

SPOTLIGHT

JONES-ONSLOW EMC—POWERING HOMES SINCE 1939



JULY 2021

Introducing FlexPay

A NEW PAYMENT OPTION THAT PUTS YOU IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Does the timing of your electric bill match the timing of your payday? Would you like to take the stress out of due dates and avoid late fees?



Now is the time to speed up or slow down your payments with a new plan that allows you to pay for electricity on your schedule.

FlexPay gives you greater control and offers you the flexibility to purchase electricity when you want—daily, weekly, or monthly. You pay when it works for you—in amounts that fit your budget. The choice is yours.

Think of FlexPay as putting gas in your car. You can add a little gas or fill up the vehicle's tank, depending on what the gas gauge reads. In the same way, Flexpay allows you to purchase small amounts of electricity every few days or "fill up the tank" and not worry about it for a more extended period of time.

You decide when you want to use electricity. You choose when you want to buy more. FlexPay gives you the tools to manage your energy use better and take charge of your monthly bills by paying lower startup costs and having the convenience of paying for your electricity on your schedule.

Rates, taxes, and facility charges are the same as accounts on a conventional residential billing plan. But, participants are NOT required to make a security deposit, and there are no disconnect, reconnect, or late fees.

Because FlexPay is a self-managed, pay-as-you-go program, you are responsible for monitoring and keeping a credit account balance. It is also the end of a paper bill in the mail. Instead, your account balance can be reviewed anytime, anywhere from your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Once enrolled in FlexPay, a member must purchase at least \$75 worth of electricity to start and have access to the internet or the ability to receive text messages. JOEMC reads your electric meter daily, and the amount associated with that day's electric service is deducted from your account balance.

Learn how you can be in control of your monthly energy bill by visiting www.joemc.com/FlexPay.

Help Foster the Love for Reading

JOEMC and One Place, formerly known as Onslow County Partnership for Children, have partnered to promote literacy in our community.

JOEMC and One Place are happy to have partnered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide books to our community's youngest children. Imagination Library is a book gifting program for children from birth to age five that mails a FREE new, high-quality, age-appropriate book directly to registered children's homes. Together they are working to ensure children develop a love of reading early on.

Please help us make sure that children are ready to succeed in school by registering them at the link below.



www.smartstart.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/registration-dolly-partons-imagination-library/



Scholarships Awarded to Local Students

Annually, Jones-Onslow EMC funds scholarships for twenty-six outstanding students in our communities. This year twenty-two were graduating high school seniors, and four were community college students. Students that attended high school in Onslow County were selected in conjunction with the school system and

its Sponsors for Academic Talent (S.A.T.) Program. The individual school's staff chose other recipients.

The \$1,000 scholarship will assist students as they continue with their academic endeavors. The cooperative is proud of these students and all the fine students in our communities.

Congratulations!

- East Duplin: Lukas Brown, Suzanne Jarman
- Jacksonville: Sarah Grace Pierce, Joshua Stephen Rojas
- Jones Senior: Karly Wynne, Christian Cannon
- Lejeune: Alison Carrillo-Matias, Isaac Harding
- Richlands: Bailey Caroline Brown, Luke Edmond Isabelle
- South Lenoir: Callie Eason, Johnna Stroud
- Southwest: Liberty Marina Cochran, McKenzie Elliott Bulris
- Swansboro: Quiara Mychele Bannerman, Jackson Ridge Parker
- Topsail: Luke Anders, Makayla Obremski
- White Oak: Meagan Gianni Ochoa-Lagos, Javion Dewayne Pratt
- Onslow Early College: Salyna Yoshida Phelps, Jalen Elijah Hadnott Lucas
- CCCC: Natalie Rego, Stephanie R. Marshburn
- LCC: Johan Cazares Rios, Alexia Machado

ENERGYEFFICIENCY

Pool Pump Efficiency

Did you know that a standard pool pump only operates at one speed? Not only does this waste energy, but it wastes money on your monthly utility bill. An energy star pool pump uses higher energy levels when you need it but conserves when you don't.

Here are a few more reasons why you may want to make the switch this summer:

- Energy Star pumps are variable or two-speed technology allowing the pump to switch between speeds.
- They're built with efficient motors and advanced hydraulic designs.

- Energy Star pumps operate at a lower circulation rate and put less stress on the motor, which means less money spent on maintenance.
- Energy Star certified pumps run quieter.

Pool pumps should be replaced every seven to ten years, so if the time is right for a new one or you're just tired of wasting energy, consider making the switch. To learn more about Energy Star products visit, <https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/product/certified-pool-pumps/results>.





Don't Fall Victim to Utility Scams

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for consumers to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utility companies.

Over the years, several Jones-Onslow EMC members have been targeted through a phone scam where the scammers demanded immediate payment and threatened to shut off power if the money was not received. Remember, JOEMC will never call you and demand immediate payment without notice.

We want you to be aware of a trending scam tactic. One is the overpayment trick,

where a scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammer will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Don't fall for this scam! If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, Jones-Onslow EMC will automatically apply the credit to your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle.

How to take control of the situation when a scammer has targeted you:

- 1. TAKE YOUR TIME.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- 2. BE SUSPICIOUS.** Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.
- 3. CONFIRM BEFORE YOU ACT.** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent Jones-Onslow EMC or another utility, but you're unsure, hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at (910) 353-1940 to verify the situation.



Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to Jones-Onslow EMC so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.



Summer Fruit Salad

Servings: 6-8

Ingredients

DRESSING

- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp maple syrup, more if desired
- ½ tsp grated ginger
- Pinch of sea salt

FOR THE SALAD

- 10 strawberries, sliced
- 2 peaches, sliced
- ½ cup Bing cherries, pitted & sliced
- ½ cup blueberries
- ½ cup raspberries
- ¼ cup fresh basil, more for garnish
- ¼ cup fresh mint, more for garnish

Instructions

- In a medium bowl, whisk together the lemon juice, lime juice, maple syrup, ginger, and salt.
- In a large bowl, toss together the strawberries, peaches, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, basil, and mint. Drizzle the dressing on top and toss to coat. Garnish with basil and mint. Serve chilled.

A Flexible New Way to Pay

At JOEMC, we continuously focus on improving our services to members and making it as easy as possible to do business with us. That's why your cooperative is now offering FlexPay, a billing option that allows members to prepay for electricity in the amounts they choose.



Jones-Onslow EMC
CEO Jeffery T. Clark

The completion of our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project last year has yielded many benefits. Not only does it allow your cooperative many day-to-day operational benefits, but it also has opened the door for creating helpful programs and services for our members, such as FlexPay. That's because AMI enables two-way communication between us and your home's electric meter.

FlexPay is a free service. Participants can appreciate that no security deposit is required and they will pay no disconnect, reconnect, or late fees. All of these benefits make FlexPay a practical option for budget-conscious members and for those who wish to manage their electric bills better.

In addition, when members control how much electricity they buy and when they buy it, participants frequently use less

energy. Monitoring their energy consumption more closely helps members see how much energy they use at their homes on a daily basis. That ties directly to cost. As a result, FlexPay pairs convenience with savings.

Whether you're a member who wants to pay for electricity on your schedule, need an easy billing option for your second home, or simply want to keep a closer eye on your daily energy use, FlexPay may be a good fit for you.

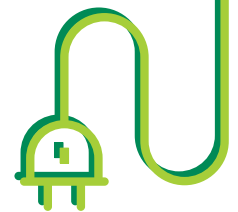
We're pleased to offer this innovative way to do business with us and are happy to place our members in the driver's seat. If interested or to learn more, be sure to visit our website at www.joemc.com/FlexPay.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



www.joemc.com