



# Line Items

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## THREE DIY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS TO TACKLE THIS YEAR

A New Year brings new opportunities to save energy--and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

### TRIM DRYER VENT

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line--it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent.

### SEAL AIR LEAKS

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs.

### INSULATE ATTIC STAIRS OPENING

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store. If you decide to build your own, see the step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy at [energy.gov](http://energy.gov).

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home.



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BRONSON BRAGDON  
Editor

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## Between the Lines

by Greg Proctor  
President/CEO

## Providing Quality Service

Like any other business, Excelsior EMC must provide quality service at a competitive price to be successful. In fact, as a Cooperative, Excelsior EMC has an even greater responsibility than most businesses because our consumers are more than consumers, they are our owners. For this reason, quality service is continuously monitored and evaluated. Change is something we take on enthusiastically when it will improve service to you, our member-owners.

The job of evaluating and working to improve our service is never done. In fact, that is what our work is all about each day. If we are successful you will not notice that we are doing a better job. You might say that our goal is to keep you from thinking about us by keeping the lights on at all times. When the lights are off however, our employees go to work immediately to restore your power safely and as quickly as possible.

We are proud of our employees as they work day-to-day providing the highest quality of service at the lowest cost possible. The Georgia PSC rate comparisons listed in the October 2019 newsletter showed that Excelsior EMC was among the lowest cost providers of the 41 electric cooperatives and Georgia Power in the state. More importantly, the Cooperative's rates have been among the lowest for many years now.

We appreciate your interest and we encourage you to let us know if you see a way to make things better. If you ever have any comments or questions, all you have to do is call. We are always ready to listen.



Every Member Counts

# EVAN JOHNSON PROMOTED



*Excelsior EMC Lineman  
Evan Johnson*

Evan Johnson recently received his Integrated Transmission System (ITS) Qualified Operator Certification at the Electric Cooperative Training Center in Smarr, Georgia, completing the transition from Apprentice Lineman to Lineman.

During the week-long course in Smarr, Evan was given instruction on how to read system one-line diagrams to identify system configuration, direction of power flow, voltages, system equipment, and zones of protection for protective relays. He also received hands-on training in the operation and inspection of substation equipment, and the writing and executing of switching orders. At the end of the training session, he demonstrated the necessary procedures for substation power restoration and passed a written examination to become a qualified ITS operator.

Evan held the title of Apprentice Lineman for almost five years. He has undergone extensive on-the-job training under the supervision of a crew leader as well as classroom training, and has truly earned the distinction of being named an Excelsior EMC Lineman.

Excelsior EMC would like to congratulate Evan on his accomplishment.

## PROJECT SHARE: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For several years Excelsior EMC consumers have had the opportunity to help needy people in our community by contributing to the Salvation Army program known as Project SHARE. Excelsior EMC is one of the many utilities involved in helping citizens who need assistance with basic necessities such as housing, food, medical care, and utility services. Project SHARE helps the elderly, disabled, and those afflicted with illness, and others who are experiencing serious financial hardships.

An attractive part of the program is that your contribution goes to help someone from the county where the donation originated. Locally, the Department of Family and Children Services handles Project SHARE funds.

If you would like to participate, check the appropriate space and complete the form located on this page and return with your next payment.

This amount will be added each month to your bill. Anyone wishing to make a larger contribution should mail it directly to:

**Project SHARE**  
The Salvation Army Divisional HQ  
P.O. Box 930188  
Norcross, GA 30003-0188

**Yes, I'd like to participate in Project SHARE.**

Please add  \$1  \$2  \$5 to my electric account each month.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number (*we bill*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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