



Stay Cool this Summer

It's July in Georgia... which means it's hot outside. With the buzz of barbecues, pool parties, and family adventures, it can be easy to forget about the impact summer can have on Sawnee EMC energy bills. Even though temperatures may be sweltering outside, you can still save with smarter energy usage inside your home. The staff of Sawnee EMC can help with some tips to make your summer sizzle without burning through your energy budget:



- 1. Thermostat Optimization:** Experts recommend setting your thermostat at 78°F when you're at home. Raise it a few degrees when you're away to reduce cooling costs without sacrificing comfort. When you're in a room, turn ceiling fans on (inside up lowering the temperature setting on the thermostat) to stay at a comfortable temperature.
- 2. Turn off Lights and Fans:** When you leave a room or when you are no longer being cooled by a fan... flip the switch, turn it off. No sense in wasting that electricity when it is benefitting no one.
- 3. Seal in the Cool:** Keep the heat outside where it belongs by sealing gaps around doors and windows. This simple step prevents the cool air from escaping and warm air from sneaking in.
- 4. Grill and Chill:** Take the cooking outdoors and fire up the grill! Using your stove or oven can heat up your home; making your AC work harder.
- 5. Keep out the Heat:** Close blinds or window coverings to prevent heat gain during the day.

Learn more through Sawnee EMC's Energy Solutions Center at sawnee.coop. Questions about your home's energy efficiency? Contact a member of our Energy Services team at **770-887-2363** or via email at marketing@sawnee.coop.

CONTACT US

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GEORGIA
grown

“ QUOTABLE QUOTE

Never put off till tomorrow
what may be done day after
tomorrow just as well.”

— Mark Twain

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The Sawnee Foundation Continues Community Giving Through Operation Round Up



Sawnee Electric Membership **FOUNDATION**

The Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation continues to make a meaningful impact across our service area through the generosity of Sawnee EMC member-owners who participate in Operation Round Up. Since its founding in 2003, the Foundation has helped support local nonprofits, schools, and community initiatives that strengthen the lives of individuals and families in the communities we serve.



Rachael Burns and students and the Boys & Girls Club of Lanier, Inc.

Participation in Operation Round Up is voluntary, and the monthly contribution is small, but the combined impact is significant. When members enroll, their monthly Sawnee EMC electric bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar, with the extra change—never more than 99 cents per month—going directly to the Foundation for charitable giving throughout our local area.

At its May 26, 2026 meeting, the Sawnee Foundation gifted **\$55,708.97** to support the following organizations and community initiatives:

- Operation Appreciation, Inc.
- Next Generation Youth Development, Inc.
- Development Disabilities Ministries, Inc.
- Boys & Girls Club of Lanier, Inc.
- Cure Childhood Cancer, Inc.
- North Fulton Community Charities, Inc.
- Children’s Development Academy, Inc.
- The Summit Counseling Center, Inc.

Additional support included **\$7,500** for college-level scholarships through the Gwinnett Tech Foundation and **\$12,000** to the Dawson Community Food Bank to help fund its food assistance efforts. These gifts reflect the Foundation’s ongoing commitment to meeting important local needs through member-supported giving.



Beth Waters accepts grant on behalf of Operation Appreciation, Inc.

Operation Round Up is a simple way for members to make a lasting difference close to home. To enroll, visit sawnee.coop/oru or contact Sawnee EMC’s Customer Call Center at **770-887-2363**, text **678-999-8124**, or chat online at sawnee.coop.

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.

Protecting Reliable Service Through Smart Vegetation Management

Trees add beauty to our communities, but when branches and limbs grow too close to Sawnee EMC power lines, they can also create service and safety issues. That's why vegetation management is an important part of Sawnee EMC's ongoing efforts to provide safe, reliable electric service.

Regular tree trimming helps reduce outages caused by limbs, branches and other vegetation contacting overhead lines and equipment. By keeping our rights-of-way clear, Sawnee EMC can help improve system reliability for homes and businesses across our service area.

Severe weather is one of the biggest challenges to electric reliability, and trees are often a major factor when storms lead to outages. High winds, heavy rain and ice can cause limbs or entire trees to fall into power lines, damaging equipment and interrupting service.

In fact, trees and vegetation account for a significant portion of electric outages nationwide. Proactive trimming is one of the most effective ways utilities can reduce those risks before storms and other issues occur.

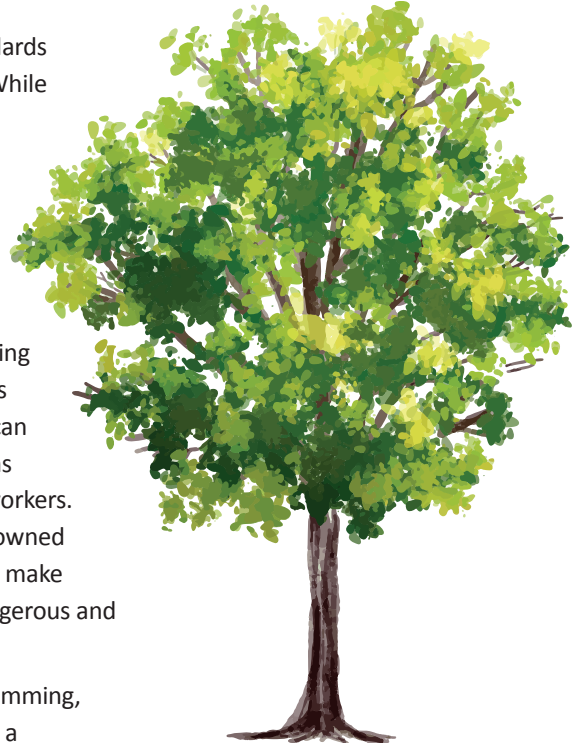
Members may see Sawnee EMC crews or contract crews working in neighborhoods throughout the year. These teams are trained to trim vegetation near power lines

according to industry standards and utility best practices. While the work may look routine, it plays a key role in preventing future service interruptions.

Proactive vegetation management is also an important part of maintaining a safe electric system. Trees growing too close to lines can create hazardous conditions for the public and for lineworkers. During and after storms, downed trees and broken limbs can make restoration work more dangerous and more time-consuming.

In addition to scheduled trimming, members can help support a safer distribution system through smart landscaping decisions. Before planting, consider how tall a tree will grow at maturity and how close it will be to nearby overhead or underground electric facilities.

Trees that grow up to 40 feet tall should be planted at least 25 feet from our overhead lines. Trees that grow taller than 40 feet should be planted at least 50 feet away. Around pad-mounted transformers, keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the front and 4 feet from the sides so Sawnee EMC crews can safely access equipment. If you are digging



anywhere near underground utilities, **always call 811 first.**

At Sawnee EMC, vegetation management is an important part of providing safe, reliable service to our members. Ongoing tree trimming and right-of-way maintenance help reduce outages, protect equipment and support a more dependable electric system for the communities we serve.

Questions? Contact a member of our Customer Call Center at **770-887-2363**, email **customerservice@sawnee.coop**, chat at **sawnee.coop** or text **678-999-8124**.

SAWNEE EMC - Summer Energy Tip

HEADING OUT OF TOWN THIS SUMMER?



Take a few minutes to **unplug**. TV's, coffee makers, phone chargers and gaming systems consume energy even when in "off" mode. Remember to set your thermostat to 82 so your AC units can take a vacation too.



Here's WATTS Cookin'

Easy Puttanesca

Ingredients:

Kosher salt

Half box of Spaghetti

2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

6 cloves garlic, minced

1 jar spaghetti sauce

1/3 cup parsley, chopped

1/2 cup Kalamata olives

1/4 cup capers, rinsed

Pinch of crushed red pepper flakes

1 lb. ground chuck

Optional - 1 tbsp. chopped anchovies

Fresh parmesan, grated



Directions:

In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook spaghetti according to package instructions. In a separate large skillet or large pot over low heat, heat oil. Add to the oil, garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant. Add ground chuck and cook until no pink is seen in meat. Add spaghetti sauce and stir until coated, simmer a few minutes. Add to meat sauce parsley, olives, capers, red pepper flakes, (anchovies if using), stirring until combined. Let simmer about 5 minutes. Place spaghetti in dish and ladle sauce over it (or toss in spaghetti into sauce and stir until completely coated). Serve with fresh parmesan.

👉 Thanks to Karen Willis 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.