

Cooperative Solar

If you're interested in the benefits of a rooftop solar system but don't think you can afford it, your home is shaded, your homeowners' association has strict covenants, or you're a renter, Cooperative Solar may be a good option for you. That is because Cooperative Solar allows you to choose just the right amount of solar energy from your EMC's offsite solar energy facilities. As a Cooperative Solar subscriber, you'll receive clean, affordable, renewable solar energy directly from Sumter EMC's portfolio of solar energy resources.

The electricity delivered to your home through the power grid is calculated and the solar energy generated from your share of the total solar portfolio capacity will be credited

back to you. Sumter EMC takes on the risk of ownership and maintenance, while you receive your share of the sun without the hassle!

COOPERATIVE SOLAR ADVANTAGES:

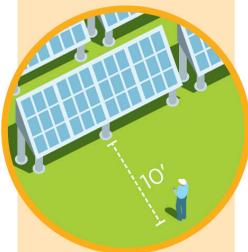
- Affordable
- No long-term contracts
- More cost-effective than owning or leasing a rooftop solar system
- Nothing to finance
- No shade limitations
- No holes in your roof
- No maintenance issues
- Neighborhood covenants do not affect access
- Renters can participate

Questions about Cooperative Solar??

Contact the Sumter EMC Engineering Department at 229-924-8041 to determine if Cooperative Solar is suited for your specific needs.

SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

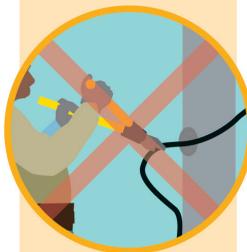
Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you're near solar panels.



Stay at least 10 feet away from the installation.



Never walk on solar panels.



Never cut any wiring to the solar panels.



Never touch broken or damaged solar panels.



The Impacts of Summer Heat

We typically think of summer as a time to enjoy lots of sunshine and fun-filled outdoor activities. But summer also has its challenges with times of extreme heat which can potentially be dangerous. Sumter EMC encourages you to remain safe by taking the following steps to help beat the heat:



-  **STAY INFORMED:** Check local news for extreme heat alerts.
-  **STAY COOL:** If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours.
-  **STAY HYDRATED/DRESS APPROPRIATELY:** Drink fluids regularly, regardless of activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
-  **DON'T** leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.
-  **DO** check on elderly friends and neighbors.

Not only does the heat impact your health and body temperatures, it impacts your energy bills. Weather is the number one driving factor that can influence the amount of energy used. In Georgia, hot and humid summer days cause air conditioners to run more to make our homes feel comfortable. Because air conditioners are typically the largest electrical equipment in a residence, their increased use requires much more electrical energy than in the spring and fall months. Higher power bills in the summer are mostly caused by greater use of energy in the home.

Sumter EMC encourages members to log on to the online portal at www.sumteremc.com or download the

Sumter EMC smart app to help monitor their account usage. Prepay service is also a great option to help members manage their bill. Those on prepay accounts tend to monitor their day-to-day usage much more closely.

To keep electricity bills from soaring like the outdoor temperatures, consider:

- Making sure that your HVAC system is working properly. A surprising number of systems are not. Your HVAC system should be checked twice per year.
- Setting your thermostat as high as comfortably possible when you're home, and raise the temperature when you're sleeping or away from home. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.
- Turning off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.
- Installing white window shades or blinds to reflect heat away from the house. Keep the window coverings closed during the day to block the sun's heat.
- Adding caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.
- Turning down the temperature of your water heater to 120°F.
- Washing only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Drying clothes by air-drying on clothes lines or drying racks.
- Cooking on an outdoor grill.

Sumter EMC provides a no-cost home energy audit upon request for members who want to find ways to lower their power bill, complete with energy saving tips customized for their home.

2019 REBATES Program

January 1 - December 31, 2019

Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis to replace a central system electric or gas furnace with an electric heat pump. Call Sumter EMC today to see if you qualify!



Rebate program ends on December 31, 2019 or when the budget for the program is reached, whichever comes first. Sumter EMC must inspect your existing heating system before any new work is done and again once all upgrades are complete.

HELP KEEP YOUR AUTOMATIC METER ACCESSIBLE TO US

Even though Sumter EMC's automatic meters allow us to read your meter from the office, Sumter EMC will continue to perform an annual field check on all meters. You can help us reach your meter and read it safely by:

- Making certain we have clear access to your meter.
- Pruning any plants hiding the meter.
- Leaving dogs inside or on a leash.
- Moving all objects blocking the meter.

Thank you for your help in keeping your meter accessible to us.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov



Take charge with Prepay Electric Service

Sumter EMC's Prepay Electric Service program for residential accounts offers:

- No more late fees, disconnect fees or reconnect fees
- Convenient payment options
- Daily notifications to keep you updated with your account balance and daily energy usage

Call Sumter EMC today for details.

ENERGY TERMS QUIZ

Can you match the definitions below with the correct energy terms?
Use the word bank for clues!



1. These energy sources, like coal, oil and natural gas, were formed from the remains of ancient plants and animals buried underground and are used to generate electricity.



2. This is the network of poles and power lines that sends electricity from where it's generated to homes and businesses all over the county.

3. These energy sources include natural energy from the sun, wind and water and are used to generate electricity.



4. This is the flow of electrically charged particles like electrons within a conductor or circuit.

5. This is the act of using less energy.



Word Bank

CURRENT

ELECTRIC GRID

FOSSIL FUELS

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Answer Key: 1. fossil fuels 2. electric grid 3. renewable resources 4. current 5. energy conservation