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5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA  
[www.mitchellemc.com](http://www.mitchellemc.com)

## Grow Your Summer Energy Savings *Mitchell EMC can help you save money.*

By Maura Giles

One of my favorite things about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers' market or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor. It's amazing how just a few seeds, some fertilizer and water can turn into a bounty.

When I think about energy efficiency, I think about that bounty of food, and how with just a few simple actions, you can use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

You don't need to be a farmer or botanist to know that plants need water—just like you don't have to be a lineworker or engineer to know that adjusting the thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill. In fact, if you read Mitchell EMC's publications regularly and follow us on Facebook, you know there are a lot of things you

can do at home to save electricity and money.

Summer months bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. But why? Cooling your home accounts for a large portion of your monthly energy use, and the hotter it gets, the harder (and longer) your air conditioner works to keep you cool.

There are several ways you can manage energy use at home, and below, we're providing a few tips that can help grow your summer energy savings.

But I'd also like to share a few ways we're here to help you save—not only during the dog days of summer but throughout the year.

One of the great things about being part of Mitchell EMC is that we're locally owned by you, our members. So instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community. That's why we've developed incentives and programs to help you keep your money in your wallet.

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## 5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

- 1. Raise your thermostat.**  
The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.
- 2. Install window coverings**  
like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

- 3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.
- 4. Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.
- 5. Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



## Power Up Your Lawn Care with Electric Equipment

The landscape of lawn and garden care is evolving, and electric equipment is at the forefront of this change. While electric lawn tools aren't new, advancements in technology and more options mean prices have become more competitive, making electric equipment an accessible option for many consumers.

### Benefits of Electric Equipment

Electric lawnmowers have come a long way since the days of extension cords tethering you to an outlet. Battery-powered mowers offer the same freedom of movement as gas-powered models but with reduced noise and maintenance.

Battery life was once a major drawback to making the switch to electric lawn tools. But today's growing demand for electric equipment has resulted in major advancements for lithium-ion batteries, making them more reliable, cost-effective and efficient. For most consumers, electric lawn tools can get the job done just as well as gas-powered models.

Many electric mowers offer push-button starts, and because they are lighter, they are easier to maneuver around tight turns. Improved batteries provide longer run times to tackle larger spaces. Like their gas-powered counterparts, electric mowers are available in push, self-propelled/walk-

behind and riding models. And there's no need to refill gas cans or change oil and air filters, resulting in less hassle and maintenance.

Like mowers, electric blowers, string trimmers and chainsaws have fewer moving parts, require minimal maintenance and are quieter. Because electric tools are generally lighter in weight, they're also more ergonomic and easier to maneuver. This feature is especially handy for projects that require tools like chainsaws for precise work.

### Choose Electric Equipment to Meet Your Needs

Electric lawn tools have some limitations, so the size and terrain of your outdoor space are important considerations when purchasing new equipment. When comparing gas-powered and electric mowers, consider the torque rating--this is the driving force behind a blade's rotation. On average, electric lawnmowers generate less torque than gas mowers. If you have a challenging outdoor space that includes overgrown brush, tall grass, or hills and dips, torque is a key factor.

Choosing the right type and size mower is particularly important for spaces larger than half an acre. If you have a large property, consider purchasing an extra battery to ensure uninterrupted workflow.

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Source: Consumer Reports

### Making the Switch to ELECTRIC LAWN EQUIPMENT

Considering electric equipment to maintain your outdoor space? Check out the benefits of electric and considerations before making the switch.



### Benefits of Electric Equipment

- Battery-powered equipment produces zero emissions
- No hassle and mess from gasoline and oil
- Quieter and more reliable than gas-powered equipment
- Require less energy to do the same amount of work as gas-powered tools

### Considerations Before Going Electric

- Purchasing from a single brand can streamline charging
- Consider the size of your property and battery run time
- Backup batteries may be needed for larger projects
- Electric equipment is pricier up front

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



## Happy MOTHER'S DAY



## Power Up Your Lawn Care

Many manufacturers offer interchangeable batteries and chargers, providing flexibility and convenience. Choosing a single brand can ensure charging compatibility across your lawn tools and streamline charging.

While both gas and electric lawn tools can get the job done, electric equipment generally requires

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less maintenance, is less expensive to operate and is kinder to the environment.

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.*

## Grow Your Summer Energy Savings

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Save money with these easy incentives:

- **Rebates** – Mitchell EMC offers 3 ways to give you money back for efficient equipment you purchase, like heat pumps and water heaters. Many of our rebates can be claimed by simply filling out a form. Find a list of all our rebates at <https://mitchellemc.com/customer-service/consumer-rebates>.

- **Free Energy Audits** – Our energy advisors can determine the overall efficiency of your home and help you with ways to improve it. If you want to do it yourself, we can help with that too. For more information visit <https://mitchellemc.com/energy-efficiency>.

- **Take Control of Your Use** – Use the Mitchell EMC App or log on to the online portal to track your energy use. You can even get alerts when your use spikes so you can make changes in real time.

- **Ways to Pay** – If you're having a difficult time paying the higher bills that come with increased used in the summer, contact us to learn about our budget or levelized billing or prepaid electric program.

Most people don't know everything about electricity, and that's why we're here to help you. There are no investors making profits here. Just knowledgeable people with local jobs, working for our neighbors to ensure there is electricity available when you need it. Contact us, and we can work with you to find more ways to save energy—and money.

*Maura Giles writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.*

# Do Finances Keep You Up at Night?

May is Better Sleep Month, which is the perfect time to focus on improving your sleep habits. Sleep is a pillar of health, and quality sleep is crucial. Poor sleep not only leaves you tired, but it also puts your health at risk and impairs cognitive functions—judgment, problem-solving and reasoning—making you more vulnerable to dangerous situations like traffic and “at work” accidents.

Many people toss and turn at night from the stress of unpaid bills or loss of income, which can lead to insomnia or other sleep difficulties. Don't let financial stress deprive you of a peaceful night's sleep.

If worrying about money keeps you up at night, talk to a financial professional about your situation and proactively seek guidance. Spending time addressing your financial concerns and creating good financial wellness habits such as managing expenses, following a budget, reducing debt and having emergency savings (and savings for future expenses) are important steps that can help you rest better at night.

Use Better Sleep Month to develop good nightly routines—sticking to a schedule, limiting screen time and creating an optimal sleep environment—and good financial habits. Managing your sleep routine and managing financial stresses in your life can



help you turn those sleepless nights into restful recharging experiences.

*Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Past performance does not guarantee future results.*

*This financial wellness tip is provided by Homestead Advisers, a financial services company established over 30 years ago to help meet the investment needs of communities within the National Rural Electric Cooperative family. Homestead Advisers provides a range of investment advisory services, including financial planning, and also serves as the investment adviser for the Homestead Funds, a family of registered mutual funds. Homestead Advisers Corp., a registered investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of NRECA.*



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**REMEMBER & HONOR**

Let us pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Their sacrifice will forever be etched in our hearts.



**Note:** If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

## Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applications for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status. M/F/V/DV/D

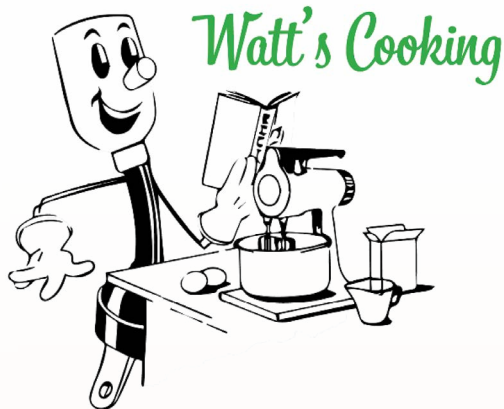


Photo Credit: [www.tasteofhome.com](http://www.tasteofhome.com)

## Kentucky Derby Pie

### Ingredients

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup self-rising flour
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 stick of butter
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup pecans
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 unbaked 8-inch pie shell

### Directions

With a fork, mix sugar and flour well. Add eggs and butter, then blend. Add coarsely chopped pecans and chocolate chips. Add vanilla and mix well, then pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 325 degrees for 40-45 minutes.

**Submitted by:**  
Elaine Barker, Worth County

## Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a

**\$25 credit**

on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to: Heather Greene, P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to [heather.greene@mitchellemc.com](mailto:heather.greene@mitchellemc.com).