



SPOT

LIGHT

JOEMC Member Newsletter October 2020

Picture above was taken pre-Covid/mandatory mask order.



Innovating a Brighter Future

Celebrating National Co-op Month

October is National Cooperative Month, an annual recognition of the ways electric co-ops like JOEMC are building a brighter future for our members and communities. Co-op innovation is at the center of these efforts, as we are continually seeking new solutions and technologies to expand services, find efficiencies and strengthen the electric grid.

Power no longer moves in a linear path from our cooperative to our members. Instead, cooperatives are coordinating a variety of energy resources distributed across the grid, including solar, microgrids, battery storage and even smart thermostats and water heater controls. By implementing and coordinating these resources, JOEMC is advancing the way the grid is managed to provide you a higher level of service and value.

during times of high energy use, which helps lower energy costs for the entire cooperative membership. The co-op remotely adjusts the temperature of your thermostat or water heater by just a few degrees during peak events to help balance load on the system. These adjustments can always be overridden, though in most cases you won't even notice a difference. To learn more visit connecttosavenc.com/jones-onslow.

tions at K-12 schools. For more information go to joemc.com/energy-center/technology-renewables/nc-greenpower.

Consider signing up for one of these innovative grid programs:

• NC GreenPower
JOEMC members can voluntarily donate in support of the development of renewable energy resources across the state. Donations will be used to add green energy to the power grid, support carbon offset projects, and provide grants for solar educational installa-

• Energy Usage Notifications
Did you know you could set up alert notifications to make you aware of high usage on your account and avoid unwanted "surprises" on your electric bill? These notifications alert members when their daily energy usage exceeds a threshold that they have set up. Log-in to your online account at the member portal (billing.joemc.com) and look for "Notifications".

• Connect to Save Program
By enrolling in our smart thermostat and water heater control program, you can help manage demand for power

For more information about these programs or how JOEMC is building a brighter local future for our members, visit joemc.com. ♦

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

source: energystar.gov

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

VETERAN'S DAY

Our offices will be closed on
Wednesday, November 11.

Slaying Energy Vampires

Did you know that you're sharing your home with "energy vampires"—electronic and electrical devices that continue to suck electricity even when turned off? On average, these items are responsible for an estimated 10 percent of the electricity you use every month. Here are tips that can help you drive a stake through the heart of these vampires, saving energy and money.



1 Unplug. Unplug. Unplug. This probably won't work for your cable box or wireless router, but if you have an extra TV or some other electronic device or appliance you don't switch on often, you should consider unplugging it completely until the next time you actually use it.

2 Plug your appliances into power strips. Power strips let you toggle the power flow on and off. This means you can control the power usage of clusters of devices so that they are not consuming electricity when you're not at home. Using a light switch that turns power outlets on and off, if you have one, accomplishes the same end with even less effort. An advanced power strip makes it even easier by turning off idle electronics without any additional steps from you.

3 Curb idle time. Simply setting your computer to sleep mode or stopping a game and powering down your video game console instead of leaving it paused for a prolonged period, could lead to bigger savings.

4 Make smart upgrades. When it comes time to send your old electronics and appliances to the graveyard, consider replacing them with ENERGY STAR devices. The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12 percent of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified products, which can be 70 percent more efficient than conventional models. ♦

"Vampire" Electronics

- ▶ Digital cable or satellite DVRs
- ▶ Laptop computers
- ▶ Printers
- ▶ DVD players
- ▶ Central heating furnaces
- ▶ Routers & modems
- ▶ Phones
- ▶ Gaming consoles
- ▶ Televisions
- ▶ Microwaves

What are you paying to heat your water?

Do you know how much of your energy costs are due to your water heater? According to Energy.gov, on average, water heaters account for about 17 percent of a home's energy use. Of course, this percentage varies based on the number of people in your home and how much hot water you use.

That's where our water heater calculator comes in! Using this powerful and free tool, you can estimate the annual cost of your water heater energy use.

How does it work?

Simply visit <https://bit.ly/3iLijpP> and enter the information specific to your home. Then you'll see a graph comparing the annual water heating cost for each type of fuel.

Knowledge is power when it comes to saving energy and money. By using our water heater calculator to determine how much you're spending, you can start to make adjustments to your hot water habits and see how it impacts your bill. ♦

KEEPING YOU SAFE

“If you connect it, protect it.”

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month— Advice on Passwords

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and there’s no better time than now to focus on the very real tricks of online scammers as well the importance of taking proactive steps to remain safe both at home and in the workplace.



- **USE A LONG PASSPHRASE**

Consider using the longest password or passphrase permissible. A news headline or book title, with capitalization and punctuation changes, work well.

- **DON'T MAKE THEM EASY TO GUESS**

Don't use your pet's name or anything that would be easy to find on social media.

- **KEEP THEM PRIVATE**

Don't tell anyone your passwords and watch for attackers trying to trick you into revealing them through emails or calls.



- **UNIQUE ACCOUNT, UNIQUE PASSWORD**

Each time you reuse a password it chips away at your security. Find easy to remember ways to customize a standard password for each new site.

- **DOUBLE YOUR LOGIN PROTECTION**

Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) to ensure that the only person that has access to that account is you. If MFA is an option, enable it by using your smartphone, an authenticator app, or a secure token—a small device that can hook onto your key ring.

- **USE A PASSWORD MANAGER**

With one master password you can generate and retrieve passwords for every account you have, protecting your credit card and bank information as well as answers to security questions. ♦

IN PLAIN SITE:

Don't Obstruct Access to Utility Equipment

There's a misconception that underground electric service is worry free. Instead, underground service has its own service and maintenance challenges.

Doing maintenance or repair work and performing routine inspections on a padmount transformer requires crews to open the cabinets. That's why it is imperative that members not obstruct the cabinets with plants, shrubs or lawn ornaments. Likewise, it is important to call the **NC One Call Center at 811 or 1-800-632-4949** to have underground utilities located before beginning any outdoor project, including pouring concrete, building a new deck, erecting fencing, or tilling for a garden.

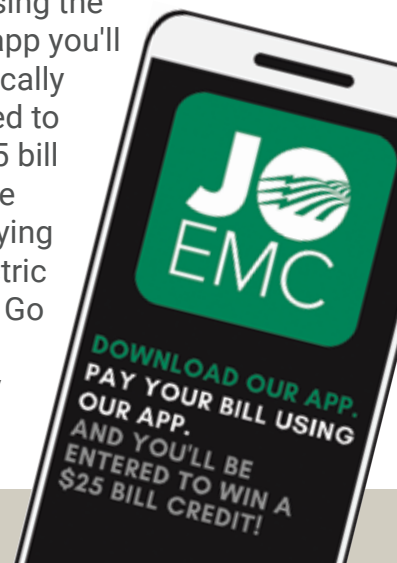


Allow three business days for all underground utilities to be identified and marked before beginning your project. ♦

CUSTOMERSERVICE

Be Entered to Win a \$25 Bill Credit

Download the JOEMC app on Apple's AppStore or on Google Play. When you pay your bill this month using the JOEMC app you'll automatically be entered to win a \$25 bill credit. We make paying your electric bill easy! Go ahead... give it try today. ♦



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Power On: October is National Co-op Month



As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich our members' lives and serve the long-term

interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” To me, this principle is the essential DNA of JOEMC, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, we recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we've all been challenged to operate differently and your co-op has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation and many of our employees began working remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings, to allow for safe separation. In addition, we adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and have been working with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

I tell you about all of these efforts not to boast about JOEMC but to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here too.

We've seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that's what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting I'm heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1939, your electric cooperative was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do—Power On.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



pumpkin fudge

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2½ cups white sugar
- ⅔ cup evaporated milk
- 1 jar (7 ounces) marshmallow cream
- ¾ cup pumpkin puree
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 bag (12 ounces) white chocolate chips

Directions:

Line a 9-by-9-inch pan with aluminum foil; set aside.

In a 3-quart saucepan, heat milk and sugar over medium heat. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally with a wooden spoon. Mix in pumpkin puree and cinnamon. Bring back to a boil. Stir in marshmallow cream and butter. Bring to a rolling boil and cook for 18 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove from heat; add vanilla and white chocolate chips; stir until creamy. Pour into prepared pan.

Cool, remove from pan and cut into squares. Store in refrigerator.

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SPOTLIGHT is published monthly by Jones-Onslow EMC for its members. Direct correspondences to: Jones-Onslow EMC, ATTN: Newsletter Editor, 259 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, N.C. 28546.

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