



## Give the Gift of Energy

With the holiday season upon us and the New Year just around the corner, many of us are looking forward to a joyous season with friends and family. The holidays are typically one of the busiest times of the year, with the bustle of festive gatherings, shopping, and much more. This time of year is highly stressful for some, and the thought of finding the perfect gift is overwhelming.

As your local cooperative, we are here to help; give the gift of energy with our Power Bucks program. With Power Bucks, you can share the gift of energy by making a payment on a fellow member's account anonymously or one that you can share as a gift under the Christmas tree.

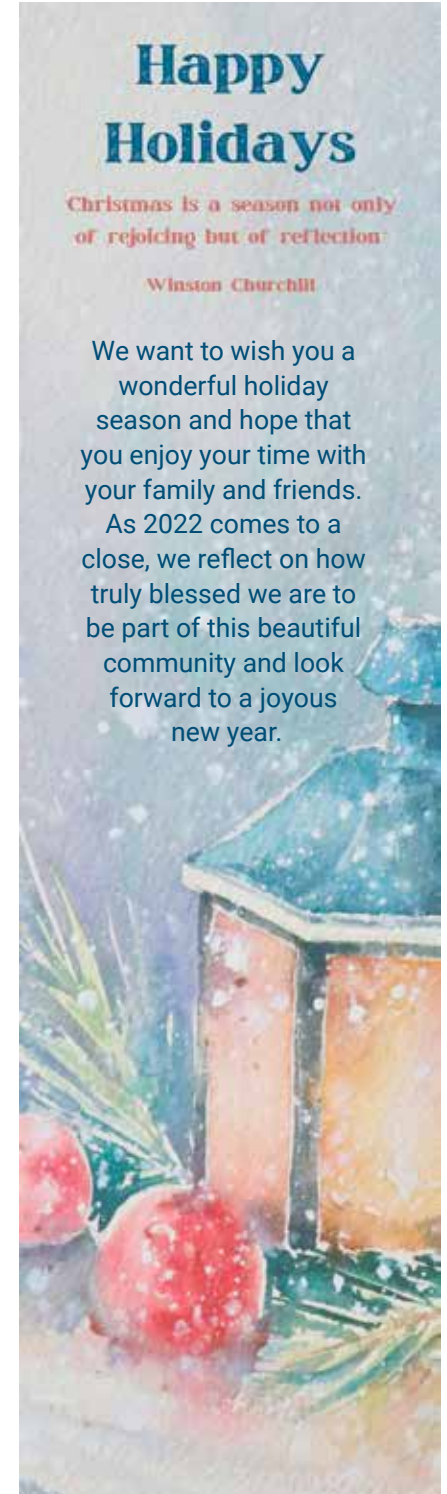
Members can even spread goodwill and cheer by donating Power Bucks to JOEMC, and our Member Services Representative will apply the funds to an account of someone in need of assistance.

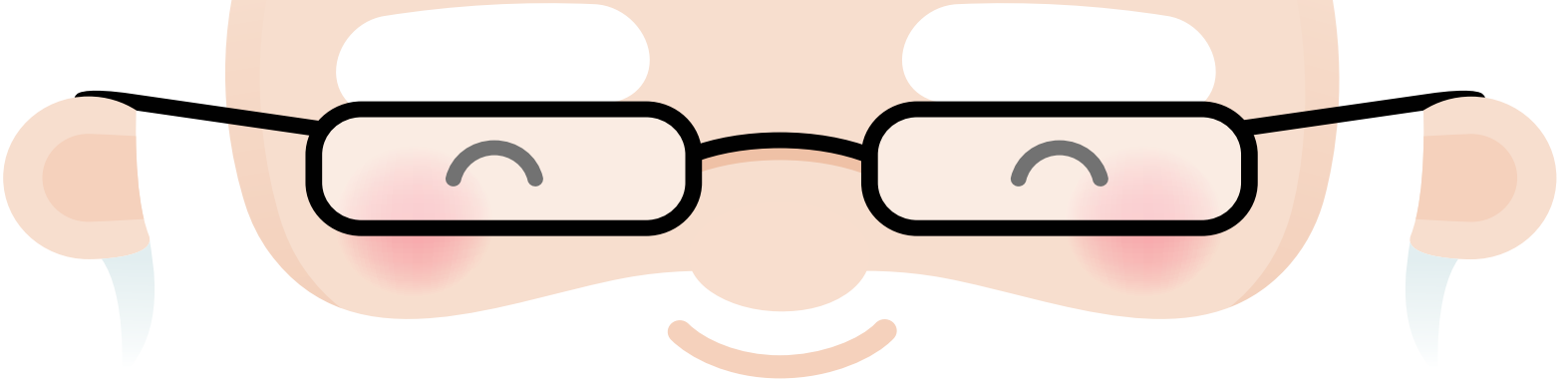
Participating in the Power Bucks Program is simple.

- Call **910-353-1940** to speak with a Member Services Representative and let them know you'd like to purchase some Power Bucks.
- You can choose any dollar amount of \$25 or above.
- The Member Services Representative will apply the Power Bucks credit to the JOEMC member's account of your choice or donate to someone in need.
- For members giving as a gift for Christmas, you will receive a Power Bucks card via email to place under the Christmas tree.

There's no better way to celebrate the season's true meaning than by giving back to those in need. Many in our community are struggling, and this is a straightforward way to help and make an impact.

Consider giving the gift of energy today!





## Santa Says

- **Keep Old Man Winter Out**

At the North Pole, we love the cold temperatures but only outdoors. In the workshop we like to stay cozy and warm. The elves helped me attach exterior door sweeps and added weather stripping around doors and windows to keep the cold drafts out.

- **Enjoy Cozy Savings**

Set the thermostat to 68° or lower. Turn it down even more if you have a houseful of elves (well, for you, a house full of guests); they'll generate lots of warmth.

- **Be a Little Grinchy**

It's okay to be a little grinchy... but only with your water heater. Setting the temperature to no higher than 120° will save about 4%-22% energy annually. Take short showers and use the cold water cycle for laundry.

- **Deck the Halls**

Use energy-efficient LED light bulbs for holiday and home lighting. And for a little extra savings, set your holiday lights on a timer. However, leave the lights on for me on Christmas eve so I can find my way. Not to worry, though; I'll turn them off before I leave so you don't waste too much energy.

- **Season's Eatings**

Mrs. Claus tries to use the microwave or a slow cooker when cooking some of those holiday treats for the elves. And when baking, she bakes more than one item at a time. Did you know that my favorite cookies are chocolate chip?

- **Have Fun**

Don't forget to check out the Energy Center tab at [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and have FUN with the FREE Home Energy Calculators. You may be surprised how much that old refrigerator costs you to run! And remember, it's not too late for me to put a new energy efficient appliance under the tree. And check out the rebates Jones-Onlsow offers to save a bit more.



# Tracking Ways to Help You Save



## Have you spotted the Daily Usage summary yet?

The Daily Usage summary is a free online tool that helps you monitor how much electricity you use. That's especially important during the winter. When temperatures plunge outside, your heating system has to work harder to maintain your comfort inside.

- ❄️ *By tracking through your Daily Usage summary, you will see how local weather affects your power use.*
- ❄️ *Daily Usage brings the weather's impact on your bill into focus.*
- ❄️ *In addition to tracking your daily power use, you can set it to notify you when you exceed a daily limit of your choosing. That can help you tame any wild electric bills.*

Accessing your Daily Usage summary is easy. Just log into your member portal at [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) or download the JOEMC app for instant access.

## He knows if you've been listening.

"When reporting to a recent outage we drove up to an extremely dangerous situation. A woman holding a child proceeded to walk over a downed power line". . . Listen to Flippin' the Switch and hear Eric Brown, JOEMC crew foreman, talk about what happened next.



## ANYTIME, ANYWHERE GRANOLA

*Put this granola in decorative airtight jars or gift bags to give for the holidays. You can use it on everything — with milk, yogurt, fruit or as a topping for baked apples.*

### Ingredients

- 3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats (not instant or quick-cooking)
- ½ cup coarsely chopped unsalted pecans
- ½ cup coarsely chopped unsalted walnuts
- ⅓ cup unsalted sunflower seeds
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup maple syrup
- ½ cup dried blueberries
- ¾ cup dried cranberries (low-sugar preferred)
- ¾ cup golden raisins

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 250 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, combine the oats, nuts, sunflower seeds and cinnamon. In a separate bowl, whisk together the vegetable oil and maple syrup. Add the oil mixture to the oat mixture and stir to combine.
3. Spread the mixture evenly on the prepared sheet pan. Bake for about 90 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes or so, until it's very light brown. Let cool in the pan to room temperature.
4. When the mixture is cool, place in a large bowl and stir in the dried fruit.
5. Store in an airtight container for up to six weeks.

*Recipe courtesy of  
[carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com)*

# Time is Flying By

Welcome to December; positive confirmation that 2022 is just about over. I don't know about you, but this year has flown by, although that feeling is simply perception. Time is constant as there are always 24 hours in a day, 60 minutes in an hour, and 60 seconds in a minute.

So, if time is constant, why is the perception that time is "flying" by? There are many viewpoints on this phenomenon, but simply speaking, this perception is caused by high levels of "busyness" and excessive stress, not allowing one to live in the moment. In other words, our lives have become so busy we are not taking time to enjoy the "trip" of life as we have become overwhelmed with the journey.

My advice to you (and it's advice I should remember myself) is to take some time to smell the roses along the way and enjoy those who love us and those whom we love.

## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR SCAMMERS

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable, and it seems like this time of year, they come out of the woodwork attempt-

ing to take advantage of busy people. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as possible from that individual, hang up the phone and contact the local authorities. JOEMC will never ask you to provide personal financial information over



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

the phone. If you have any doubts about your electric bill, contact our office at (910) 353-1940 or [joemc@joemc.com](mailto:joemc@joemc.com).

- If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of Jones-Onslow EMC that needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, contact local authorities for assistance, and do not let the individual into your home.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

There is no way I could close without wishing you a very Merry Christmas! I hope you and your family will have a safe, joyous, and healthy holiday season. May it be a time filled with family, friends, peace, and reflection on the many blessings of your life. From our family here at JOEMC, enjoy this time of the year.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in your ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

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



Christmas  
December 23 & 26

New Years  
January 2

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
January 16

