



## This Line of Work has No Room for Error

*“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen.” (NRECA)*

We take the time to show our appreciation for the dedicated individuals who ensure the lights stay on: NC Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 10. JOEMC would like to thank these courageous individuals for their unwavering commitment to safety and training and their selfless determination to work tirelessly under any weather

condition to ensure a stable power supply. The tremendous value of our lineworkers is something we recognize all year round.

While our lineworkers may be the most visible employees at JOEMC, it's important to note that a team of highly skilled professionals is working behind the scenes to assist them. From

our engineering staff, operations crew, member services representatives, and so many more, our JOEMC team works to ensure our entire system operates efficiently and remains well-maintained to serve you.

To our heroes in hard hats, thank you for keeping the lights on!  
 #ThankALineworker



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# INNOVATIONS

## It's a bird, it's a plane... NO, it's a drone

### New Technology

Drone-UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle)

### Opportunity

Jones-Onslow EMC is looking to the future and finding better ways to serve its members, and an area of focus has been the improvement of line and equipment maintenance. Throughout the years, line crews have manually inspected all lines, poles, and equipment to ensure safety and reliability. These inspections have caught many issues before resulting in outages for our members over the years. But it is hard for JOEMC crews to reach all areas safely because of our large and geographically diverse service territory. In some regions, outages may occur due to the inability to see all the equipment correctly.

### Goal

The application of drone technology for the co-op was an innovative choice that promised a bright future. We have seen a significant reduction in risk, as no personnel needs to be sent into potentially dangerous situations. We are also able



to carry out routine maintenance in a manner that minimizes disruption to our members. Moreover, drones allow us to inspect our equipment and infrastructure in detail more closely, giving us better insight when planning our budgeting for equipment and pole replacements. Overall, drone technology has provided the co-op with more cost-effective and efficient operations and increased safety for our members.

### Solution

The drone technology is a revolutionary tool for JOEMC to quickly and efficiently identify potential issues in its power grid, allowing for early and proactive measures to be taken in order to prevent power outages from happening. Using a bird's eye view, drones help monitor electrical wires, poles, transformers, and substations and can easily detect even the slightest changes in the equipment, indicating the presence of possible problems or possible impending failures. With this level of observation, JOEMC can rapidly detect problems, adjust its maintenance plan, and be more confident in the stability of its energy grid.

By leveraging the power of growing technology, JOEMC is no longer reactive to energy grid outages but can now be more proactive in managing the health and sustainability of the energy grid. With this improved efficiency and intelligence, JOEMC can ensure a brighter future.



## Uncover Bones... Not Power Lines

Ready to start that outdoor project? Hitting a buried line while digging can disrupt utility service, cost money to repair, or cause serious injury or even death. So make no bones about it, protect yourself and your community!

Always **CALL 811** and know what's below before you dig!



call811.com

# Three ways to electrify your lawn



Spring has sprung, and the smell of freshly cut grass is in the air. If last year's lawn equipment needs replacement, you may want to consider electric (or battery-powered) options. Electric lawn care equipment options are becoming more popular than ever, offering consumers faster charging times, longer battery life and quieter, greener products compared to their gas-powered counterparts. Here are three ways you can electrify your lawn care this spring.

## 1) ELECTRIC LAWN MOWERS

Electric lawn mowers have come a long way over the last few years. Early models required corded connections—which were tricky to manage—but the cord has been cut. Newer cordless electric mowers are generally more expensive than gas-powered ones. However, you can recover much of the upfront cost since electricity is less costly than gas, and electric engines generally require less maintenance than gas ones. Cordless electric mowers typically range from \$200 to \$500.

Electric mowers are suitable for most lawn care needs, with batteries that typically require about one to two hours to charge fully, and most batteries can run for a full hour. That said, a gas-powered option is best suited to your needs if you have a large yard (half an acre or larger).

## 2) ELECTRIC TRIMMERS

Cordless electric string trimmers are an excellent option for most lawns. Traditionally, like lawn mowers, string trimmers have typically been powered by gas. But new versions of electric trimmers are improving and

are now considered worthy competitors of gas-powered models.

If you're interested in purchasing an electric trimmer, the main factors to consider are the battery's life, charge time, and power. Cordless electric trimmers are much quieter and easier to use, but most batteries last about 30 to 45 minutes. So, if you have a lot of space to trim, consider a back-up battery or plan to work in short bursts. Costs can vary depending on your needs, but you can find a quality version for about \$100.

## 3) ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWERS

After cutting and trimming your lawn, you'll probably need to clear off those walkways and patios for the finishing touch. If you don't want to deal with the maintenance of a gas-powered blower or the restraints of a corded blower, a cordless electric version is a great option. Cordless electric leaf blowers are lightweight and easy to maneuver but don't offer as much power as gas-powered and corded blowers.

So, if your leaf-blowing and clearing needs are minimal, a cordless electric



## EASY PIMENTO CHEESE BALL

*It's hard to beat a good ol' cheese ball, a throwback to days gone by when it was a staple at gatherings.*

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

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 (8 oz.) packages cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 jar (4 ounces) diced pimentos, drained
- 3 tablespoons onion, finely minced
- Dash of salt
- Dash of cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup minced nuts (we like pistachios)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Combine all ingredients, except for nuts, and make into a ball. Roll in nuts and chill for several hours or overnight. Sit out about 30 minutes before serving to soften.
2. Serve with crackers and celery sticks.

leaf blower can do the job. Costs for a cordless electric blower vary depending on power and battery quality, but you can purchase a dependable model for about \$150 and up. If you're looking to electrify your lawn care equipment, be sure to do your homework. Search online for the latest reviews, and check trusted websites like ConsumerReports.org. With some research, you'll be well on your way to Lawn of the Month – with less maintenance, hassle, and noise (and your neighbors will thank you!).

# Lives on the Line

## IT'S NOT A JOB FOR THE FAINT HEARTED

You might think of our line workers when they're hard at work during a storm that's causing outages, but the reality is JOEMC line crews work hard, day in and day out, to make sure members have reliable, safe electricity.

It's no secret that a line worker's job is tough. It's a job that's essential and often performed in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Line Worker Appreciation Day on April 10, I want to recognize the outstanding individuals who serve their community in this role— one that's among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Their work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools a line worker carries while climbing a utility pole weigh up to 30 to 40 pounds? They're also required to climb poles ranging from 30 to 90 feet tall. It's not a job for the fainthearted!

They often work non-traditional hours, outdoors and under challenging conditions. The job requires technical skills, years of

training, and hands-on learning. And at JOEMC, becoming a journeyman line worker can take up to seven years of on-the-job training; working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and this line of work has no room for error.

Despite the many challenges, Jones-Onslow's line workers are committed to powering our communities. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families when severe weather strikes without returning until the job is done, sometimes days later. That's why the line worker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Our Jones-Onslow line workers maintain over 2,500



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

miles of power lines across six counties. Today's line workers are also information experts who use laptops, tablets, drones, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot problems.

Line workers are essential to our quality of life. With their exceptional dedication, we have the reliable electricity we need daily.

So, the next time you see a line technician, please thank them for the work they do. Join us as we recognize them on April 10 by sharing your appreciation on our social media channels or whenever you see a line worker in your community!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



*April 10, 2023 is Lineworker Appreciation Day;  
celebrate with us! #ThankALineworker*

