



Four Ways to Save Energy in the Kitchen

Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

1. When possible, cook with smaller appliances.

Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.



2. Unplug appliances that draw a phantom energy load.

Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen - these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

3. Help large appliances work less.

There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

4. Use your dishwasher efficiently.

Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.



★ **Bonus tip:** The best way to save energy in the kitchen is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings. Follow Excelsior EMC on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram for more energy efficiency tips and news from your Cooperative.

Line Items

BRONSON BRAGDON
Editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Anderson, Chairman	Statesboro, Georgia
Wade Hodges, Vice Chairman	Statesboro, Georgia
G.W. Johnson, Jr., Sec.-Treas.	Twin City, Georgia
Jordy Carter	Metter, Georgia
David Cromley	Brooklet, Georgia
Amy Hendrix	Metter, Georgia
Grady McCray	Metter, Georgia
Solly Trapnell	Statesboro, Georgia

Greg Proctor, President/CEO

*Jessie Goodman, Manager
Construction and Maintenance*

*Bill Walden, Manager
Data and Technical Services*

*Lindy Chester, Manager
Financial & Accounting Services*

*Howard Porter, Manager
Member Services*

When Your Power is Off – Call (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

The LINE ITEMS (ISSN 1089-9987) is published monthly for \$1.00 per year by Excelsior EMC, 2574 Northside Drive West, Statesboro, Georgia 30458. Periodicals postage paid at Statesboro, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LINE ITEMS, P.O. Box 297, Metter, Georgia 30439

Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

Service, Sally, and Safety

I am always thankful for the dedicated service our employees provide to our members. The cooperative business model is built on the core value of service. The men and women of Excelsior EMC embrace that core value and thrive on providing service to you, our members, day and night.

One of the guiding principles for Cooperatives is cooperation among cooperatives. When the call for assistance came in after Hurricane Sally hit Alabama and Hurricane Delta hit Louisiana, our linemen demonstrated their commitment to serve not only our members, but the members of our sister cooperatives by volunteering to lend a hand.

We know firsthand what it is like to need assistance, and our employees stepped up to the plate to give back what we have received in past years. Our employees understand that working these massive storms is grueling work. Storm duty involves sixteen-hour days for days on end to restore power to thousands of households. However, the reward is bringing power and safety back to people. There is nothing more satisfying than energizing a power line and watching the lights come on for a family that had been living in darkness until the work could get done. Thank a lineman, they are always there for you.

I am also thankful for the safe work record we have enjoyed over the last year. Our employees have worked one year without a lost time accident. Excelsior EMC employees focus each day on making safety the highest priority. All of our employees participate in safety training that covers a wide range of topics. Our linemen conduct a safety briefing before each job to discuss the potential hazards associated with the work they are to do. In an industry that involves working all hours of the night and day in less-than-desirable conditions, we must remain ever vigilant to ensure that all of our employees return home safely to their families each day.

Creating an effective safety culture is an ongoing process and a large commitment on behalf of the Cooperative. I am thankful for the effort that our employees demonstrate each and every day to have a positive attitude toward safety and a reduction in accidents and incidents.



Every Member Counts

SCAM ALERT

As you know, Excelsior EMC strives to ensure the safety of our members in every way possible. Most of the time that involves maintaining our distribution system or identifying and resolving any hazardous conditions that our employees or members find in the field. Today, however, we would like to help you to ensure that your identity is safe.

Every day, there is a scammer out there trying to think of a new way to steal your identity. The scary part of this is that they will use any means necessary to do so. Listed below are some tips on how to recognize and avoid being the victim of a scam.

- If you receive a phone call from a person representing themselves as an Excelsior EMC employee and you suspect it is a scam, hang up and report the incident to us at 912-685-2115.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID is legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
- Never wire money to someone you don't know.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts – especially those asking for your account information.
- Most utilities, including Excelsior EMC, will NOT require our members to purchase prepaid debit cards, gift cards, or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
- Legitimate companies will not call or e-mail you asking for your account number or password, so keep your account information to yourself.
- If someone appears at your door claiming to represent Excelsior EMC, you can call us at 912-685-2115 to verify the visit. The EEMC logo should appear on hats, shirts, and vehicles of all of our employees. If you suspect someone is impersonating an EEMC employee, do not let them into your home and call 911 immediately.

Finally, please warn neighbors, friends, and relatives who may be susceptible to these types of scams.

In observance of Thanksgiving, Excelsior EMC offices will be closed:

Thursday, November 26, 2020

and Friday, November 27, 2020

Emergency personnel will be available by calling our 24 hour dispatch center at (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123.



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



Pictured (left to right) is Evan Johnson, Jonathan Hansen, Jamey Holland, and Jamey Donaldson as they had just arrived home after a week of hard work at Baldwin EMC.



Pictured (left to right) is Hunter Young, Stephen Burke, Justin Powell, and James McNeeley while at Beauregard Electric Cooperative Inc.

“Cooperation among cooperatives” is a principle that we operate by, and we are always happy and willing to lend a helping hand to a fellow cooperative whenever possible. While we have escaped severe weather over the last month, some of our fellow cooperatives were not so lucky.

Hurricane Sally wreaked havoc on Baldwin EMC in Summerdale, Alabama. At the peak of the damage, they had over 77,000 of their members without power. On September 18, Excelsior EMC sent a four-man crew to assist with the massive power restoration effort taking place along the Gulf shore.

Just a few short weeks after Hurricane Sally had passed, Hurricane Delta hit in Deridder, Louisiana and knocked out the power to 100% of Beauregard Electric Cooperative Inc.’s 44,000 members. On October 12, Excelsior EMC sent another four-man crew to fight through the damage and help to restore power.

Without blinking an eye, our crews volunteered to travel hundreds of miles away from their homes and families to work very long days in less than ideal conditions, all in the name of helping complete strangers in their time of need. We are happy to have them back and proud to have such dedicated and caring employees.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT
STATESBORO, GA 30458