



Unwrap the Magic of PowerBucks

Are you struggling to find the perfect gift for your loved ones this holiday? Look no further than 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. These members prove that your gift truly makes an impact. A member from the Sneads Ferry community stated, "A very unexpected gift on my JOEMC bill arrived just at the right time. My family was going through a difficult time, and not having to worry about a portion of my power bill was a game changer." Another member from Trenton shared, "It was

a unique way to show a member of our community that there are others here to help. You never know what someone else is going through, so it's nice to help anonymously to someone in need."

POWER buck\$

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!

"A very unexpected gift on my JOEMC bill arrived just at the right time..."



joemc.com



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(910) 353-1940



259 Western Blvd, Jacksonville
1225 Hwy 210, Sneads Ferry

A sleigh full of savings!



Give your home the gift of savings by managing energy use. Control costs and multiply your holiday greenery with these easy tips:



Enjoy cozy Savings.

Set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Turn it down even more if you have a houseful of guests. (They'll generate lots of warmth!)



Deck the halls.

Use energy-efficient LED's for holiday and home lighting. Set holiday lights on a timer system.



Keep old man winter out.

Attach exterior door sweeps and add weather stripping around doors and windows.



Season's eatings.

Bake more than one item at a time. Cover items and use the microwave for faster cooking.



Be a little grinchy.

Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees. Take short showers and use the cold water cycle for full loads of laundry.

To learn more ways to save, look under the **EnergyWise** tab at joemc.com.





Tracking Ways to Help You Save

Are you tired of monstrous electric bills creeping up on you during the chilly winter months? Fear not, as you have access to your Daily Usage Summary—a free online tool designed to monitor your electricity usage—located in your member portal.

As temperatures plummet outside, your heating system goes into overdrive to maintain a cozy atmosphere indoors. The Daily Usage Summary steps in as your trusty sidekick, helping you decipher the impact of local weather on your power consumption. It's time to unveil the mysteries behind your soaring bills!

KEY FEATURES OF THE DAILY USAGE SUMMARY



By diligently tracking through your Daily Usage summary, you gain insights into how the weather influences your power usage. Unmask the hidden patterns and optimize your energy consumption accordingly.



Daily Usage puts the weather's impact on your bill front and center. No more surprises—just a clear understanding of how external elements affect your monthly expenses.



Take control of your electricity spending by setting daily limits. The Daily Usage Summary empowers you to receive notifications when you approach or exceed your

chosen limit, helping you rein in those wild electric bills.

Simply log into your member portal at joemc.com or embrace the convenience of the JOEMC app, offering instant access to your personalized energy insights.

Lead the charge; embark on a journey towards energy efficiency and financial savings. Let the Daily Usage Summary be your guiding light through the wilderness of power consumption, ensuring you emerge victorious against the onslaught of soaring bills. Embrace the power of knowledge, and let Bigfoot pave the way to a brighter, more cost-effective future!

Keep Scammers from Stealing Your Greens

Be on the lookout! Your cooperative will never call demanding immediate payment to avoid disconnection of your service. But scammers will, and they can even “spoof” phone numbers to make the call look legitimate.

Be smarter than the scammers. If it seems suspicious, check



your account status online anytime. You can easily create an online account at joemc.com or call us at **910-353-1940**. Don't be tricked into giving out your personal or financial info. Say “No” if asked to purchase a debit or gift card to make a utility payment. Hang up if in doubt. Don't fall for scammers' threats or promises.



'STEAK' CROSTINI

Visit your grocer's deli for rare London broil sliced thin to make these delicious open-faced appetizers.

Courtesy of: carolinacountry.com
Servings: Makes about 20 pieces

INGREDIENTS

- 1 baguette, sliced about 1/3-inch thick on the diagonal
- 2–3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 package (5.3 ounces) Boursin Cheese (we used garlic), softened
- 1 cup sprouts
- 1/4 pound thinly sliced rare London Broil (or roast beef)
- 3 tablespoons pepper jelly, melted
- 1/2 small red onion, very thinly sliced
- Blue cheese crumbles
- Poppy seeds
- Freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. Spread 1 side of bread pieces with butter. Toast on each side, using the high heat of a cast iron skillet, grill or broiler.
2. Spread a dollop of the cheese onto toast pieces. Scatter with sprouts, then a piece of the beef. Brush with pepper jelly. Scatter slivers of onion over toasts. Garnish with blue cheese crumbles, poppy seeds and a dusting of freshly ground black pepper.
3. Best to serve immediately or toast will become soft.



Wrapped in Value

There isn't a more exciting time of year than the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. As a child, I remember that anticipation as we counted the days to December 25th.



Gary W. Ray, CEO

While the holiday season is full of excitement, we sometimes miss the magic as we juggle hefty shopping

lists, parties, and wrapping up work projects before the end of the year. These tasks can add stress, not joy, to the holiday season. However, Jones-Onslow wants you to think of your electric cooperative as an early holiday gift wrapped with several layers of value.

As a member, you receive several perks that can help you save money and time and can come in handy, especially this time of year:

- Are you expecting a lot of family visits over the holidays? Every kilowatt-hour saved counts! Check out our home energy calculators under the Energywise section of our website. This resource provides excellent information about how much it costs to heat and cool your home, run various appliances in your house, and compare the costs of different types of water heaters and lighting options.
- We get that life is busier than ever, especially during the holidays. So, we're committed to making your business experience with us easy and enjoyable. That's why we've worked hard to provide many convenient ways to pay your bill. Whether online through our member portal, automatic draft, over the phone, with one of our

payment kiosks in the community, or with our mobile app, we want to make life simple so you can focus on the important things in your life.

- Did you know you can save at local and national businesses with your Co-op Connections Card simply for being a customer of Jones-Onslow? You might even find coupons for the secret ingredients of your famous green bean casserole at www.joemc.com or www.connections.coop. So before you do your holiday shopping or baking, see what deals await.

But the best co-op value of all can be seen in the faces of your friends and neighbors who work at JOEMC. You can find us volunteering at local soup kitchens, toy drives, and shelters this time of year. Folks in the surrounding communities started our co-op over 80 years ago to power our community and empower members to improve their quality of life—that's our purpose. It warms my heart to see employees going the extra mile to power our community and make life better for everyone during the holidays.

As I wish you and yours a happy holiday season, try to remember to avoid getting caught in the hustle and bustle of the season. Please take a moment to watch the excitement in the eyes of your children and grandchildren as they count down the days. Enjoy every last piece of fudge.

Then, after gifts are wrapped and meals cooked, take time to look into the faces of those around the room—they are your purpose. The rest of the holiday scramble is just details, and we can help you take care of a few of those.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy

