



Coweta-Fayette



powerlines

DIY ENERGY SAVERS

Easy Projects to Save Energy Around Your Home

Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the Most of Your Water Heater.

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees.

Seal Air Leaks with Caulk.

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack



The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. *Photo Credit: Rare Form Properties*

or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weather Strip Exterior Doors.

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if

you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it

can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.



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Why Blickle chose EMC

When people move, they find themselves facing all sorts of choices: which route to take to work, which grocery store to use or which shade of paint for the walls. One thing people don't choose is their power provider.

However, when Blickle's United States Headquarters decided to relocate to the Coweta Industrial Park where both Georgia Power and CFEMC provide electricity, the company had their pick between the two providers. Blickle decided Coweta-Fayette EMC was best for their business.

Blickle is a high-tech German wheels and casters manufacturing company. Wheels and casters may not sound as glamorous as large tech companies, but it is a multi-billion-dollar market internationally. Blickle is a family-owned business with 17 subsidiaries around the world.

"Anywhere you go, you're going to see wheels and casters," said Scott Chahal, President of Blickle USA. Most manufacturers of wheels and casters moved to China, explained Chahal. It's common to see wobbly wheels or wheels with the tread separating, but Blickle is not the type of business to mass-produce low-quality items.

"We always compete like the German model with automotive," Chahal explained, "Mercedes, Porsche, BMW—that's Blickle in the market."

Blickle's wheels and casters hold up over time. They're also designed to maximize comfort and minimize strain and injuries on the job. Chahal said the new Blickle location will soon have a test track inspired by the Porsche Experience Center so customers can feel the quality.

Chahal described Blickle as strategic. As a family business, he explained, "there's not a lot of financial wheeling and dealing." Blickle opts instead for the "long approach." That means opting for quality and making benefi-

cial decisions for the long term. Even Blickle's choice of power provider proved strategic.

As Blickle grows and starts to manufacture more, Chahal said, having reliable power for processes such as injection molding become

essential. "It needs to be consistent," he said, "It needs to meet any and all needs we have."

"We basically interviewed both Georgia Power and EMC," said Chahal. Blickle may be the largest manufacturer in the world for wheels and casters, explained Chahal, but the company in the U.S. is "essentially a startup." With EMC, he said, "We didn't feel like a little fish in a very big pond."

Even though financial numbers play a role in business decisions, Chahal stressed the importance of people in setting

one company apart from the rest. "Each and every time it comes down to people," he said.

Greg Wright, Senior Director of Community and Economic Development, was one of those people. Wright presented the proposal to serve Blickle and represented CFEMC throughout Blickle's decision-making process. Wright has extensive experience working in economic development on both state and local levels.

"Making a proposal to serve a business comes down to listening to each customer and seeing what matters to them," said Wright, "especially for manufacturing companies looking for reliability and low rates. We try to present the best of what we can give in a way that makes sense for us and our members."

CFEMC takes pride in hiring talented local people to support our members and community. It's important to CFEMC to grow and support our local economy so members have access to good jobs. Coweta-Fayette EMC looks forward to supporting Blickle and all the companies we serve by continuing to offer affordable, reliable power and excellent customer service.



Scott Chahal, President of Blickle USA, stressed the importance of people in setting one company apart from the rest.



The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

When our members think about Coweta-Fayette EMC and reliability, they most likely think about the time they are without electric service. Although this is one of our greatest concerns, when CFEMC thinks about reliability, we also consider other facets of our business, both internally and externally.

In order to provide you with the most trustworthy billing data, we strive to maintain a minimum of 99% billing accuracy. Accomplishing this involves many elements throughout our organization. From the meter programming and installation, to processing each member account, there are a number of checks and balances in place to assure accuracy.

Innovation has certainly been a factor as well. From a time when our members read and reported their meter reading to us, then to reading meters on a monthly basis, to now, we read each meter four times a day. This allows us to create hourly usage so you can view your information and better understand how you consume energy.

We monitor the reliability of our internal data networks. If they are down, then providing you reliable customer service is compromised. We have a fully staffed Information Technology ("IT") department utilizing a number of innovative solutions to monitor our network. This staff is measured on how well they respond and restore any disruption in our customer information systems. We also challenge our employees to recognize phishing emails to limit cyber security threats.

When it comes to you being without your electric service, that is where all employees of CFEMC excel. In 2017, we finished the year with an average of 96.75 minutes of outage per member per year, not considering the effects of major storms like Hurricane Irma. There are over 525,000 minutes in a year. That means, on average, your power is on 99.98% of the time. Our dedicated line crews work tirelessly, sometimes in the harshest of conditions at night, on weekends and holidays, to make sure you have reliable service.

Through innovation, we continue to strive to reduce your outage time even more. All our field crews utilize tablets in the field to update outage information quickly. Once they are on site and have restored the outage, they can electronically update the system making us much more efficient.

Our engineering and operations group continues to deploy automation to help automatically restore your service. We just recently installed our largest scheme to date with over 15 devices that will benefit approximately 3,000 members. As we measure and benchmark our outage data, our strategic goal is to continue reducing the time you are without power.

One of our core values is to provide you with reliable electric service. In doing so, it is more than just keeping the lights on. All of us here at CFEMC are working hard to improve reliability in a variety of ways.

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