



Understanding the WPCA Charge on Your Electric Bill

At JOEMC, we’re committed to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to our members. As a not-for-profit cooperative, our rates are based on the actual cost of providing electricity—factoring in wholesale power, maintaining our system, and a small margin for financial stability.

Unfortunately, the cost of wholesale power—the largest portion of our operating costs—has increased more than originally forecasted. Effective this month, a Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) will appear on your bill. For the average household using 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh), this will mean an increase of approximately \$7.50 per month.

Why the Change?

Nationwide trends are impacting the electric industry:

- Rising fuel and materials costs
- Increased electricity demand
- Retirement of aging power plants without immediate replacements

These factors are driving up the cost of power generation and transmission for all utilities—not just JOEMC.

Our Commitment to You

We work alongside other North Carolina electric cooperatives to maintain a strong and diversified energy portfolio—including nuclear, natural gas, hydro, and renewable resources—to ensure long-term reliability and affordability.

Our goal is to protect members from rising costs, and this adjustment is based on a thorough cost-of-service study. However, if wholesale power costs decrease, the WPCA will be reduced or eliminated.

How You Can Manage Your Usage

JOEMC offers tools and programs to help you take control of your energy use and monthly bills:

- Home energy audits
- Online energy calculators
- Daily Notifications Alerts
- Tracking Your Usage

We remain focused on serving you with transparency, fairness, and support—because at JOEMC, you’re more than a customer; you’re a member.



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Two Local Students Receive Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships

Jones-Onslow is delighted to announce William Hudgins and Lexi Gee have been selected to receive Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships. Lexi Gee will be heading to the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, while William Hudgins will be attending the Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this summer.

Campers will stay in dorms and experience life on a college campus and also practice drills with NCAA coaches and

athletes. "These scholarships are a fantastic way to provide a one-of-a-kind education and athletic opportunity" said Krystal Phillips, Communications and Community Relations Manager at Jones-Onslow EMC. "We're proud to reward local student-athletes with the opportunity to have fun, make new friends and develop skills to help them excel on and off the court."



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

We understand your child's health and well-being are your top priority. With over 140,000 electrical fires occurring each year, knowledge of electrical safety is necessary to ensure your loved ones stay safe.

Here are a few tips you can share with your little ones:

1 Electrical fires are caused when a wire or electrical device overheats. It is important to make sure your children understand that water cannot extinguish this type of fire. Only fire extinguishers can be used to remedy this situation.

2 In addition to the previous tip, it is never a good idea to mix water with electricity. Keep blow dryers, radios and any other electrical devices away from all water, especially those used in a bathroom.

3 Keep metal objects out of appliances and plugs. If a piece of toast gets stuck in the toaster, never use a metal knife to retrieve it. Unplug the toaster, and use a different tool or utensil to remove the

toast. Remember, only plugs should go in outlets. Sticking fingers or other objects in outlets may result in an electrical shock.

4 It's always a good idea to turn lights off when they are not in use. This will save your family money on your electric bill and prevent electrical fires from overheated bulbs.

5 Kids will be kids, and they love the great outdoors. Remind them to avoid overhead power lines as well as underground facilities such as padmount transformers and meter boxes. Whether they are climbing trees, flying kites or playing hide and seek they should always be mindful of what is around them.

Talk to your children about the importance of electrical safety, and more importantly, lead by example because you never know who's watching.



Dog Days & Energy Smarts

Tips to Beat the Summer Heat – For You and Your Pup!

As the dog days of summer arrive, the heat is on — and so is your A/C. But that doesn't mean your energy bill has to soar. With a few smart habits, you can stay comfortable and keep costs in check.

Quick Tips to Save Energy This Summer

- **Raise your thermostat.** Set your thermostat to 78° or higher to avoid overworking your A/C system. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.
- **Run appliances wisely.** Avoid running heat-generating appliances like the dryer and oven during the hottest parts of the day. This simple step reduces the workload on your cooling system and prevents unnecessary heat buildup inside your home.
- **Close curtains and blinds.** During extreme heat, keep your home cooler by closing curtains, blinds, and shades, especially during the hottest part of the day, to block sunlight and heat. Don't forget to also seal windows and doors to keep the cool air in and the hot air out!
- **Use ceiling fans efficiently.** Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off in unoccupied rooms. In the summer, set your fan to rotate counterclockwise (switch down) to create a downward airflow and a cooling windchill effect.
- **Switch to LED bulbs and unplug electronics.** LED bulbs use approximately 80% less energy than incandescent ones and unplugged electronics eliminate "phantom energy" draw. Both actions lead to significant energy savings.


Want to see how your energy use adds up? Try our home energy calculators at joemc.com/energywise.

A Treat for Your Best Friend

Check out this month's special recipe on the back page! It's a pup-treat recipe to help your dog stay cool, because your fur babies deserve a break from the heat too!

STAY COOL.
SAVE ENERGY.
ENJOY THE
SUMMER.





**QUICK
TIPS**

TO SAVE ENERGY

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

Bright Ideas Early Bird Deadline is August 15

As the school year winds down, teachers in Onslow County, Jones County, and the Topsail area should apply now for a 2025-26 Bright Ideas grant from JOEMC! Creative ideas in the classroom could earn you up to \$1,500 in funding.

The deadline for applications is September 15, but you could get an even bigger reward if you're an "early bird"! Submit your application before the early bird deadline of August 15, and you will be automatically entered to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

For more information and to apply, head to ncbrightideas.com.



10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration



Gary Ray, CEO

When the power goes out, we all want it back on—fast. We're used to flipping a switch and having instant electricity, so when that doesn't happen, it's frustrating. As CEO of JOEMC, I understand how important reliable power is to your daily life.

That's why I want to share a behind-the-scenes look at our power restoration process. Here are 10 things you might not know:

- 1. We may not know unless you tell us.** Let us know if you're experiencing an outage. It helps us identify isolated issues. Please report it through joemc.com/outage-hub or call 910-353-1940.
- 2. Our employees are affected too.** JOEMC employees live in the same communities we serve. When you're without power, there's a good chance we are too.
- 3. It's a full team effort.** From taking calls to clearing trees and repairing lines, every department works together to restore power safely and quickly.
- 4. We assess before we fix.** Our crews first evaluate the damage to make a plan and gather the right tools and materials.
- 5. Safety and numbers guide our response.** We restore power first to emergency services, then to areas where we can bring the most members back on at once.
- 6. Working conditions can be dangerous.** Crews face hazards like high voltage, severe weather, and traffic. Please slow down if you see a utility vehicle on the road.
- 7. Blinking lights can be a good sign.** Brief flickers often mean our system prevented a bigger outage, usually caused by a tree limb or animal contact.
- 8. Back-up plans are essential.** If you depend on electricity for medical needs, make sure you have a backup plan. Contact us—we'll help however we can.
- 9. Our crews need to take breaks too.** If you see trucks parked during an outage, crews may be planning their next move or grabbing a quick bite between long shifts.
- 10. Sometimes, we're waiting too.** If the issue starts with another utility that feeds our system, we must wait for them to make repairs before we can restore your service.

Outages are never convenient but know that your cooperative is working around the clock to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.



FURBABY WATERMELON COLADA COOLERS

These fruity treats can be enjoyed by both doggies and kitties (and you, too)!

Source: www.carolinacountry.com

INGREDIENTS

Plain yogurt
Pureed watermelon
Grated coconut
Candy molds*

DIRECTIONS

- Using a small brush or end of a spoon, "paint" the inside of silicone molds with yogurt.* Scatter with a little grated coconut.
- Spoon pureed watermelon over and freeze.
- Once frozen, store in zippered container for instant ice cold treats for your furbabies.

**If you don't have "dog paw" molds, no worries! Just make in a Pyrex dish, freeze, slice and bag.*

Looking for more pet-friendly recipes? Dig in at carolinacountry.com.

Land
of the
Free

*Our offices will be closed
Friday, July 4
for Independence Day.*

