email:

www.sawnee.coop
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
Fax: (770) 234-6722
Text: (678) 999-8124
TDD: (770) 781-4271



QUOTABLE QUOTE

**One kind word can warm
three winter months."**

— a Japanese Proverb

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

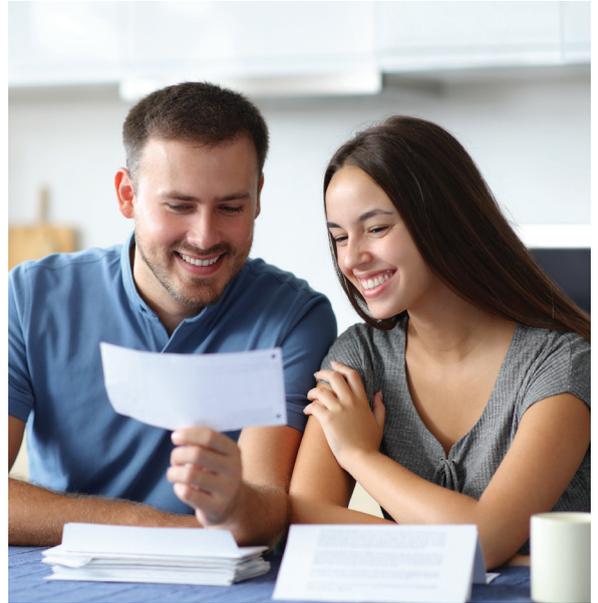
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their estate to contact Sawnee EMC's Customer Service Center at (770) 887-2363, by text at (678) 999-8124, or via email at customerservice@sawnee.coop to learn more about how to claim their patronage capital funds for their estates.

Sawnee EMC is committed to supporting the principles that make the electric cooperative business model a success. Over the past five years, Sawnee EMC has retired more than \$42.1 million to its active and former members through patronage capital retirements.

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

For more information, a list of FAQ's or to watch our short informational video visit sawnee.coop/patcap.



SAWNEE
An Electric Membership Corporation

RATED #1
BY THE PEOPLE THAT MATTER MOST –
OUR MEMBERS

Best in Customer Satisfaction with Residential Electric Service among Cooperatives, 3 out of 4 Years.

For J.D. Power 2025 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards.

J.D. Power Ranks Sawnee EMC #1 Nationally in Customer Satisfaction

On December 17th, J.D. Power announced that Sawnee EMC was ranked best in the nation in "Customer Satisfaction among Cooperatives!" Not only that, but they also rated us top in several key areas that matter most to you:

- Safety and Reliability
- Information Provided
- Problem Resolution
- Ease of Doing Business
- People
- Trust

These rankings reflect Sawnee EMC's Board and staff's commitment to providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. This is only made possible because of your support and our collective promise to always improve and deliver the best possible service.

Sawnee EMC, your trusted energy partner.

8 Sawnee EMC Rebates for 2026

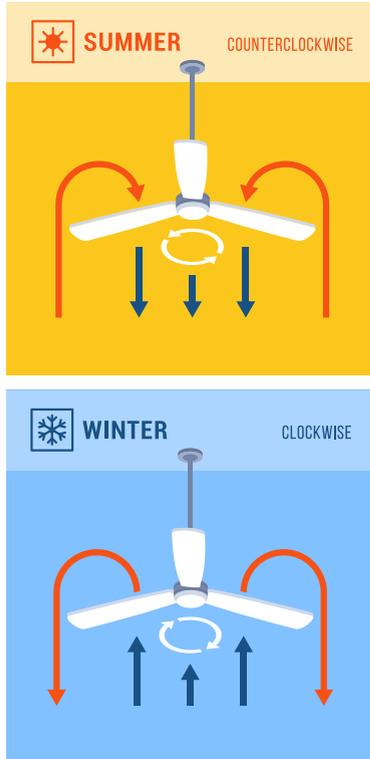
Sawnee EMC, your trusted energy partner, offers residential energy improvement rebates to help you improve your home's energy efficiency. Below is information about the Sawnee EMC energy rebate programs available to residential accounts for 2026.

For more information about residential energy rebates visit us at [sawnee.coop/rebates-and-incentives](https://www.sawnee.coop/rebates-and-incentives) or contact a member of our Energy Services team at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.coop.

- 1. Attic Insulation** Increase the homes entire attic insulation value to **R-49** or greater. Does not apply to homes built after 1/1/2021. The rebate is one half (1/2) of the total cost up to a maximum of \$200.
- 2. Electric Hybrid Water Heater** Replace an existing home water heater with a new, energy-saving Heat Pump Water Heater and receive a one-time \$200 rebate.
- 3. HVAC Tune Up** Have a professional air conditioner/heat pump "tune up" performed on the outside condensing unit. The rebate does not apply to gas furnace tune ups. The rebate is one half (1/2) of the cost up to a maximum of \$20 annually for each HVAC system.
- 4. Variable Speed Pool Pump** Install a variable speed pool pump to replace a single speed pool pump and receive a rebate of up to one half (1/2) of the cost up to a maximum of \$100 per pump.
- 5. Level 2 EV Charger Rebate** If a member purchases an electric vehicle and has a Level 2 charger (240 volt) installed, they can be eligible for a rebate. This rebate only applies if the member also participates in one of Sawnee EMC's Time of Use rates (TU, PEV, or CPPR) for a required 1-year minimum period, on the account where the charger is connected. The available rebate is one half (1/2) of the total cost of the charger up to a maximum of \$200 rebate for installing Level 2 PEV charger.
- 6. Home Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Rebate** Install an air conditioner or heat pump having an outside condensing unit with an AHRI rating of 16.2 SEER or higher as a replacement or as an addition to the home. A Sawnee EMC Load Management switch must be installed to qualify. Eligible Sawnee members may receive up to a \$100 per ton rebate for qualifying systems.
- 7. Smart Thermostat / Smart Savers Rebate** A member can receive a 1-time \$25 Sawnee EMC energy rebate for installing a "Smart Thermostat" as long as enrolled in Smart Savers. Total annual Smart Savers credit of \$30 per thermostat; paid in three (3) equal installments of \$10 on the July, August and September billing statements. (\$30 maximum per month). Qualifying thermostats must be purchased between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.
- 8. Central Cooling Load Management Switch** Install a load management switch on central air conditioner or heat pump. Qualifying units must be owned by the Sawnee EMC member. The total annual credit for voluntarily participating in the program is \$30 per switch; paid in three (3) equal installments of \$10 on the June, July and August billing statements.

To apply for a rebate, submit a copy of your paperwork (i.e. invoice or receipt) to Sawnee EMC's Energy Services Department. You can email the paperwork to marketing@sawnee.coop, fax to (770) 454-0139 or mail a copy to Sawnee EMC, Attn: Energy Services, 543 Atlanta Highway, Cumming, GA 30040. For more information, please visit [sawnee.coop/rebates-and-incentives](https://www.sawnee.coop/rebates-and-incentives) or contact our Marketing Department via email marketing@sawnee.coop or by phone at 770-887-2363.

***Please note, programs and grants are subject to change without notice. All rebates are issued as a credit on the qualifying member's Sawnee EMC electric bill. The rebate program is for work completed and purchases made in the 2026 calendar year and are not retroactive or prospective. All rebates are subject to inspection and verification by a Sawnee EMC Energy Services Representative. ***



Why Does it Matter Which Direction a Home Ceiling Fan Turns?

Selecting the correct fan direction seasonally is a simple way to save year-round. Ceiling fan direction may not be something you think about on a regular basis, but it can make a big difference in the comfort of your home and positively impact your Sawnee EMC energy bill.

The ceiling fan direction in summer should be **counterclockwise** to help create a downdraft, which creates that direct, cooling breeze. Your fan direction in winter needs to be **clockwise** to create an updraft and circulate warm air around the room at a low speed (any faster and you'll start to feel a cool breeze). By recirculating the warm air and distributing it back into the living space you can improve the average room temperature and keep your furnace from working overtime.

Sawnee EMC Energy Advisors recommend to check your ceiling fans operating manual to find how to adjust the direction of rotation properly. You, your thermostat and your budget will feel the difference from recirculating the warm air in winter and cool air in summer, and this will help your HVAC unit run less often and keep your monthly cost low.

Questions? Please contact a member of our Energy Services team at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.coop.

Here's WATTS Cookin' Tuscan Bean Soup

Ingredients:

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| <i>2 tablespoons of olive oil</i> | <i>1/2 cup heavy cream</i> |
| <i>2 medium onions, chopped</i> | <i>1 tsp. paprika</i> |
| <i>8 oz. turkey or beef smoked sausage, sliced</i> | <i>1 tsp. fresh rosemary, chopped</i> |
| <i>6 cloves garlic, minced</i> | <i>1/2 tsp. fresh thyme, chopped</i> |
| <i>2 cans (19 oz. each) cannellini beans, rinsed and drained</i> | <i>2 bay leaves</i> |
| <i>4 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth</i> | <i>Salt and black pepper, to taste</i> |

Directions:

Heat the olive oil in a large soup pot or dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the chopped onions and sliced sausage. Sauté until onions are translucent and sausage is lightly browned, about 6-8 minutes. Stir in the garlic and cook for 1 more minute until fragrant. Add the cannellini beans, broth, heavy cream, paprika, rosemary, thyme, and bay leaves. Season with salt and pepper. Bring the soup to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 20 minutes. For a thicker texture, mash a portion of the beans or add an extra can. If soup is too thick, add water to reach desired consistency. Remove bay leaves before serving. Ladle into bowls and enjoy warm.



👉 Thanks to David Simmons 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.