

SPOTLIGHT

JONES-ONSLOW EMC—POWERING HOMES SINCE 1939

AUGUST 2021

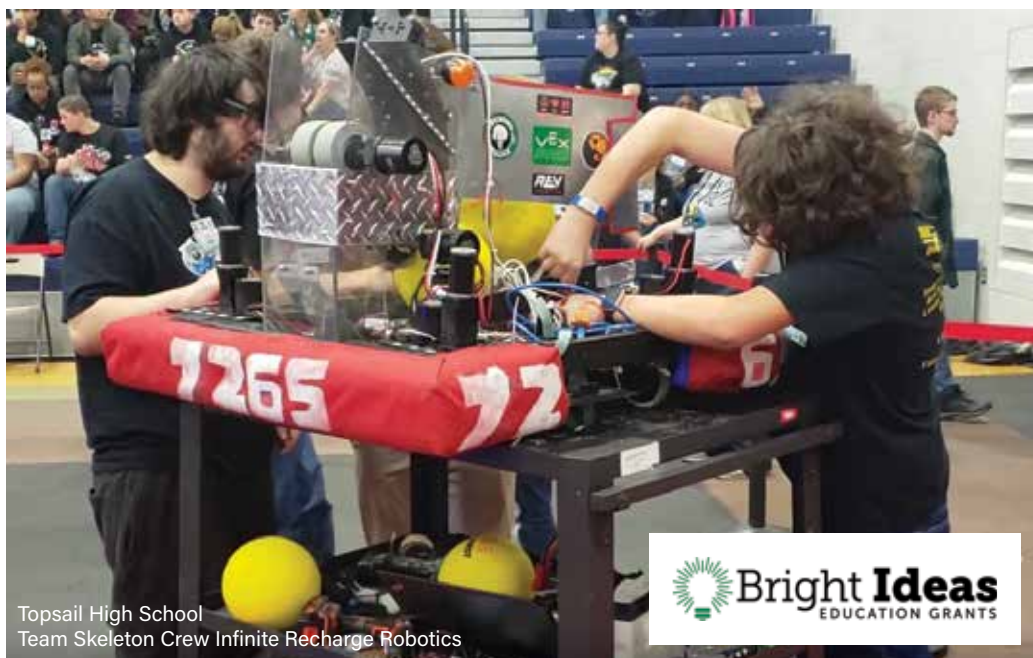
Kicking Off Another Year Educators, it's time to submit your **BRIGHT IDEAS**.

The Bright Ideas Grant Program is the cornerstone of our Educational Programs. Jones-Onslow is excited to celebrate 28 years of partnering with local educators and school systems by kicking off its Bright Ideas Grant Program for the 2021-2022 school year. Bright Ideas grants are designed to help provide teachers with specific opportunities to enhance their classroom educational experiences. We will be getting the information out about this year's program to the schools this month.

This year we will be giving over \$70,000 to educators in Onslow, Jones, and the

Topsail schools in Pender County. The deadline for submitting bright ideas will be September 24th, with the early bird deadline of September 10th. To date, we have given out over 1.4 million dollars in Bright Idea Grants that have funded over 2,000 projects but, more importantly, have directly impacted the education of over 551,000 students in our area.

For more information, go to joemc.com and click on *Your Cooperative*. Or contact Paula Redick at redick@joemc.com or 910-353-1940.



Topsail High School
Team Skeleton Crew Infinite Recharge Robotics



Early Bird
Deadline



Submit your application by **September 10, 2021**, and be entered into a drawing to win one of five \$100 VISA gift cards.



When the lights go out, don't be left in the dark. 🤖

Outage text alerts keep you informed 🤖

When the Lights Go Out, Don't be Left in the Dark

Jones-Onslow EMC's outage text alert program provides members a quick and convenient way to stay connected and informed during a power outage.

If there is a cell phone number associated with your electric account, you will automatically be enrolled in our Outage Text Alert Program. The program uses the latest SMS technology to enhance our customer service; the program delivers outage notifications to members within minutes of an issue. Please note that if you have the same cell phone number associated with multiple accounts, you will receive a text message asking you to register each account and assign nicknames for identification purposes manually.

Don't want to participate? Opting out is easy—type STOP in response to the text message you receive, and you will be removed from the program and all future text messages.

Learn more at joemc.com/outagetextalerts.

SAFETYFIRST

Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.



What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle slight variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts—this can be highly damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

Jones-Onslow EMC encourages all members to install surge protective

devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard their sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through various instances, like squirrels, birds, or other small animals contacting an energized power line, tree branches touching a power line or lightning, and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019

alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, JOEMC crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! If you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 910-353-1940. Learn more at www.joemc.com.



Call 811 Before You Dig

Jones-Onslow EMC would like to remind members that **ANYTIME** you start a digging project, no matter how large or small, it warrants a call to 811 at **least three working days prior**. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree, and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting. This **free and simple** step can save lives and reduce the risk of injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

For more information about safe digging and the "Call Before You Dig" process, visit nc811.org.



ENERGYEFFICIENCY

The Dog Days of Summer are Here

4 WAYS TO KEEP A TIGHT LEASH ON YOUR HOME ENERGY USE THIS SUMMER



1. THROW YOUR AIR CONDITIONER A BONE

- Close blinds, shades or curtains, to help keep the heat of the day out and cooled air in. And don't forget to change HVAC air filters regularly.

2. PUT YOUR ENERGY USE ON "PAWS"

- Wait to use major heat-producing appliances, like the clothes dryer and dishwasher, until the late evening to help your home stay cooler during the day.

3. FETCH A FAN FOR EASY SAVINGS

- Instead of turning down the thermostat, opt for a ceiling or portable fan to help cool you off. Just be sure your ceiling fan turns counterclockwise during hot weather to push cool air down. But remember ceiling fans cool people, *not* rooms.

4. GET MORE BANG FOR YOUR BARK WITH ENERGY MANAGEMENT TOOLS

- Take control of your home energy use with our online energy audits as well as home energy calculators (including those for appliances, lighting, and HVAC systems). Click on the *Energy Center* tab at www.joemc.com and start taking control of your energy use and budget today! Save energy; save money.



BLT Salad

This BLT pasta salad recipe is full of veggies, avocado, pasta and crispy bacon, all tossed in a cool and creamy dressing. The perfect easy meal or side dish!

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 20 minutes

Servings: 8

Ingredients

- 1 lb rotini or other short pasta
- 1 lb bacon cooked and crumbled
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes halved
- 3 cups shredded romaine lettuce
- 2 avocados peeled, pitted & diced
- 1 1/2 cups ranch dressing
- 2 tablespoons parsley chopped

Instructions

1. Cook pasta in salted water according to package directions.
2. Drain the pasta and run cold water over the pasta until cool.
3. Place the pasta in a bowl and toss with dressing. Add the bacon, cherry tomatoes, lettuce and avocado. Stir gently to coat.
4. Sprinkle with parsley then serve immediately.

COMMUNITYFOCUS

Emergency Broadband Benefit is Available

Jones-Onslow EMC is helping build awareness about Emergency Broadband Benefit, a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program. The temporary benefit will help lower the cost of broadband service for eligible households during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$3.2 billion program provides a discount of up to \$50 a month for broadband service for eligible households. Eligible households also can receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

- Approved to receive benefits under the free or reduced-priced school lunch program or the school breakfast program in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year.
- Experienced a substantial loss of income through job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers.
- Received a federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Meets the criteria for participating provider's existing in low-income or COVID-19 program.

A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid or the FCC's Lifeline program.



Learn more at fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit or call 833-511-0311.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity employer and strives to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, rules and orders regarding equal employment opportunities. In particular, the Corporation strives to comply with all applicable provisions of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all amendments to these Acts. Furthermore, the Corporation is committed to helping ensure that no individual is discriminated against by the Corporation because of the individual's race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

Andrea Avery, the Corporation's Vice President of Human Resources (SHRM-SCP), is responsible for coordinating the Corporation's non-discrimination efforts. Any individual who believes that he or she has been discriminated against by the Corporation may obtain additional information from or may file a charge of discrimination with, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Any charge of discrimination, however, must be filed with the EEOC within one-hundred and eighty (180) days after any alleged discrimination.

The Power of Coordinated Resources

As the peak of hurricane season in North Carolina approaches, JOEMC remains focused on grid resiliency and preparedness efforts. This year-round effort to limit power outage events and recover quickly from those that do occur includes conventional efforts like tree-trimming to keep limbs away from powerlines, as well as more modern efforts that incorporate advanced technologies and support our commitment to power a brighter local future.



Jones-Onslow EMC
CEO Jeffrey T. Clark

As technology evolves, we see new energy assets added throughout the electric system in households, businesses, substations, and elsewhere—often called “distributed energy resources”—as an exciting opportunity. These resources can be large enough to power several homes, like a microgrid or utility-scale solar farm, or as small as a smart thermostat inside your home.

By working with electric cooperatives statewide and other partners, JOEMC is exploring opportunities to add flexible local resources to our energy toolbox and coordinate them to work together across the grid at scale. By integrating and synchronizing these assets, we can maximize the benefits to the grid and all cooperative members.

Resilience is one significant benefit. Integrating grid resources closer to homes and communities provides local power options while also diversifying the resources we can call on to provide power. Statewide, electric cooperatives have integrated five microgrids to power local areas when needed and support the grid. While new resources support resiliency, we are proud that the grid today is already very reliable. Our reliability rate is 99.9%, and we will continue working to maintain and improve reliability and resiliency even further.

Coordinating distributed energy resources also supports our sustainability goals. Take solar power: it can present a challenge because it is only available when the sun is shining, but our members need reliable power all the time. By pairing solar generation with flexible resources such as batteries, JOEMC and our power supplier can make intermittent

generation sources into stronger grid assets while also increasing sustainability.

Managing costs to keep them as low as possible is always part of our mission. As prices for new energy resources are coming down, the economics for implementation is improving. By deploying distributed resources in a coordinated way, the co-op can use the grid more efficiently and better manage energy flows. This helps us save not only by reducing power demand when energy consumption peaks and wholesale electricity is most expensive but also by delaying or even avoiding the need to invest in expensive new infrastructure, like substations. Because cooperatives like JOEMC are not-for-profit and provide power at cost, savings directly benefit co-op members.

These technologies also have created opportunities for our members, like you, to partner with us to achieve shared value.

By adopting proven technologies and deploying distributed resources at scale, JOEMC can provide many benefits to members: added resilience, enhanced sustainability through renewable generation, optimization of the grid, cost savings, and new services for members, to name a few. We see these benefits compounding over time, especially as more of our members, from large commercial businesses to residents interested in a smart thermostat, decide to participate with us in building the grid of the future.

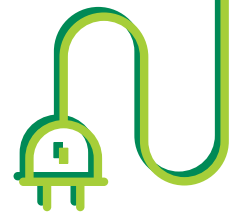
This storm season and beyond, as part of our Brighter Future vision, you can count on your local electric co-op to continue to take steps to enhance grid resiliency and deploy resources that bring real benefits to members.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: energy.gov



**Our office will be closed
Monday, September 7th,
for Labor Day.**



www.joemc.com