

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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JOIN US for Sawnee EMC's 86th Annual Meeting of Members



Please make plans to attend the Sawnee EMC 2024 Annual Meeting of Members on **Saturday, October 5, 2024** on the Sawnee EMC Corporate Campus located at **543 Atlanta Road in Cumming**. Drive-through registration will begin at approximately 8:00 am and will conclude at approximately 11:00 am. Additionally, the "in person" business session will convene at approximately 11:00 am. If you wish to stay for the business session, please let a staff member know when you register so they can direct you to the designated parking area. All Sawnee EMC members who complete the drive-through registration process will be entered into a drawing for prizes and winners will be notified on Monday, October 7th. Please note, members do **not** have to be present at the business session to be eligible to win a prize.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Annual Meeting. You can learn more at sawnee.coop/annual-meeting. Please contact our Customer Call Center at 770-887-2363, text 678-999-8124, email at customerservice@sawnee.coop or chat at [sawnee.coop](https://www.sawnee.coop) if you have any questions.

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

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

**Sometimes the questions
are complicated and the
answers are simple."**

— Dr. Suess

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Preparing for Fall and Colder Temperatures



As summer slowly comes to an end and the cooler months approach, now is the perfect time to start preparing your home for Fall and the colder temperatures ahead. Transitioning seasons effectively not only ensures your comfort, but also helps in managing your energy costs. Here are some tips from Sawnee EMC to help you get ready for the winter months ahead:

- 1. Insulate Your Home:** Proper insulation is key to maintaining a comfortable temperature indoors without overworking your HVAC system. Check your attic, walls, and basement for adequate insulation. Consider adding more insulation if needed, especially if you live in an older home. Remember, Sawnee EMC offers a rebate of ½ of the cost, up to \$200 for upgrading your attic insulation to R-49. Visit sawnee.coop/rebates for details and limitations.
- 2. Reverse Ceiling Fans:** Most ceiling fans have a switch that allows you to reverse the direction of the blades. In colder months, running your fans clockwise at a low speed helps to circulate warm air that rises to the ceiling, distributing it more evenly throughout the room.
- 3. Inspect and Maintain Fireplaces:** If you have a fireplace, ensure it's clean and in good condition before you start using it. Have the chimney inspected to prevent potential hazards like chimney fires or carbon monoxide buildup. Also, keep the flue closed when not in use.
- 4. Stock Up on Emergency Supplies:** Prepare for potential cold weather emergencies by stocking up on essentials like batteries, flashlights, blankets, and non-perishable food items. Ensure your home is equipped with a working carbon monoxide detector and smoke alarms.
- 5. Educate Yourself on Energy Efficiency:** Take advantage of the resources provided by Sawnee EMC. We offer "free" energy audits and tips on improving home efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy and making informed decisions can lead to long-term savings and environmental benefits.

If you have any questions, contact a member of our Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.coop.



Sawnee EMC Receives ACSI Award

Sawnee EMC earned this award based on data modeled by the ACSI® in 2023. Award criteria are determined by the ACSI based on customers rating their satisfaction with Sawnee EMC in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION: The Truth About Energy Efficiency

MYTH #1

Closing Vents in Unused Rooms Saves Energy.

FACT #1: Contrary to popular belief, closing vents in unused rooms does **not** necessarily save energy. In fact, it can disrupt the balance of your HVAC system and lead to inefficiencies. Modern HVAC systems are designed to distribute air evenly throughout your home. Closing vents can cause pressure imbalances and force your system to work harder, potentially increasing energy consumption.

MYTH #2

Using Space Heaters is More Efficient Than Heating the Whole House.

FACT #2: While space heaters can provide warmth in small areas, they are often less efficient than heating using a central heating system. Space heaters consume a significant amount of electricity and can be costly to operate continuously.

MYTH #3

Energy-Efficient Appliances Are Too Expensive.

FACT #3: While the initial cost of energy-efficient appliances may be higher, they can save you money in the long run through reduced energy bills. Energy Star-certified appliances, for example, meet strict energy efficiency guidelines and consume significantly less energy than standard models. Over time, the savings on energy costs can outweigh the higher upfront investment.

MYTH #4

Energy Efficiency Means Sacrificing Comfort.

FACT #4: Conservation measures, such as proper insulation, sealing drafts, and using smart thermostats, can enhance comfort in your home. By maintaining consistent temperatures and improving indoor air quality, energy-efficient homes often provide a more comfortable living environment than less efficient homes.

MYTH #5

Energy Efficiency is Only Important in Summer and Winter.

FACT #5: Energy efficiency is important year-round, including the fall season. As temperatures fluctuate, maintaining energy-efficient practices can help you save on heating and cooling costs.

At Sawnee EMC, we encourage our members to adopt energy-efficient practices not only to save money but also to contribute to a sustainable future. By understanding and implementing these approaches regarding energy efficiency, you can make informed decisions that benefit both your household and the environment. As we approach fall, let's work together to ensure that your home is prepared for cooler weather while maximizing your energy savings.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.



SAFETY QUICK TIP: Extension Cords



Do you have extension cords plugged in right now? Remember, extension cords aren't meant for permanent use. Play it safe and move plugged in devices closer to the wall outlet when possible. If you need to use an extension cord, consider using a surge protector to disconnect the power to the cord, or unplug it when not in use.



Here's WATTS Cookin' Cilantro-Lime Shrimp Bowl

Ingredients:

1 (15 oz.) can no-salt-added black beans, rinsed	¼ cup plain whole-milk strained yogurt (such as Greek style)	1 pound large raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 cup fresh (or frozen, thawed) corn kernels	1 serrano chile, stemmed	½ cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus more for garnish
¾ tsp. salt, divided	3 Tbs. avocado oil, divided	2 cups hot cooked brown rice
½ tsp. ground pepper, divided	1 tsp. grated lime zest	1 avocado, sliced
1 (4 oz.) can Hatch chiles, undrained	4 Tbs. lime juice, divided	Lime wedges for serving
	2 Tbs. finely chopped garlic, divided	

Instructions:

Combine black beans, corn and ¼ tsp. each salt and pepper in a medium bowl. Set aside. Combine Hatch chiles, yogurt, serrano, 1 Tbs. oil, 1 Tbs. lime juice, ½ Tbs. garlic and ¼ tsp. salt in a blender; process until smooth, about 1 minute. Set the yogurt sauce aside. Toss shrimp with the remaining 1 ½ Tbs. garlic and ¼ tsp. each salt and pepper. Heat the remaining 2 Tbs. oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the shrimp in a single layer and cook, undisturbed, for 4 minutes. Add lime zest, cilantro and the remaining 3 Tbs. lime juice; stir to combine. Cook, stirring often, until the shrimp are opaque, 2 to 3 minutes.

Divide rice, shrimp, black bean mixture and avocado evenly among 4 bowls and drizzle with yogurt sauce. Garnish with additional cilantro and serve with lime wedges, if desired.

👉 Thanks to Jaymi Archer 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.