



pictured left to right: Colby Antonori, Jeremy Maegers, Ricky Maready

JOEMC Welcomes Ricky Maready as New CEO

“This cooperative is more than just poles and wires—it’s people.”

Jones-Onslow EMC is proud to announce the appointment of Ricky Maready as our new Chief Executive Officer. A familiar and trusted leader within our cooperative, Ricky brings 37 years of experience and dedication to this new role, marking an exciting new chapter for both JOEMC and the communities we serve.

Ricky’s career with JOEMC began over three decades ago. Since then, he has held several key leadership positions, most recently serving as District Vice President, where he oversaw daily operations across our multi-county service area. During that time, he played a vital role in strengthening system reliability,

improving member services, and guiding the development of our infrastructure, including more than 2,400 miles of electric line that power over 80,000 homes and businesses.

Throughout his career, Ricky has embodied the values that define JOEMC: service, integrity, and community commitment. His expertise in electric distribution, storm response, and cooperative leadership makes him uniquely qualified to lead JOEMC into the future. Under his guidance, the co-op has built strong partnerships with local governments, emergency services, and civic organizations—all while maintaining safe and reliable power for our members.

“I am honored and humbled to step into this new role,” said Maready. “This cooperative is more than just poles and wires—it’s people. I’ve been fortunate to work alongside some of the most dedicated professionals in the industry, and I’m excited about what we’ll continue to accomplish together. My focus will always be on delivering safe, reliable electric service while evolving to meet the changing needs of our members.”

Known for his calm leadership and collaborative spirit, Ricky has consistently demonstrated his commitment to both JOEMC and the communities we serve. Whether leading storm recovery efforts, overseeing system upgrades, or supporting educational and assistance programs for our members, he leads with purpose, compassion, and integrity.

As Ricky steps into the role of CEO, we look forward to a future built on a strong foundation of trust, innovation, and service. His deep knowledge of the cooperative and his unwavering dedication to our mission make him the right leader for the road ahead.

Please join us in congratulating Ricky Maready as he officially takes on the role of Chief Executive Officer. We are confident that under his leadership, JOEMC will continue to grow, adapt, and deliver the high-quality service our members have come to expect.



joemc.com



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GET YOUR JOEMC BILL DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX

At Jones-Onslow EMC, we're always looking for ways to make managing your electric account easier. One great option available to all members is paperless billing. It's a convenient, secure, and environmentally friendly way to receive your monthly bill.

Why Go Paperless?

1. Convenient

No more waiting for the mail. You'll get your bill by email as soon as it's ready, and you can view it any-time through your member portal.

2. Organized

Keep track of your bills easily without the paper clutter. Everything is stored in one place online.

3. Secure

Your digital bill is sent directly to your email or is available in your secure member portal.



How to Sign Up

It's easy to switch to paperless billing.

- Log in to your JOEMC member portal at www.joemc.com
- Go to Account Profile
- Select Paperless Billing and follow the prompts to complete your enrollment

Or, if you prefer, give us a call at **(910) 353-1940** and we'll help you make the switch over the phone.

Once you're signed up, you'll receive an email each month letting you know your bill is ready to view online.

Make the switch to paperless billing today – it's simple, secure, and designed to make your life a little easier.



NATIONAL Drive Electric MONTH

CONSIDERING DRIVING ELECTRIC?

National Drive Electric Month 2025 is September 12 to October 12, and JOEMC is joining a nationwide celebration highlighting the many benefits of driving electric.

Electric vehicles have something for everyone. From a better driving experience to exciting tech and reduced emissions, to name a few. Electric vehicles are convenient. So convenient that most people charge their vehicles at home, which eliminates trips to the gas station. But when you are out, charging your EV has never been easier. Jones-Onslow is taking steps to make it more convenient than ever to drive an electric vehi-

cle. Your co-op has partnered with other electric cooperatives across North Carolina to build an electric vehicle charging network that allows EV drivers to travel throughout our state and visit co-op communities easily. This network includes two Level 2 EV charging stations installed at our headquarters in Jacksonville and the Hampton Inn in Sneads Ferry. And be on the lookout; more charging stations will be coming soon.

If you are interested in learning more about driving electric or would like to find a complete map of EV chargers throughout our state, visit, ncdriveelectric.com.



TO SAVE ENERGY

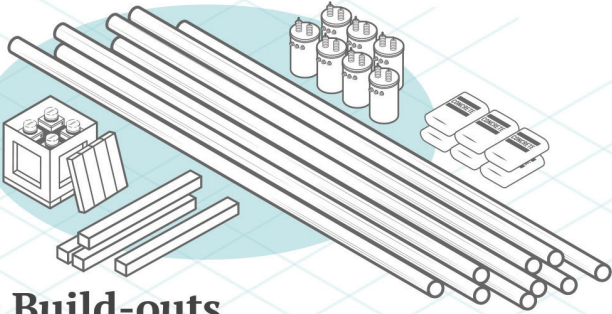
Take advantage of “shoulder months,” which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.

Cost Increases

The past five years have been a period of exploding costs for the electric utility industry and for broadband providers, pushed by soaring demand, supply chain challenges, raw materials shortages, increased labor costs and tariffs. The impact has been rapid increases in the cost of producing power, longer and more unpredictable project timelines and the need for more financing, all of which have driven electric rates up for residences, businesses and other end-users. Here's a look at what's contributing to the trend. **Percent increase since 2020:**

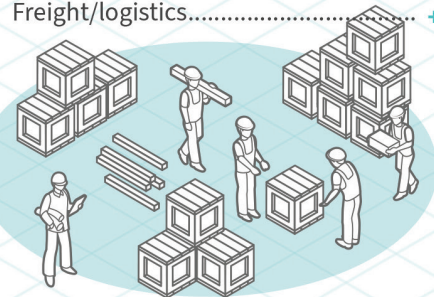
Infrastructure

- Utility poles (wood, steel, composite) **+25-40%**
- Crossarms & braces (steel/wood)..... **+20-35%**
- Conductor wire (aluminum/copper).. **+30-50%**
- Transformers..... **+70-100%**
- Grain-oriented electrical steel..... **+80-100%**
- Oil/dielectric fluids..... **+25-40%**
- Copper wiring..... **+50%**
- Concrete..... **+25-35%**
- Smart meters..... **+20-35%**
- Pad-mounted switchgear..... **+25-40%**
- Circuit breakers/reclosers..... **+20-35%**



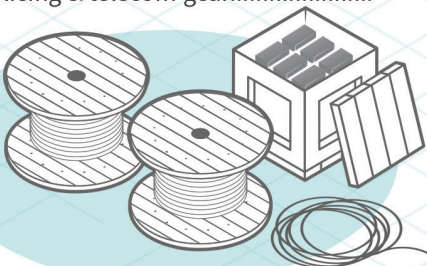
Build-outs

- Utility construction labor..... **+20-40%**
- Freight/logistics..... **+30-60%**



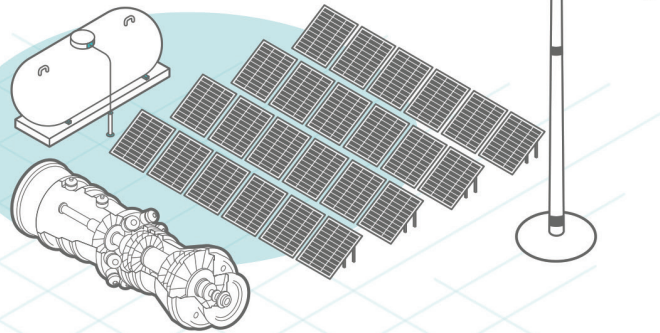
Broadband

- Fiber-optic cable..... **+25-40%**
- Splicing & telecom gear..... **+20-30%**



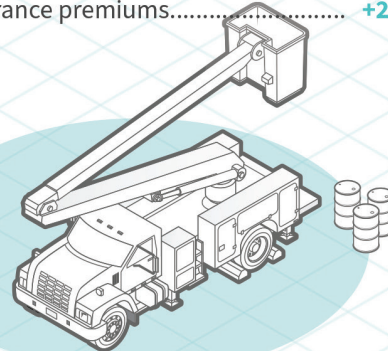
Generation

- Diesel gensets..... **+20-40%**
- Gas turbines..... **+20-30%**
- Solar PV systems..... **+25-35%**
- Wind turbines..... **+25-35%**
- Hydropower components..... **+20-30%**
- Battery storage..... **+25-40%**
- SCADA/EMS systems..... **+20-30%**
- Inverters..... **+20-30%**
- Relays & switchgear..... **+25-40%**
- Natural Gas..... **+20-120%**
- Coal..... **+30-60%**
- Diesel/fuel oil..... **+40-70%**



Fleets

- Light trucks..... **+25-40%**
- Bucket trucks, digger derricks **+20-50%**
- Fuel costs (especially diesel)..... **+20-30%**
- Maintenance..... **+15-25%**
- Insurance premiums..... **+20%**



Sources: BLS; energynews.com; Reuters; Wood Mackenzie; NREL; IEA



Ricky Maready, CEO

A Message from the CEO

Why Peak Times Matter to Our Cooperative

At Jones-Onslow EMC, we are committed to delivering reliable and affordable electricity to our members every day. As your electric cooperative, we believe it's important to help members understand how the electric system works and how your daily energy habits can make a meaningful difference.

One topic we want to shed light on is peak times—periods during the day when electricity demand across the grid is at its highest. These typically occur in the mornings as people begin their day and again in the evenings when families return home, prepare meals, and use household electronics. During these times, many homes and businesses are using electricity simultaneously, which places greater demand on the electric system.

It's important to understand that Jones-Onslow EMC does not generate electricity ourselves. Instead, we purchase power from various generation sources—including natural gas, solar, wind, and others—and then distribute it to your home or business. Because we buy electricity from these sources, the cost we pay fluctuates depending on overall demand and availability. Although we do not charge higher rates during peak times, the cost to the cooperative is typically greater when demand is at its highest.

When demand surges, it puts extra pressure on the electric grid. This strain can lead to higher costs and, in extreme cases, may increase the risk of outages or service interruptions. By working together to reduce electricity use during peak periods, we can ease this strain, helping control costs and supporting a more stable and reliable system.

There are many simple ways members can help. For example, adjusting your thermostat by a few degrees during peak hours can reduce energy use without sacrificing comfort. Running energy-intensive appliances like dishwashers, clothes washers, and dryers during off-peak hours helps spread out demand. If you own an electric vehicle, charging it overnight instead of immediately after arriving home can make a significant difference.

These small actions, when combined across our entire membership, have a large impact. They help us keep electricity affordable and reliable for everyone in the community. At Jones-Onslow EMC, we are proud to serve you, and we appreciate your role in helping maintain the strength and sustainability of our electric system.

Together, by understanding peak times and making thoughtful energy choices, we can protect the cooperative's resources and continue delivering the dependable power you expect—today and in the years ahead.

...adjusting your thermostat by a few degrees during peak hours can reduce energy use without sacrificing comfort.



SUNSHINE SMOOTHIE

This refreshing and tasty smoothie offers fruity flavors that are nearly irresistible. It takes just a few minutes to make and leaves everyone feeling cool and re-energized.

Serves: 2-4

Source: www.carolinacountry.com

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups orange juice
- 2 cups grapefruit juice*
- 1 cup vanilla yogurt
- 2 bananas, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1. In blender, combine orange juice, grapefruit juice, yogurt, banana chunks and vanilla extract until smooth. Serve immediately.

**Reduce to 1 cup grapefruit juice, for a less tart smoothie*

SOLAR PANEL ENERGY SCAMS



Solar energy is rising in popularity—and so are solar scams. If a salesperson knocks on your door promising free solar panels at zero cost or that you'll never have to pay your energy bill again, it's likely a scam. If you're interested in solar panels for your home, do your research, get multiple quotes from licensed providers who are reputable, and most importantly, take your time to ensure a smooth process.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

