



## Maximize Your Home's Energy Efficiency with Help from Your Co-op

Understanding and managing your home's energy use is key to lowering your power bills. Factors like weather and appliance usage impact your electricity consumption. Jones-Onslow EMC is here to help you save money while keeping your home comfortable. Here's how you can boost your home's energy efficiency:

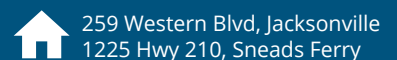
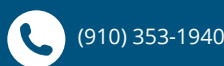
### Where Does Your Energy Go?

- **Heating & Cooling – 47%** In North Carolina, seasonal changes mean your HVAC system works hard year-round. Choosing the right heat pump and upgrading its efficiency can cut costs significantly.
- **Water Heating – 21%** Simple changes like lowering water heater temperature and using energy-efficient appliances can reduce energy use.
- **Refrigeration – 10%** Keep your refrigerator well-maintained and energy-efficient to lower its 24/7 energy drain.
- **Lighting – 6%** Switch to LED bulbs and maximize natural light to cut lighting costs.

- **Laundry – 6%** Use cold water for washing and run full loads to save energy.
- **Entertainment – 6%** Unplug devices when not in use and choose energy-saving models to reduce consumption.
- **Cooking – 3%** Use microwaves and toaster ovens instead of conventional ovens to save energy.

### We're Here to Help

Jones-Onslow EMC knows every dollar counts. We're committed to providing advice and assistance to keep your energy bill low without sacrificing comfort. We encourage you to check out our new home energy users and losers page to learn more about where your energy use is going, <https://ncelectriccoops.com/jones-onslow-emc/homeefficiency/>.



# Youth Tourists Explore D.C. and Build Leadership Skills

Approximately 1,800 high school students gathered in Washington, DC, June 16-21 as delegates to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Dozens of North Carolina students, including four local delegates sponsored by Jones-Onslow EMC, participated in the weeklong opportunity.

These four local high school students, Eden Norris of Jacksonville High School, Caleb Snyder of Jones Senior High School, Malachi Reynolds of Onslow Early College, and Christian Morgan of Dixon High School, were selected to represent Jones-Onslow EMC on the Youth Tour. During their time in D.C., they not only learned about electric cooperatives and toured the city's historic monuments and museums, but also honed their leadership skills, built a national peer network, and engaged in meaningful conversations with elected officials.

"Our Youth Tourists explored D.C. with confidence and curiosity, which was great to see," said Krystal Phillips. "The Youth Tour emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and the fact that politics touch every aspect of life. We hope the experiences and skills delegates gained during the trip will benefit them on their journey to becoming our next great leaders."



## NC Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour



*JOEMC Youth Tourists visited historic landmarks, soaked up the government scene, and made memories that will last a lifetime during their weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. last month. Pictured left to right: Malachi Reynolds, Christian Morgan, Caleb Snyder, Eden Norris.*

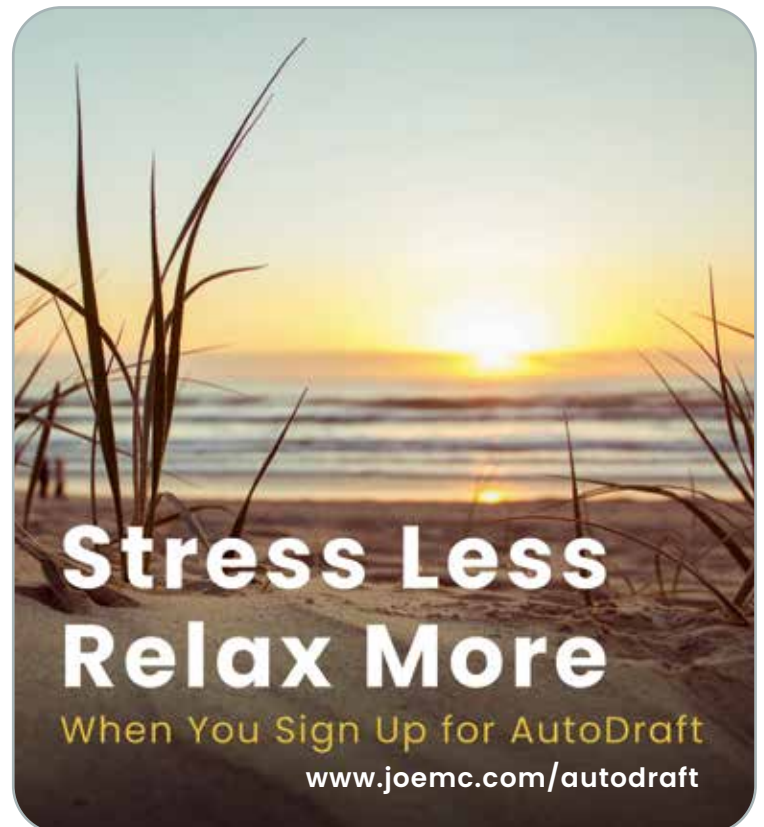
See highlights, photos, and videos from the week **@NC Youth Tour** on Facebook, X, and Instagram. Be sure to listen to our podcast—Flippin' the Switch—in August, as we will interview some of our youth tourists to learn more about this experience.



## Ignite Joy in Learning with a Bright Ideas Grant

Calling all K-12 teachers! Do you have a groundbreaking idea for a hands-on classroom project? Apply for a Bright Ideas Grant through Jones-Onslow EMC and bring your vision to life!

Submit your application by August 15<sup>th</sup> for a chance to win a \$100 gift card. The final deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Visit **NCBrightIdeas.com** to apply today and illuminate the path to innovative education!





## STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY: *Jones-Onslow EMC Survey Seeks Member Feedback*

You—our cooperative members—are our guiding force. This summer, we are conducting an online survey to gather input directly from our local membership. Your feedback is appreciated, and responses will help us enhance our service to you.

Jones-Onslow EMC members may receive an invitation by email this month to participate in the online survey from Bellomy Research. Responses are

- anonymous, and your answers will help
- ensure that we are serving our community effectively, planning to meet local
- needs, and are responsive to opportunities to improve the ways we serve you.
- As a community-owned cooperative, our members are our purpose. We exist
- to serve you, and we are committed to providing the highest level of service
- now, and into the future. Thank you for your membership and your input!

## *Scholarships Awarded*

Jones-Onslow EMC continues its commitment to supporting education in our communities by funding scholarships for twenty-six outstanding students this year. Among the recipients, twenty-one were graduating high school seniors, and four were community college students.

Selection of the students was carried out in collaboration with local educational institutions. In Onslow County, the high school students were chosen in conjunction with the school system and its Sponsors for Academic Talent (SAT) Program. Meanwhile, students from Duplin, Jones, Lenoir, and Pender counties were selected by the staff at their respective schools.

- **Duplin County Recipients:** Allyson Hatcher, Camden Heath
- **Jones County Recipients:** Wyland Howard, Parker Murphy
- **Lejeune High School Recipients:** : Marin Priddy, Abigal Kellam
- **Lenoir County Recipients:** Rodne Brock, Stephen Reavis
- **Onslow County Recipients:** Brady Jarman, Breana Richards, Chase Slomski, Dylan Dedmond, Ethan Petsch, Giselle Hans, Grace Singleton, Hao Ni, Ishika Patel, Megan Hronek, Nora DeSelms, Olivia Davis, Ryan Davenport, Sienna Cambunga, Timothy Edwards, Tyler Price
- **Pender County Recipients:** Emerson Thomas, Whitney Seferyn
- **Community College Recipients:** Hailey Taylor, Julia Hall, Morgann Rose, William Taylor



## FRESH TOMATO BRUSCHETTA CHICKEN

*If you're a seafood lover, reimagine this dish by swapping in a mild white fish like halibut, cod or snapper.*

Source: [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)  
Serves: 6

### INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil, plus additional for garnish
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 large onion, thinly sliced
- 1 jar (24.7 ounces) marinara sauce
- 6 thinly sliced boneless, skinless chicken breast cutlets (about 1½ pounds)
- 2 cups multi-colored grape tomatoes, halved
- 2 stems cherry tomatoes on the vine
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons balsamic glaze

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. In small bowl, whisk olive oil, basil, garlic, salt, pepper and oregano until combined.
3. Combine 2 tablespoons oil mixture and chicken in resealable plastic bag. Let stand 5-10 minutes at room temperature to marinate.
4. In medium skillet, heat 2 tablespoons oil mixture over medium heat. Add onions; cook 3-4 minutes or until crisp-tender. Stir in marinara sauce. Pour mixture into lightly greased 13-by-9-inch baking dish.
5. Arrange chicken breasts in dish, overlapping if necessary. Top with grape tomatoes and cherry tomato stems. Spoon remaining oil mixture over tomatoes.
6. Bake, covered, for 25 minutes or until chicken reaches 165 degrees and tomatoes start to burst.
7. Sprinkle with Parmesan, drizzle with balsamic glaze and garnish with fresh basil leaves before serving.

# 9 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration



Gary W. Ray, CEO

Have you ever watched a video or TV show in which a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly snaps their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut. While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take much more effort and people to make it happen.

As the CEO of Jones-Onslow, I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's never a good time to be without it. This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are some things you might not know about restoration:

**1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a small section of a neighborhood. Even

though our automated metering infrastructure system alerts our operations center about potential power outages, it's still good practice to reach out and let us know you're experiencing a disruption in service.

## **2. Our employees live in the communities we serve.**

Because JOEMC is a local electric cooperative based in the community, our employees are local, too. They are your neighbors, friends, and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people are quick to respond.

If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on.

**3. It's a team effort.** Every employee of the co-op is working to restore your power as soon as possible. Our member services representatives take your calls, engineers and field staff survey damage, our vegetation management team clears hazards, dispatchers organize crews, and communicators keep everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together quickly and safely to get you back to normal.

## **4. We assess the situation first.**

Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then determine what materials we need and a plan to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.

## **5. Restoration is typically prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest time.**

Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then, we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.

## **6. Our employees face many dangers.**

In addition to working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees, and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)

## **7. Flickering lights are a good thing.**

Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible

outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.

## **8. You need a backup plan.**

We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan—remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare an emergency location.

## **9. Sometimes it's a waiting game.**

Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that the JOEMC team is working quickly and safely to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by reporting it by calling our office or online at the *Outage Hub Tab* at [joemc.com](http://joemc.com).

