

Electric News

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Spend More Time Outdoors

The less time you and your family spend inside your home as summer winds down, the more you can save on energy costs. Inch your home's thermostat up a couple of degrees and enjoy the hottest part of the end-of-summer days someplace else.

Here are a few ideas:

- Head to the mall, which is air-conditioned and open to the public. While you're there, watch a movie, treat the family to lunch or ice cream and spend the afternoon window shopping. Make your way home once the sun sets and it's a little cooler outdoors.
- Set up a couple of portable fans and a big umbrella on your patio, and fire up the grill for a family cookout. Prepare a buffet of cold side dishes like coleslaw, a fruit platter, a raw veggie plate with dip, and cheese and crackers so there's nothing to cook except the meat dish.

- Spend a hot afternoon at the public library enjoying the air-conditioned space and reading a book you've been meaning to get to. Bring the kids, too, so they can finish up their summer reading lists.

- Put on your bathing suit and set up a sprinkler in the back yard for some old-fashioned summer fun with your kids or grandchildren.



By the time you head home, the day will have cooled into evening, and the chances are good that you won't have to adjust the thermostat.

Leave Your A/C On During Vacations

If you're thinking about saving a few bucks by shutting your central air conditioning off while you escape for summer vacation, consider what you need to keep cool in your home while you're gone.

At the top of that list is your refrigerator. In a kitchen that's too warm, your refrigerator has to work at least twice as hard to keep its interior cold. It will put in double duty

regardless of whether there's food inside of it, as long as it's plugged in.

That can counteract any energy savings you might see when you turn off the A/C for a week. And it could stress your refrigerator out enough to damage or even ruin it.

Best bet: Nudge the thermostat up 4-5° higher than usual before you leave for vacation. That way your house won't be as cool as it would be to keep people comfortable, but it won't get so warm that your refrigerator is uncomfortable.

Plus, keeping the A/C on could prevent other problems that may occur in a home that gets too humid because of a lack of air conditioning, such as mold and mildew growth, and damage to electronics.



Little Ocmulgee EMC to Celebrate 84 Years of Service to its Members

The Little Ocmulgee EMC 84th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Alamo. The location is yet to be determined.

Door prizes will be awarded at the meeting.

Pursuant to the Little Ocmulgee EMC Bylaws, a committee to nominate members for directorship has been appointed. The following co-op members will serve:

- **Laurens County (District 1):** Jimmy Butler, Eric Phillips, Larry Windham
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Marty Kinnett, Carey Knowles, Mattie White
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Carey Clark, Tommy Clark, Jamie Nobles

If you have comments or suggestions concerning nominations or persons who wish to be considered for a director nomination, please contact these committee members. The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, Aug. 23, to make director nominations. One director from each district is elected each year and will serve staggered three-year terms.

Directors seeking reelection for another three-year term are:

- **Laurens County (District 1):** LaRue Fountain
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Wesley Yawn
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Carey Locke



Nominations for directors can also be made by petition, which must be signed by 15 or more Little Ocmulgee EMC members in good standing and submitted to the co-op no later than Friday, Sept. 9, at 5 p.m. Nominations are not allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back. Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

—Source: energy.gov





MIKE TEEGARDEN

Rooftop Solar: To Add or Not to Add

If you've thought about adding solar as a home energy source, you've likely had an array of questions.

As your local electric cooperative, Little Ocmulgee EMC has answers.

When considering a rooftop solar system, it's important to know the facts regarding efficiency and energy savings—and whether solar will meet your needs, goals and financial objectives.

Typically, homeowners who install solar do so out of concern for the environment, to save money or both. It's important to know how rooftop solar at your home will impact these goals.

"If you are considering solar for any reason, it's important to contact Little Ocmulgee EMC during the decision-making process," says Lewis Sheffield, General Manager at Little Ocmulgee. "Our EMC is a trusted energy advisor and can answer questions about costs, possible savings and what kind of investment will best fit your electric needs."

While each home is different in terms of how much energy solar will provide, there are a few key factors to consider.

Energy Consumption

A solar system's size is based on the home's energy needs. Before installing solar, make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible in terms of lighting, heating and cooling systems and insulation. An energy-efficient home will require a smaller solar system, which will save money and help reduce environmental impact.

Associated Costs and Maintenance

The age and orientation of your roof will affect your costs. The best orientation for solar panels is facing south to receive direct sunlight; a shaded roof doesn't

produce as much solar energy. Because it costs more to replace a roof on a home with solar panels, the age of your roof also should be considered. Will your roof need to be replaced before solar panels need to be replaced? Just as a shingled roof doesn't last forever, neither does a solar panel system, which has an average lifespan of 25 to 30 years. Also, as a solar system ages, it produces less energy and may require maintenance and repairs.

'If you are considering solar for any reason, it's important to contact Little Ocmulgee EMC during the decision-making process.'

—Lewis Sheffield, General Manager, Little Ocmulgee EMC

Your Access to Reliable Electricity

Solar panels only produce power when the sun is shining. To have power at your home at night or on cloudy days, you'll need to remain connected to a primary power source, such as Little Ocmulgee EMC.

Signing a Solar Contract

Before you hire a solar contractor, contact Little Ocmulgee EMC to learn about our solar offerings, rate structures and interconnection agreements. As with any major home-improvement project, get bids from three contractors to compare equipment and pricing when considering solar.

"Little Ocmulgee EMC is always available to help in the process of obtaining the solar array that's right for you," Sheffield says. "Be sure to visit our website at loemc.com to review helpful resources to assist you in evaluating solar options."

Recipe of the Month

Cajun Green Beans

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

1 tablespoon vegetable or canola oil
1/4 cup diced onion
1/4 cup diced bell pepper, any color
1/4 cup diced celery
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 tablespoon Cajun spice
4 cups green beans, washed, strung, snapped
2 cups chicken broth

Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper, celery and garlic to pan and cook until onions are translucent. Add Cajun spice to vegetables, stirring to combine. Add green beans and chicken broth to mixture. Bring mixture to a boil, then reduce heat to simmer. Cook 10 minutes for *al dente* green beans or 20-30 minutes for ones that are softer. *Serves about 6.*



GEORGIA GROWN

For recipes from farms and producers across our state, visit www.georgiagrown.com.

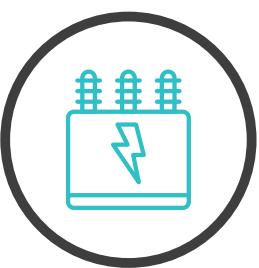
Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible until everyone has power.



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.