



BEAT THE HEAT: Smart Tips for Saving on Your Summer Electric Bill

As summer temperatures soar, managing energy use is essential to keep your electric bill in check. Here are some tips to help you stay cool without breaking the bank:



Set Your Thermostat Wisely

To maximize energy efficiency, keep your thermostat set no lower than 78 degrees. While this may seem warm, setting your thermostat too low can cause your cooling unit to run continuously, leading to higher electric bills.

Smart Appliance Use

- **Dryer:** The dryer not only generates heat but also pulls cool air out of your home. Try to avoid using it during the hottest parts of the day. Clean the dryer vents and filters regularly, and consider drying clothes outdoors when possible.
- **Cooking:** Instead of using the stove, which can heat up your home, opt for outdoor grilling on hot days.
- **Water Heater:** Take shorter showers and use the exhaust fan only long enough to remove moisture.

Additional Energy-Saving Tips

- **Lighting:** Turn off unnecessary lights and replace incandescent bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.
- **Laundry and Dishes:** Run full loads to make the most of your appliances' energy use.
- **Window Coverings:** Keep draperies and blinds closed to block out heat.
- **Seal Your Home:** Ensure that windows and doors are closed tightly to prevent cool air from escaping.
- **Use Fans Efficiently:** Fans help cool your body but don't lower the room temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room to save energy.

By following these tips, you can enjoy a cooler home and lower energy bills throughout the summer. For more tips and home energy calculators visit, joemc.com/energywise.com



You + Paperless = Healthy Meals for Kids



At JOEMC, we're committed to our community. This August, by switching to paperless billing, you can help fight childhood hunger and promote healthy eating for kids!

For every 500 members who sign up for paperless billing during the month of August, JOEMC will donate \$500 to United Way of Onslow County's CHEW (Children Healthy Eating on Weekends) program. The CHEW program provides backpacks with food for children in need, ensuring they have enough to eat over the weekends.

What is Paperless Billing?

Paperless billing is a simple and convenient way to receive your monthly electric bill notification via email instead of traditional mail. When you choose paperless billing, you'll get an email each month when your statement is available online at the JOEMC website. This helps you stay organized and keeps your personal financial information secure.

Benefits of Paperless Billing

- **Convenience:** Receive your bill notifications directly in your inbox, eliminating the need to sift through piles of mail.
- **Security:** Multiple layers of online security protect your personal information, keeping it out of your postal mailbox.
- **Eco-friendly:** Reduce paper waste and contribute to a greener environment.

How to Sign Up

Already have an online billing account?

1. Log in to your account.
2. Select "Account Management" from the column on the left side of the page.
3. Choose the "Paperless Options" tab.
4. Opt for email notifications and paperless billing.

Under the Notifications section, you can also set up reminders for due dates, ensuring you never miss a payment. If you have any questions, please call our office at (910) 353-1940 or email us (joemc@joemc.com) for assistance.

Together, by going paperless, we can make a real difference in the lives of local children. Make the switch and fight hunger. Sign up today at <https://joemc.com/paperlessbilling/>.

LIGHT UP YOUR CLASSROOM with a Bright Ideas Grant

As the back-to-school season kicks off, we have exciting news for all K-12 teachers! The Bright Ideas Grants are now open for applicants. If you have a groundbreaking idea for a hands-on classroom project that will inspire and captivate your students, this is your chance to bring your vision to life with the support of Jones-Onslow EMC.



- **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!**
- To add a spark of excitement, we have a special opportunity for early bird applicants. Submit your application before the early bird deadline of August 15th, and you will automatically be entered for a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards. Not only will you increase your chances of receiving funding, but you might also walk away with a little extra reward!
- **FINAL DEADLINE**
- Remember, the final deadline for applications is September 15th. However, applying early can pay off in more ways than one! Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your classroom and create memorable learning experiences for your students.
- Visit **NCBrightIdeas.com** to find more information or start your application today. Together, let's illuminate the path to innovative education and ignite the joy of learning for our students!
- Don't delay—apply now and turn your brilliant ideas into reality!



Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm or a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home? These occurrences are often the result of a brief disruption in your electric service, caused by either a power surge or a power blink. Although they may appear similar, the underlying causes can be quite different.

What's a Power Surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances in the power waveform that can damage, degrade, or destroy electronic equipment in your home or business. While most electronics are designed to handle slight voltage variations, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts, causing significant damage. Surges can originate from internal sources, such as HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or from external sources, such as lightning strikes or damage to power lines and transformers.

Jones-Onslow EMC encourages all members to install surge protective devices, such as surge protector power strips, to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you experience frequent surges and believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a Power Blink?

Power blinks are brief service interruptions typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device responding to the fault. Faults can occur due to various reasons, such as squirrels, birds, or other small animals contacting an energized power line, tree branches touching a power line, or lightning strikes. In fact, in 2023, JOEMC had 542 outages that were attributed to birds and squirrels.

These events can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices, similar to circuit breakers, are working to detect the fault. These brief power blinks are actually beneficial, as they indicate that the protective equipment is functioning correctly to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, Jones-Onslow EMC crews are always ready to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. You can help too! If you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling **910-353-1940** or visiting **www.joemc.com**.

By understanding the differences between power surges and blinks, you can take appropriate measures to protect your electronic equipment and minimize disruptions to your electric service.



CITRUS, MANGO AND PINEAPPLE SALSA

Enjoy with tortilla chips or as a topping on your favorite tacos to add a little sweetness.

Source: www.carolinacountry.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1¼ cup fresh pineapple, diced
- 1¼ cup fresh mango, diced
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- ½ red onion, diced
- 1 jalapeño, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon coriander
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- Sea salt, to taste
- Fresh cracked pepper, to taste
- Tortilla chips, for serving

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, combine pineapple, mango, tomato, onion, jalapeño, coriander, lime juice and lemon juice. Add salt and pepper to taste.
2. With a rubber spatula, mix all ingredients together.
3. Taste and season with additional salt and pepper, if desired. Serve with tortilla chips.



Our offices will be closed on Monday, September 2nd.

We're Here to Serve You



Gary W. Ray, CEO

"We're here to serve you."
We've all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us—your local electric cooperative—they mean everything.

JOEMC was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our electric co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, Jones-Onslow helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're

adapting, to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs, and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, check out the EnergyWise Section at joemc.com for energy-saving tips, appliance calculators, rebate offerings, and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Consider scheduling a free energy audit with one of our energy experts to identify ways you can save energy at home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.

If you're considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a significant decision, and fully understanding the costs, responsibilities, and potential energy savings is essential. Unlike a solar company that has one objective—to sell their products and

services—we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence and we're here to help you through that process. If you'd like to do some research, check out our solar page joemc.com/energywise/solar. There, you can do your own rooftop solar assessment on your home and get instant information that can help you decide.

In a similar vein, we recognize that many members are considering electric vehicle options. JOEMC provides information about the technology and EV charging to our members so you can make informed decisions about EVs. We can provide a candid assessment of residential and business charging requirements for all types of EVs, and with our EV Calculator (joemc.com/energywise/electric-vehicles), you can view available models and look at potential fuel savings and the charging costs associated with owning an EV.

So, the next time you hear JOEMC use the phrase *"we're here to serve you,"* we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into who we are.

We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, through our mobile app, or through our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.



Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Source: energy.gov

