



## 9 Easy Spring Cleaning Tips for a More Energy Efficient Home

As spring blooms and the weather warms, it's the perfect time to refresh your home and embrace the season's energy. While tackling your spring cleaning checklist, why not incorporate some tips to boost energy efficiency? Not only will these steps help you save money on utility bills, but they'll also contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle.

**1 Clean and Service Your HVAC System:** Dirty filters can restrict airflow and cause your system to work harder, increasing energy consumption. Consider scheduling a professional maintenance service to ensure your HVAC system runs efficiently.

**2 Seal Air Leaks:** Weatherstrip/caulk around doors/windows to prevent warm air from escaping in the winter and cool air from seeping out in the summer.

**3 Utilize Natural Light:** While the temperatures are mild, open curtains/blinds and let the sun light your home.

**4 Inspect and Clean Air Ducts:** Over time, dust, dirt, and debris can accumulate in your home's air ducts, restricting airflow and reducing HVAC efficiency. Professional duct cleaning removes buildup, ensuring optimal airflow.

**5 Adjust Your Thermostat:** You can save energy without sacrificing comfort by raising the temperature a few degrees while you're away or asleep. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to create temperature schedules based on your daily routine.

**6 Upgrade Your Appliances:** If your appliances are outdated, consider upgrading to ENERGY STAR® certified models. They consume less electricity and water, lowering utility bills and reducing environmental impact. Be sure to check out rebates on our website.

**7 Unplug Unused Electronics:** Electronics and appliances plugged in but not in use continue to consume energy. Unplug chargers, small appliances, and

electronics when not in use, or use power strips with built-in switches to disconnect multiple devices simultaneously.

**8 Clean Refrigerator Coils:** Dust and debris accumulation on refrigerator coils can cause the appliance to work harder to maintain temperature, leading to increased energy consumption.

**9 Plant Shade Trees:** Strategically planting shade trees around your home can help reduce solar heat gain in the summer, lowering your cooling costs. Choose deciduous trees that provide shade in the summer while allowing sunlight to penetrate in the winter.

Incorporating these spring cleaning tips into your routine can improve your home's energy efficiency, reduce your carbon footprint, and enjoy lower utility bills throughout the year. Make the most of the season by embracing sustainable practices that benefit both your wallet and the environment.



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# COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>

*An evening of music, BBQ sandwiches, door prizes, displays and more!*

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 22, for the 2024 JOEMC Annual Meeting of Members held at a **NEW** venue, River of Life Church (2460 Gum Branch Rd, Jacksonville). This year, don't miss the chance to meet Jones-Onslow EMC's newly appointed CEO, Gary Ray. Your attendance ensures an informative evening, offering valuable insights and an opportunity to connect with the latest developments in our cooperative.

Prepare for a fun family evening of community and connections at our Annual Meeting. Beyond introducing our new CEO, Gary Ray, the event offers more than just business updates. Enjoy live music from local gospel group Curtis Hyler and Jubilation, as

well as mesmerizing magic by Bryan Sanders. In addition, there will be barbecue sandwiches and cold refreshments, games, giveaways, and fun informative displays. As a cherished tradition, one lucky JOEMC member will have the chance to win a recently retired fleet vehicle in its "as is" condition—but remember, the winner must be present at the drawing. Join us for an evening of shared connections, good company, and the chance to win a door prize. And guess what? This is a free family event!



*2024 JOEMC Annual Meeting of Members is Friday, March 22, at River of Life Church, 2460 Gum Branch Road, Jacksonville. 5:30PM doors open. 5:30PM-7:00PM registration, displays, games, giveaways, magician Bryan Sanders, gaming trailer, BBQ sandwiches, and more! 5:45PM-6:45PM Curtis Hyler & Jubilation take the stage. 7:00PM-7:45PM business meeting. 8:00PM truck giveaway. Follow us on Facebook for more information.*

## Protect Your Electronics with PowerGuard Surge Protection

In today's technology-driven world, our homes are filled with electronic devices that simplify our lives. From essential appliances to entertainment systems and intelligent gadgets, these devices play a vital role in our daily routines. However, they're vulnerable to damage from power surges, which can occur unexpectedly due to lightning strikes or fluctuations in the electrical grid.

At Jones-Onslow EMC, we understand the significance of safeguarding your electronics against these potential threats. That's why we offer reliable surge suppression solutions designed to mitigate risks and prolong the lifespan of your valuable devices.

Our surge suppression program provides comprehensive protection options:

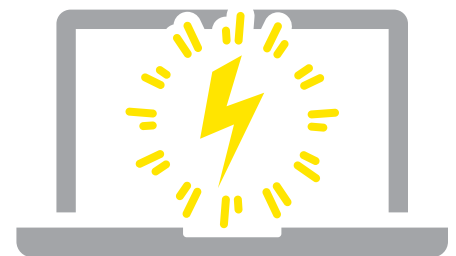
### 1. Whole-House Protection:

Installed at your meter base outside your home, our system shields all major appliances and electronics connected to your home's electrical system.

**2. In-Home Plug-In Units:** For added peace of mind, we also provide plug-in units designed to protect individual electronics within your home, offering an extra layer of defense against power surges.

While our surge suppression solutions offer essential protection, it's crucial to note that no system can entirely prevent a direct lightning strike or guarantee total protection for your home. However, by investing in surge suppression, you're taking proactive steps to minimize risks and safeguard your electronics.

For more information, please get in touch with us at **910-353-1940**. Your satisfaction and the safety of your electronics are our top priorities.



**Stay connected and stay protected with JOEMC's surge suppression solutions.**

# Adventure Awaits

## JOEMC's No Barriers Warriors Expedition for Disabled Veterans

Our local community remains a steadfast supporter of our veterans, many of whom grapple with disabilities stemming from their service. For the seventh consecutive year, Jones-Onslow EMC, in collaboration with one of our esteemed financial partners, continues its search for disabled veterans within its service territory to nominate for the No Barriers Warriors Expedition Program, hosted by the Colorado-based nonprofit organization.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Co-Bank, this program offers expeditions crafted to challenge veterans both mentally and physically, encompassing outdoor activities such as mountaineering, rafting, and rock climbing. These immersive five-day experiences enable veterans to push their limits and foster enduring support networks. Co-Bank remains committed to covering all participant expenses, including meals, gear, and travel. To be considered for this expedition, someone can nominate a disabled veteran, or you can self-nominate.

Reflecting on our past participation, during the summer of 2023, Jones-Onslow EMC proudly sponsored Staff Sgt. Dave Mastin, a cherished member, for one of the expeditions near Fort Collins, Colorado. Throughout his seven-day journey, Dave engaged in hiking, rock climbing, rappelling, and heartfelt conversations about his experiences and challenges as a veteran. Dave's transformative experiences during the expedition continue to resonate deeply. Dave reflected on his time, "When I found out a friend nominated me, I was intrigued, but the experience exceeded all expectations. The seven-day expedition was both physically and mentally demanding. Forming connections with fellow participants who shared similar experiences during their service felt like building a family."

Dave offered advice to fellow veterans contemplating applying, saying, "Take the leap, step outside your comfort zone, and sign up today."

For more information visit <https://joemc.com/community/community-programs/> or contact Krystal Phillips, JOEMC Communications and Community Manager, at [kphillips@joemc.com](mailto:kphillips@joemc.com) or 910-353-1940.



### **CRISPY BUTTERSCOTCH COOKIES**

*An often overlooked flavor, a mention of butterscotch may conjure fond memories of pudding cups and hard candies. Forgo your oh-so-common chocolate chip cookies for these rich, crispy butterscotch beauties loaded with chips. And don't forget the milk!*

Source: [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup softened butter or margarine
- ¾ cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup of sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 bag (10–12 ounce) butterscotch chips
- 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

#### **DIRECTIONS**

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt in a bowl.
3. In a mixing bowl, beat eggs, butter, sugars and vanilla extract until creamy.
4. Gradually add the flour mixture and mix well. Stir in the butterscotch chips and nuts.
5. Drop by rounded tablespoon or roll in balls and place on ungreased baking sheets. Leave room for spreading.
6. Bake for 9–12 minutes or until golden; cool on baking sheet.





# Capital Credits... A Little Money Back in Your Pocket



Gary W. Ray, CEO

The name “capital credits” may sound complex, but it’s a simple concept. Capital credits are the annual margins—revenues minus expenses of the cooperative—allocated to each member based on their individual purchase and use of electricity. Until they’re returned to members, capital credits are funds used as operating capital to invest in power lines, substations, and other electric system assets that provide all JOEMC members with safe, reliable electricity. After using the money for a period of years to finance investments in electric facilities throughout the co-op service area, it is returned to our members.

To assure your return of capital credits and the fiscal health of your cooperative, your Board of Directors has approved and put into

Returning money to our members is a significant cooperative value, and we hope you agree that it’s also a nice benefit of being a cooperative member. During the middle part of February, members should have received a “green” letter from JOEMC concerning the co-op’s Board of Directors’ authorization of a capital credits refund. There is a space provided, near the bottom of the page, for your signature and a return envelope so you can mail it back to our office.

place an equity management plan. The plan uses an industry-best standard that looks at the percent of member equity to total assets. It includes a schedule for the regular return of member equity in the form of capital credits.

The equity plan also determines how much of the cooperative’s investment in electric system assets will be covered through member capital and how much will be covered by long-term debt. Our goal is to balance member capital (equity) and debt to give members the lowest possible rates.

This year, the capital credit refund authorization of \$2.6 million will be for members who received electric service from JOEMC during 2001 and 2023. These refunds will consist of 100%

of the remaining allocated capital credits from 2001 and 25% from 2023. All active members who received service during the years mentioned above will receive their refund in the form of a “capital credit refund” on their electric bill. All inactive members who received service from the cooperative during those years will receive a capital credit check in the mail.

Since 2002, JOEMC has returned close to \$42 million in capital credits to our members, including this current retirement. It pays to be a member of a cooperative and we’re pleased to provide good value in addition to good service to our members.



Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it’s clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that’s fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.

Source: energystar.gov

WE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MARCH 29,  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
GOOD FRIDAY.

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