

Smart Thermostat Rebate FAQ

Why participate in Smart Savers or Load Management?

- These programs reduce peak demand for Sawnee EMC. Peak demand determines, in part, the cost of electricity purchased by EMCs. As peak demand grows, power suppliers must provide more fuel to generating facilities to keep up with the demand. More fuel means a higher price per kilowatt and more cost for the consumer. By helping to control peak demand, you help keep power cost lower and conserve energy.

When and how often does Sawnee EMC operate the Smart Saver or Load Management Program?

- These programs are only operated on days when the demand for electricity is critically high.
- On average 10-15 days per Summer when outside temperatures are in the 90+ Degree Fahrenheit range.
- Between June 1st and September 1st, Monday-Friday, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

What is the impact of participating in the Smart Saver program?

- Participating in the program allows Sawnee EMC to make brief, limited adjustments to your home's thermostat during periods of peak electric demand. These adjustments will only affect the temperature of your home by approximately 4 degrees.
- Please be aware that your Air Conditioning or Heat pump will shut off until your thermostat raises by 4 degrees from your initial setting.
- Opting out of an event is an option if your circumstances find you home during a Smart Saver event, however opting out does defeat the purpose of this program.
- If you believe that you will need to opt out multiple times during Smart Savers events, then this program may not be for you.

What is the impact of participating in the Load Management Program?

- Sawnee EMC will install a Load Management Switch that connects to your outside Air conditioner or Heat pump unit.
- The switch is radio controlled. we will transmit a radio signal from our office to cycle the air conditioners off for approximately 7 ½ minutes out of every 30 minutes. The fan will continue to run to maintain comfort in the home, so you should not even notice that the compressor is off.
- If working from your home or planning to be home weekdays from June 1st to September 1st, this program may be more appropriate since it allows the AC to cycle and will maintain a lower temperature while Load management is being called for.
- Some higher efficiency units that utilize a digital connection between the thermostat and the outside HVAC unit, may not be compatible for this program.
- A Sawnee EMC representative will have to come on your property to install the load management switch

Can I get the rebate for a thermostat purchased prior to 2023?

- No, only thermostats purchased after January 1, 2023 qualify.

Can any Wifi or smart thermostat qualify for the rebate?

- No, only thermostats listed on our [approved list](#) qualify.

Can I participate in both programs?

- Generally, no; however, if you have (2) HVAC units, you could enroll (1) in Smart savers, and have a Load Management switch on the 2nd unit. You cannot participate in both programs on the same HVAC unit.