



Line Items

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ARE SOLAR PANELS A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR HOME?

Harnessing energy from the sun through the use of solar panels has become increasingly popular as of late. Hundreds of thousands of solar panels have been installed across the country as more and more Americans choose to power their lives with the sun's energy. Solar is a fantastic energy source due to the fact that it is the cleanest and most abundant form of renewable energy available. Depending on multiple factors, installing solar panels on your home may or may not be the best idea for you. Here are some things to consider before you decide to install solar panels on your roof:

How much is your power bill? If you have low energy usage on a monthly basis, solar panels may not save you enough money to justify installing them on your home. If you have high monthly energy usage, then day-time energy use offset by solar production may offer a return on your investment.

Does your roof need repairs? If you know that you will need a new roof soon, or that a part of your roof is damaged, it's best to wait to install solar panels until these repairs are made.

What kind of roof do you have? The size, shape, orientation, weight capacity, and slope of your roof are important factors to consider. Typically, solar panels perform best on south-facing roofs with a slope between 15 and 40 degrees, though other roofs may be suitable too.

How much sunlight does your roof get? For optimal efficiency and productivity, your roof needs to have unobstructed and constant sunlight for as much of the day as possible.

How long will you live in your house? Due to the high initial cost of the solar system, it may take quite a few years before your solar

panel investment will pay off. If you only plan to live in your home for a short amount of time, installing solar panels may not be advisable.

Do you have the right insurance? Having the right insurance to cover both yourself and any damage to your home during installation is something you absolutely need to consider.

Can you DIY? Solar panel installation can be a tricky process. Panel-mounting brackets penetrate the roof. If not done correctly, these penetrations will leak. Therefore, it is always best to use trained professionals.

Don't forget about maintenance. While solar panels are pretty low maintenance, it's a good idea to question your contractor what maintenance procedures are required before the installation begins. Without the proper maintenance, there is a good chance your equipment will underperform and not last as long as you want it to.

Solar panels are expensive. Although prices have decreased over the last few years, a complete solar energy system can be very costly. Be aware that solar installations are an investment that the break-even point is often decades into the future. Please evaluate your estimated payback closely.



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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.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

2021 Right of Way Update

Keeping your lights on is our highest priority, second only to safety. We understand that an interruption in power is an interruption to your life, so we continuously look for ways to improve reliability.

Vegetation is by far the greatest enemy of reliable power. Green trees, tree limbs, and dead trees combined accounted for 54% of our outages in 2020. Keeping vegetation out of power lines prevents outages. Side-trimming crews use mechanical trimmers and bucket trucks to keep trees and limbs away from power lines. Spray crews manage the vegetation underneath power lines by selectively spraying woody trees and shrubs that could grow into the power lines or hinder the work of crews as they maintain power lines and restore power.

Our contractors recently completed side-trimming on the Ivanhoe Substation that supplies power to members in the Eldora, Blitchton, Hubert, and Stilson communities. Another contract crew is currently trimming in the Denmark area. This crew should complete their work on the Southeast Bulloch Substation in early April and then begin their work on the I16/Hwy 301 Substation. This substation serves the Nevils, Sandy Creek Farm, Sinkhole, Trinity Church, PoJo's, New Hope, Adabelle, Claxton Airport, and Hwy 169 areas. We estimate that they will complete this substation in November and then begin work on the Langston Substation area. This substation serves the Hazelwood, Ogeechee Tech, Meadow Lakes, and Lanier Road areas.

Our contract spraying crews will begin their work in early May and finish in July. They will be spraying rights of way in the Twin City, Garfield, Middleground, Akins Pond, Hopeulikit, Eldora, Stilson, Aline and Evergreen communities. They will also be spraying the Langston Substation area listed above.

Our goal is simple: Keep the trees trimmed back 15 feet on either side of a single-phase power line and 20 feet on either side of a three-phase power line, and keep the areas under power lines free from vegetation that interferes with crews as they maintain or restore power. While the goal is simple, achieving the goal requires hard work. We need your cooperation. Right of way work is often in places that are difficult to reach. It is also physically demanding. You can help us keep your lights on by working with our contractors when they are trimming or spraying in your area.

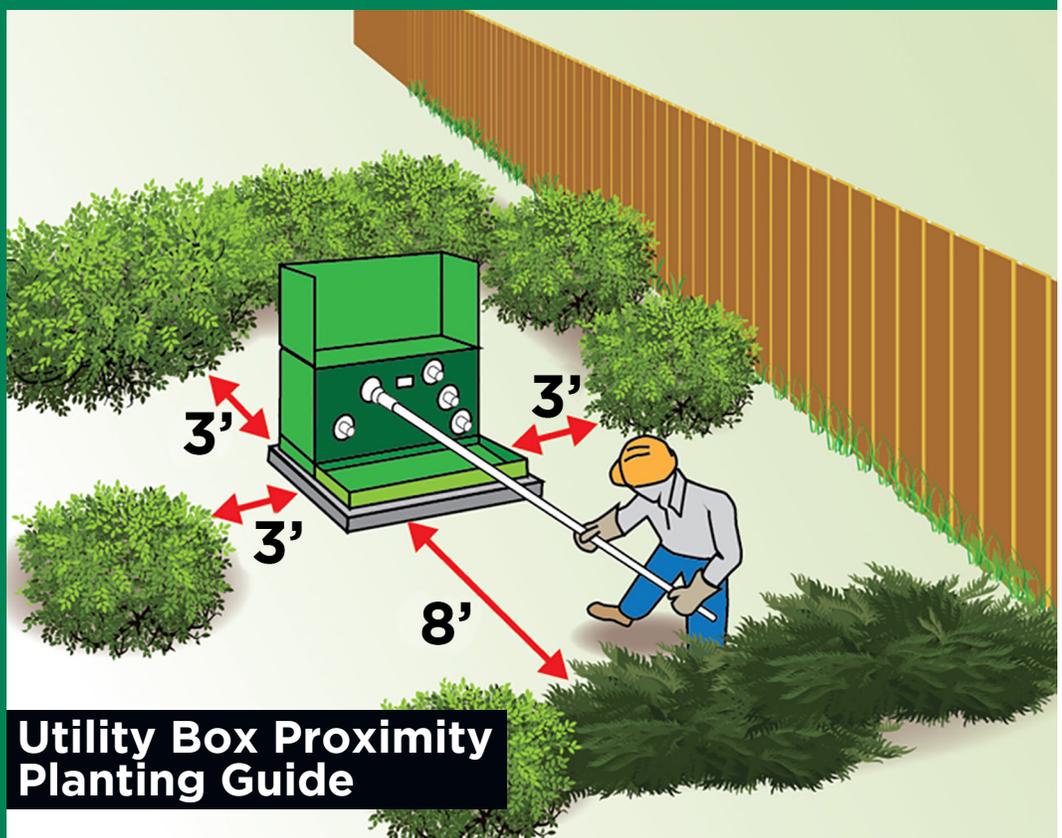
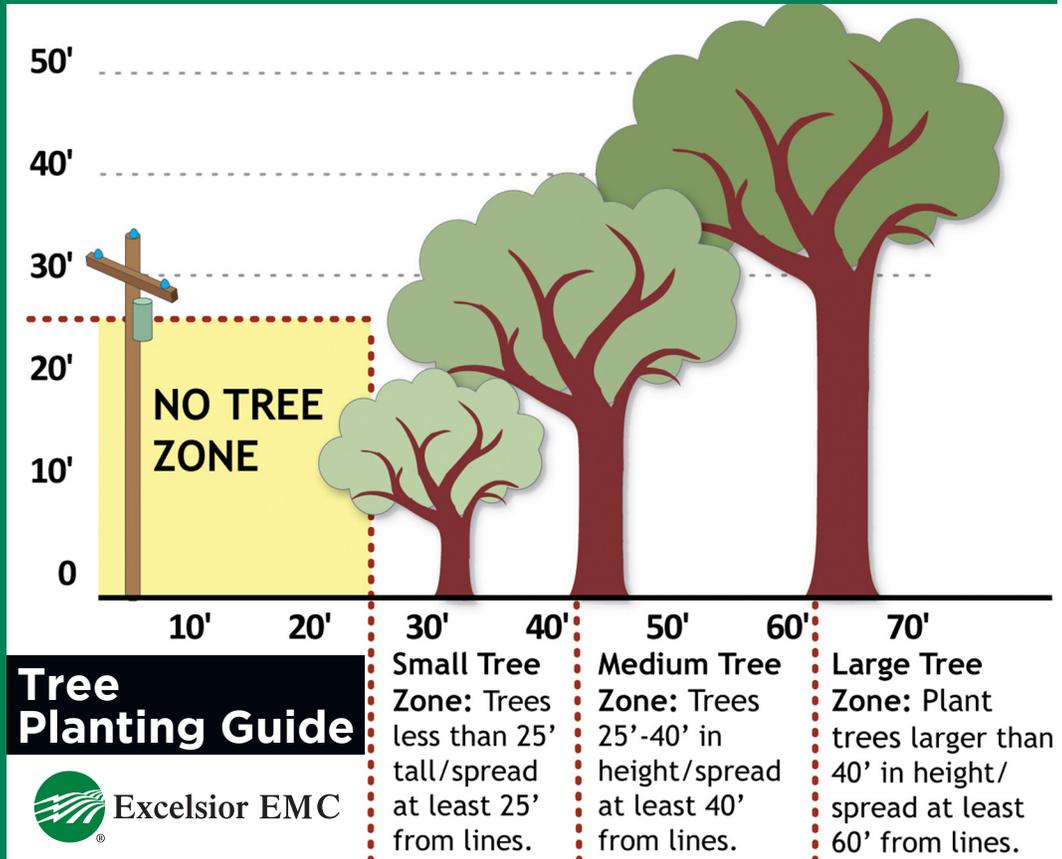
We have approximately 2,800 miles of primary power lines throughout our eight-county service area. It takes approximately four years to complete a side-trimming cycle and three years to complete a spraying cycle. Your cooperation is essential and greatly appreciated as we strive to keep the electrons flowing.



Every Member Counts

PLANNING YOUR PLANTING

When planting trees and shrubbery on your property, please be mindful of their proximity to our electrical equipment and how big they will be at their maturity. Please follow these guidelines in order to help us maintain a proper right-of-way and adequate working space for our line crews.



GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR HEAT PUMP



Because heat pumps work a little differently than other types of heating systems, operating them for maximum efficiency is also different.

Heat pumps don't create heat like a furnace – they move it. That makes them a highly efficient way to keep your home comfortable.

Follow these tips to get the most from your heat pump system:

Don't turn the thermostat up and down frequently. Heat pumps generally function best when left at the temperature you're most comfortable with. Moving the thermostat too much at one time will cause the auxiliary heat to operate, requiring more energy.

Do use a programmable or smart thermostat to turn down the system when you're sleeping or away. A programmable or smart thermostat is smart enough to do the job without using the auxiliary heat.

Don't set the thermostat to "EMERGENCY HEAT" unless the outdoor unit is not functioning. Emergency heat is a temporary setting that provides minimal heat while you're waiting for the repairman to arrive.

Don't be alarmed by a light frost on, or steam coming from, the outdoor unit. This is part of the equipment's regular operating cycle.

Expect the unit to run in severe weather. For economics, heat pumps are not sized for extreme conditions that we rarely experience. In these unusual instances, the auxiliary heat will help the unit do its job.

Set the fan to AUTO. Running the unit's fan continuously adds unnecessary dollars to your heating bill.

Keep filters changed and vents unobstructed. Keep the outdoor unit clean and free from shrubs. Heat pumps circulate a lot of air and keeping the airstream open helps them do their job.

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