

Honoring a Legacy of Leadership and Impact



After a career of 50 years, in a moment that marks both an end and a new beginning, Jones-Onslow EMC prepares to bid farewell to its current CEO, Jeffery T. Clark, who will officially retire on January 31, 2024. With a career path woven through the cooperative's heart, Mr. Clark's retirement is a time to reflect on his remarkable journey and the lasting impact he leaves behind.

However, even before his impactful tenure at Jones-

Onslow EMC, Mr. Clark's journey within the cooperative realm began in 1974 as a night dispatcher at Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative in Florida. He took advantage of working at night to attend the University of South Florida during the day and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business in 1978. During his 18-year tenure at this cooperative, he was exposed to many aspects of the electric utility business, holding positions in corporate customer service, staking engineering, district office supervision and internal auditing. His steadfast commitment to the cooperative program guided him through these diverse roles, ultimately allowing him to have a leadership role in North Carolina. He came to North Carolina in 1992 when he accepted the position of Vice President of Finance and Accounting at Four County EMC in Burgaw.

Mr. Clark's employment with Jones-Onslow EMC began in 2000 when he joined the co-op as Manager of Finance and Accounting. In 2001, he was promoted to Vice President of Finance and Accounting and in 2002 to Chief Financial Officer and

then took the reins as CEO in 2016. Under his guidance, the cooperative has flourished, embracing new technologies, elevating member experiences, and championing affordable costs to members, reliability, and sustainability.

Guided by his steadfast principles, Mr. Clark's legacy at JOEMC mirrors his dedication to values that have empowered both the cooperative and its members. He often imparts his wisdom with the phrase, "Always focus on the solution, not the problem". Most notably, he abides by a foundational principle: treating everyone with respect and treating them fairly, a commitment he upholds each day.

These principles, along with many others, have guided his leadership style, steering JOEMC toward remarkable achievements over the past seven years. The cooperative's workforce grew from 154 employees in 2016 to 180 in 2023, exemplifying strategic workforce management. Spearheading innovation, Mr. Clark led the successful adoption of CVR (Conservation Voltage Reduction) technology,

resulting in consistent annual savings exceeding \$1 million in wholesale power costs. His advocacy also encompassed transitioning outdoor and security lighting to LED technology between 2016 and 2018, yielding an approximate yearly expense reduction of \$500,000. In 2018, when the cooperative was notified by its power supplier North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation that JOEMC would be charged a total of \$18 million dollars over the next several years in additional power costs due to a coal ash issue, he successfully guided the cooperative through this financial issue by figuring out ways to absorb these costs and not increase the retail rates to members. Furthermore, the implementation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system bolstered operations, setting the stage for sustained success.

As Mr. Clark steps down, Jones-Onslow EMC stands on the brink of a promising new chapter. His visionary guidance, anchored in principles of respect and solution-driven thinking, has paved the way for an even brighter future for the cooperative and its members.



Beyond the Horizon:

Navigating Rooftop Solar Tech with

8 INTRIGUING QUESTIONS

It's great that members are interested in rooftop solar technology, but it is important to consider all the factors before purchasing. The questions in this article offer valuable insights into the considerations one should consider when installing rooftop solar panels. Here's a breakdown of each question and its significance:

- 1 What are my goals?** This question encourages you to define your reasons for considering rooftop solar. Whether it's reducing electricity bills, achieving energy independence, or contributing to a greener environment, understanding your objectives will guide your decisions.
- 2 Is my roof suitable for solar?** Roof condition and sun exposure are crucial for solar panel efficiency. A well-maintained roof with proper sun exposure enhances the effectiveness of your solar system. Considering factors like roof orientation, shade, and potential tree removal are essential for optimal performance.
- 3 How long will I own the home?** This question addresses the long-term commitment of installing solar panels. If you plan to move, it's important to consider how the solar system may affect potential buyers and your options for transferring ownership or lease agreements.



- 4 Lease or purchase?** Choosing between leasing and purchasing depends on your financial situation and goals. Purchasing offers long-term savings but requires a higher upfront investment. Leasing provides immediate benefits with less upfront cost, but you may have to navigate contract terms and potential limitations.
- 5 Can the contractor provide up-to-date documentation?** Verifying a contractor's credentials ensures a reliable and reputable installation process. Checking licenses, reviews, and affiliations like the Better Business Bureau helps you make an informed decision.
- 6 Does the contract seem reasonable and fair?** Carefully reviewing the contract safeguards your interests. Ensure that system performance estimates align with realistic expectations, project timelines are feasible, and terms are adaptable to your needs.
- 7 Who will maintain the solar panels?** Knowing who's responsible for maintenance is crucial for system longevity. Whether you own or lease the system, understanding maintenance requirements and responsibilities helps you plan for panel upkeep.
- 8 How will I work with Jones-Onslow EMC?** Connecting your solar system to the electric grid is a vital step. Contacting your local energy provider, like Jones-Onslow EMC, ensures proper integration and regulation compliance.

Considering these questions and seeking guidance from our JOEMC professionals will help you make an informed decision about rooftop solar installation. Remember, researching and understanding your options are key to a successful and beneficial solar journey.

National Drive Electric Week™



September 22–October 1, 2023

This event spans across the entire nation and aims to increase understanding about the numerous advantages of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, and beyond. Visit driveelectricweek.org for more information.

Contemplating the Switch to Drive Electric? Discover the Benefits!

Electric vehicles (EVs) redefine driving with quick acceleration and cost-efficient operation. With lower electricity costs than gas, EVs make your wallet and the environment happy. But that's not all—charging at home means no more gas station trips and minimal maintenance keeps things simple.

Beyond personal advantages, EVs contribute to a cleaner future by reducing emissions. At Jones-

Onslow, we're simplifying EV ownership. We're building a state-wide EV charging network for seamless travel through collaboration with electric cooperatives across North Carolina.

You'll find Level 2 EV charging stations at various locations, including our Jacksonville headquarters, Sneads Ferry's Hampton Inn, Starbucks at Jacksonville Mall, Surf City Town Hall, and Surf City Old Town Hall beach access lot. Charging

convenience is expanding rapidly!

More good news for our members! You can now receive a rebate from JOEMC when you install a Level 2 charger; learn more at joemc.com/energywise/go-electric-rebates/. Whether you are already an EV owner or considering purchasing one, you can always contact us at 910-353-1940 or visit ncdriveelectric.com/joemc for more information.



CHIPOTLE CHICKEN FLATBREADS

This dish is perfect for al fresco entertaining, especially when served alongside a fresh salad.

Source: carolinacountry.com

INGREDIENTS

- 2 flatbreads
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 clove garlic, diced
- 4 chicken tenders, cooked and cubed
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ cup ranch dressing
- 1½ teaspoons chipotle seasoning
- 2 tablespoons cilantro leaves, chopped

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Place parchment paper on baking sheet and add flatbreads. Sprinkle cheese on flatbreads. Top with garlic, chicken and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.
3. Bake 16 minutes until cheese is melted.
4. In small bowl, mix ranch and chipotle seasoning.
5. Drizzle ranch dressing on flatbreads and sprinkle with cilantro leaves.



It's Touchstone Tailgate time!

Are you ready for some football?

Join Jones- Onslow employees this fall at select high school football games in our area for FREE hot dogs, games, and prizes before the kickoff. Follow our social media channels for game locations, dates, and times. We hope to see you there!

Threats to Reliability, Cost: Looking out for your best interests

As a member-owned cooperative, we prioritize providing our members with affordable, reliable electricity. Today, a growing threat could impact these basic needs for you and all electric consumers in North Carolina and nationwide — an energy policy going too far and fast in the transition to renewables. During the past year, we have been sounding the alarm.

In our state, the NC Energy Solutions Act (HB951), which calls for a 70 percent carbon reduction (from 2005 levels), is a driving concern for us.

As we review the plans being established to meet this law by Duke Energy, our wholesale power provider that we purchase electricity from to provide to our members, we have grown increasingly concerned about reliability and affordability.

On a federal level, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has warned that the nation is facing unprecedented challenges to the reliability of the electric power system. FERC Commissioner Mark Christie noted the problem is not adding wind, solar, and other renewable resources

but rather the subtraction of resources and power plants that can quickly adjust power output to consumer needs. The core problem, he said, is simple: "We're retiring dispatchable generating resources (such as coal and gas) at a pace and in an amount that is far too fast and far too great and is threatening our ability to keep the lights on."

This will significantly impact the reliability and security of the electric grid and have a challenging economic impact on consumers.

“*Fortunately, your co-op wasn't asked to participate in the rolling blackouts, but there is no guarantee that it won't occur in the future.*”

An example of what can occur is the wake-up call the Carolinas experienced on Christmas Eve, 2022. That was the first time many utilities in North Carolina received emergency requests to start temporary rolling outages or blackouts to protect the grid and have enough power to get through that extremely cold period. Winter Storm Elliott had caused sustained low temperatures over the entire region, and power generators found themselves lacking



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

adequate generation fuels to power the extreme demand for heating. It is a situation that could have been much worse. Fortunately, your co-op wasn't asked to participate in the rolling blackouts, but there is no guarantee that it won't occur in the future.

The answer? An "all of the above" approach using all available resources, including coal, gas, nuclear, and renewables, will work best to keep power reliable AND affordable. In looking out for our members and communities, we ask policymakers to ensure all power generation resources are available. We will keep you informed about these efforts and movements on a state and federal level as we continue with our top priority: Working to provide you with the most reliable electricity at the most affordable cost.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept.
of Energy

