

Electric News

Published for Members of the Little Ocmulgee EMC

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 • VOLUME 46, NUMBER 2



Make Your Home Mold-Unfriendly

What do mold and mildew love best? Summertime. But there are a few ways to help make mold unwelcome in your home during the summer by following these simple mold-prevention steps:

1. Resist the urge to turn off your air-conditioning system—or to crank it up to 85 degrees—as you leave for vacation. A hot, humid house is a breeding ground for mold, and you won't be around to nip it in the bud. Leave your A/C no higher than 78 degrees, whether you're home or away.
2. Invest in an indoor humidity monitor to check that the air inside your home does not creep higher than 60% relative humidity (50% is better). If you have a humidity problem, it's time to install a dehumidifier. You can find portable dehumidifiers for less than \$200, or cover the whole house for less than \$2,000 (depending how big your house is).
3. Close the windows while your



A/C is running. Opening windows and doors not only lets cool air escape, but it also invites humidity indoors.

4. Clean up puddles. Standing water in your basement, around your refrigerator or freezer, and under basement windows and doors can raise humidity levels in your home. Also check for

foundation leaks.

5. Run your washer, dryer and dishwasher after dark. Among the biggest culprits of high indoor humidity are appliances that generate heat. Waiting until after dark when the outdoor humidity is lower will help keep your indoor humidity levels in check.

Become a Fan of Fans

Running indoor fans on hot summer days can help your family stay cool and your energy bills remain manageable. Here are a few tips:

- Running a fan is cheaper than running the air conditioner. If August presents you with a comfortable, breezy day, turn your A/C off and run floor fans instead.
- If you have ceiling fans, run them while the A/C is on. Fans don't

cool a room, per se. Instead, they move air around to create a breeze that feels cool on the skin. For summer, the fan will push air downward if you switch the blades to move counterclockwise. You might also be able to turn the thermostat up a few degrees while ceiling fans are running.

- Turn off all fans if you're not in the room. The fan isn't cooling the

room; it's cooling the people in it. So if a room is empty, a running fan is a waste of electricity.

- If your fans are mounted in windows, don't use them on days when the outdoor air is hotter than the indoor air. Window fans—and your window-mounted air conditioner's fan setting—pull outdoor air into the house.

Easy Ways to Control Water Use

By Katherine Loving

Conserving water at home can result in several downstream benefits and savings. Being mindful of home water use helps preserve the amount of water in our local reservoirs and reduces costs associated with water and wastewater treatment, including the cost of delivering it to the home (for those using a public water service).

Leaky toilets, showerheads and dripping faucets can waste up to 2,700 gallons of water annually. Home water conservation can simply start by checking your house for any leaks and drips. Another simple way to conserve water is to limit running water when it isn't necessary. For example, turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, and defrost food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of placing frozen food under running water.

Home gardens are another potential area for water conservation. Start by planting drought-resistant plants or those with minimal water needs. Group the plants by similar water needs to avoid waste by watering from plant to plant. A drip irrigation system for plants that requires more water can boost efficiency by using less water over a longer period. Set lawn sprinklers on a timer to limit water use, and place them where the water will only reach plants, not pavement.

Another conservation option is to use a rain barrel to collect water for nonpotable purposes. Harvested rainwater is an excellent option for watering ornate gardens and washing cars.

Reducing water use at home can also help lower your energy use. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that water heating accounts for about 20% of a home's energy bill. Switching to an energy-efficient heat pump water heater can save considerable money on electric bills. Heat pump water heaters have higher upfront costs than storage tank models, but tax incentives and potential rebates can offset this cost. Check with your local electric cooperative to see if they offer rebates or a load management program.

If upgrading your water heater isn't an option, try reducing hot water use by switching to low-flow faucets and showerheads. You can also turn down the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and insulate hot water lines to increase energy savings.

Additional ways to conserve water and electricity



Leaky toilets, showerheads and dripping faucets can waste up to 2,700 gallons of water annually.



Harvested rainwater is an excellent option for watering ornate gardens and washing cars.

include upgrading clothes washers and dishwashers to newer, more energy-efficient models. Running these appliances only when full, or selecting a "light wash" setting reduces water and electricity use. Washing dishes by hand uses more water than an energy-efficient dishwasher, so avoid this method when possible.

If your home uses well water, it's important to be mindful of water conservation, particularly in drier climates. Well pumps run on electricity and can be a source of higher energy bills. Dry, overpumped wells can cause a pump to run continuously, using excess energy in the process. Malfunctioning well pumps also lead to spikes in energy use. Regular maintenance can help identify problems, such as leaks and faulty intake, which can lead to increased use of water and electricity.

There are a variety of changes—some large, some small—that can help you conserve water at home. Regardless of how you do it, thoughtfully managing water use can protect our water supply and make significant changes on energy bills.

Katherine Loving writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

Little Ocmulgee EMC to Celebrate 85 Years of Service to Its Members

The Little Ocmulgee EMC 85th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Wednesday, Nov. 8, 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):** Eric Phillips and Caleb Skipper
- **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 the above-listed committee members. The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, Aug. 22, 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):** Open
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Jim Knight
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Jimmy Grimes



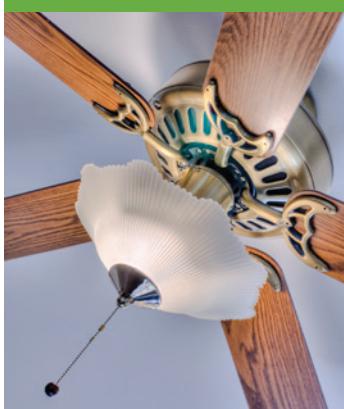
Little Ocmulgee EMC Annual Meeting of Members

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 8

Location: Alamo (TBD)

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. 8, at 5 p.m. Nominations are not allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room.

Remember: Ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: www.energy.gov





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**FRIDAY
NIGHT
LIGHTS**

To all the players, coaches and supporting staff, we wish you a great and safe 2023 football season. We're rooting for you.

Recipe of the Month

Quick Georgia Broccoli and Pecan Salad With Soy-Ginger Dressing

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

This crunchy salad is made with fresh, Georgia Grown broccoli. It's perfect for a weeknight side dish.

Ingredients

- 1 large bunch (about 1 pound) broccoli
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons pecan or peanut oil
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon grated ginger
- Sriracha sauce, to taste
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ cup sliced scallions
- ½ cup coarsely chopped Georgia pecans

Directions

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cut broccoli into florets. Using a vegetable peeler, peel the tough outside off broccoli stems then cut the stems into 1/4-inch slices. Add broccoli stems to boiling water. Blanch stems for

1 ½ minutes, then add florets and cook an additional minute. Drain broccoli, then plunge it into a bowl of ice water to stop cooking and retain bright green color. Drain and reserve broccoli when cooled.

In a bowl, mix together rice vinegar, soy sauce, pecan oil (or peanut oil), sesame oil, garlic, ginger and Sriracha sauce. Add broccoli to dressing mixture, tossing to coat. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Refrigerate about 30 minutes, or until chilled. When ready to serve, garnish with scallions and pecans. *Serves 4-6.*



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