

An Important Update on Electric Rates at Jones-Onslow EMC

At Jones-Onslow EMC, we understand that changes to your electric bill matter. Electricity powers your everyday life, and we take our responsibility to provide safe, reliable, and affordable service seriously. That's why we want to share important information about an upcoming electric rate adjustment that will take effect on April 1, 2026.

This decision didn't come lightly. JOEMC has not increased its kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate in more than 10 years. Since 2013, we've worked diligently to absorb rising costs internally to keep your rates stable. However, since 2020, the cost of providing electricity has increased significantly across the entire electric industry—and those costs continue to rise. Like many of the goods and services you purchase, the prices we pay for equipment, materials, and power have gone up drastically in recent years, and we've reached a point where an adjustment is necessary to continue delivering the reliable service you depend on.

Where Your Electric Dollar Goes

Understanding how your payment is used helps explain why this adjustment is necessary. Every dollar you pay helps keep power flowing to your home:

- 67 cents goes toward the cost of power we purchase on behalf of our members—a cost we don't control but must pass through.
- 33 cents supports everything else required to deliver electricity safely and reliably, including system maintenance, equipment, vegetation management, storm response, cybersecurity, facility upgrades, and community programs.



Why Costs Are Rising

Several industry-wide factors are driving higher electric costs:

- Increased demand from electric vehicles, data centers, population growth, and more technology in homes
- Retirement of older power plants and the cost of replacing them with new generation sources
- Maintenance and upgrades needed for an aging electric grid and more frequent severe weather
- Higher costs for equipment, fuel, and borrowing

Why a Rate Adjustment Is Necessary

As a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative, JOEMC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase power through North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) and deliver it safely and reliably to your home or business.

NCEMC buys electricity in bulk on behalf of electric cooperatives across the state, working to secure the most stable and cost-effective supply possible. However, like power suppliers nationwide, NCEMC is **(cont. on page 2)**



An Important Update (continued)

facing higher costs driven by rising fuel prices, increased demand, and critical investments in infrastructure and grid reliability.

These industry-wide increases affect the entire electric system. This year alone, JOEMC's wholesale power

kWh Usage for a Home	Current Rate	New Rate	Estimated Increase
1000	\$136.27	\$150.98	\$14.71
1500	\$191.40	\$208.97	\$17.57
2000	\$246.54	\$266.96	\$20.42
2500	\$301.67	\$324.95	\$23.28
3000	\$356.80	\$382.93	\$26.13

Table shown reflects the kWh charge and basic charge only. Taxes and fees not included.

costs are expected to rise by approximately \$7 million.

For years, we've absorbed these rising expenses to keep your rates as stable as possible. However, we've reached a point where a rate adjustment is necessary to continue delivering the safe, reliable service you depend on.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you. We welcome your questions and are here to help you understand how this adjustment may affect your account. As a member-owned cooperative, we're in this together—working to keep power reliable for our community today and in the future.

Spring Into Savings: Clean Up Your Home's Energy Use

Spring is the perfect time to freshen up your home—and that includes your energy use. As you declutter closets, wash windows, and tackle home improvement projects, it's also a great opportunity to make upgrades that can improve efficiency and lower your electric bill.

Jones-Onslow offers energy efficiency rebates designed to help members invest in smarter, more efficient equipment. If you're already planning spring projects, now may be the ideal time to consider improvements that can make a lasting impact on your home's comfort and energy consumption.

Upgrading to high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, installing a smart thermostat, or improving insulation can all contribute to long-term savings. Heating and cooling account for a significant portion of a home's energy use, so even small efficiency gains can make a noticeable difference over time. JOEMC's rebates help offset the upfront cost, making energy-saving upgrades more affordable.

Spring is also a great time to schedule HVAC maintenance. Cleaning coils, replacing air filters, and ensuring

your system is operating properly can improve performance and efficiency before the summer heat arrives.

In addition to equipment upgrades, simple seasonal tasks can boost efficiency:

- Seal gaps around doors and windows
- Check insulation levels in attics and crawl spaces
- Clean ceiling fans and set them to rotate counterclockwise for summer cooling
- Replace old lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs

Taking a proactive approach this spring can help reduce energy waste and prepare your home for warmer weather.

To learn more about available energy efficiency rebates and qualifying equipment, visit joemc.com/energywise or contact our office. A little spring cleaning can go a long way toward greater comfort, improved efficiency, and long-term savings.



This season, don't just clean—clean smarter and save.

HEY WEEKEND WARRIORS!
MARCH IS
LADDER SAFETY MONTH

If you're working with a ladder outdoors, look up and know where overhead power lines are located. Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines and any other equipment that may be energized.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL with JOEMC'S Member Portal

Your electric account should be easy to manage — and with JOEMC's Member Portal, it is. Whether you're at home or on the go, our secure online portal gives you 24/7 access to everything you need, all in one place.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE PORTAL

With just a few clicks, you can:

1. Pay your bill and view your current balance
2. Review past statements
3. Set up automatic payments or enroll in paperless billing
4. Update your contact information
5. Customize account notifications and alerts

SEE YOUR USAGE BEFORE THE BILL ARRIVES

One of the most powerful — and money-saving — features in the Member Portal is daily energy usage monitoring. Instead of waiting until the end of the month to see what you owe, you can track your electricity usage day by day.

This means you can spot trends early. Did a stretch of cold weather spike your usage? Did house guests or new appliances make a difference? When you can see what's happening in real time, you can make small adjustments — and avoid big surprises on your bill.

STAY INFORMED YOUR WAY

Set up personalized alerts to stay on top of your account activity. You choose when and how you want to be notified, so you always know what's going on without having to log in to check.

READY TO GET STARTED?

If you haven't registered yet, it only takes a few minutes. Visit, joemc.com/memberportal to create your account or log in today.



Your account. Your information. Your control.

virtual ANNUAL MEETING 3/27/26

As a member-owner of Jones-Onslow EMC, this is your cooperative. The Annual Meeting of Members is your opportunity to see how your co-op is working for you—and what's ahead.

We're hosting the meeting virtually again this year, making it easy for every member to participate from wherever you are—no travel required. Tune in on **Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** on our website or Facebook page.

A registration packet with more information will be arriving to your inbox this month. If we don't have your email address on file, keep an eye on your mailbox. If you have any questions, call us at (910) 353-1940.

This is your co-op. We look forward to connecting with you virtually!



Mid-winter is a great time to ensure you're making the most of your home heating system. Replace or clean filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently. Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating—these signs indicate that the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs as proper airflow helps your system work less and saves energy. A little maintenance along the way can prevent costly repairs and keep your home cozy through winter.



Ricky Maready, CEO

A Message from the CEO

I'm writing to you today about something that's been weighing on my mind—the electric rate adjustment taking effect April 1. I wish I could tell you we found another way, but after more than a decade of holding rates steady, we've reached a point where this change is necessary to continue providing you with the reliable service you deserve.

Please know this decision was not made lightly. For years, our team has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to absorb rising costs so you wouldn't feel the impact. We've looked at every possible option, streamlined our operations, and done everything in our power to protect you from the significant price increases affecting utilities nationwide.

Here's what we're facing: this year alone, our wholesale power costs—the electricity we purchase on your behalf—are increasing by approximately \$7 million. These aren't charges we can negotiate or control; we simply pass them through at cost. We've absorbed these increases for as long as we possibly could, but continuing to do so would put the reliability of your electric service at risk, and that's something we won't compromise on.

I know many of you are already feeling the pinch of rising costs everywhere—at the grocery store, at the gas pump, in your monthly bills. We see it too, and we feel it in our own homes. Many of us on the JOEMC team are your neighbors, friends, and fellow community members. We understand because we live it alongside you. That's exactly why we've held off on this adjustment as long as we could, and why we're keeping it as modest as possible while still ensuring we can keep your lights on reliably.

What makes us different from traditional utilities is that we're not here to make profits for distant shareholders. We're a not-for-profit cooperative, which means we exist solely to serve you. Every dollar you pay goes right back into maintaining the power lines, upgrading equipment, responding to storms, and supporting the programs that strengthen our community. You're not just customers—you're member-owners, and this cooperative is governed by a board of directors elected from right here in our community.

If you have questions about how this rate adjustment might affect your monthly bill, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Our member services team is here to help you understand your bill, explore energy efficiency tips that can help lower your usage, and discuss budget billing options that can smooth out seasonal fluctuations. We want to work with you to find solutions that fit your unique situation.

As we move forward, I want you to know that our commitment to you remains unchanged. We'll continue managing every dollar with care, investing wisely in the infrastructure that serves you, and looking for every opportunity to keep your rates as stable as possible in the years ahead.

Thank you for your patience, your understanding, and most of all, for trusting us to power your homes and businesses. It's a responsibility we hold dear, and we're grateful every day for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community we all call home.

*Our offices will be closed on Friday, April 3,
in observance of Good Friday.*

LAMB SOUBISE

Serves: 4

Source: www.carolinacountry.com

Ingredients

- 1 pound leg of lamb, cleaned and cubed
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- Juice of ¼ lemon
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted (for grilling)

For the Soubise

- 1¼ cups whole milk
- 1½ tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ½ medium yellow onion, sliced

For the Hot Honey

- 2 tablespoons honey (local)
- 2 tablespoons cayenne hot sauce
- 2 tablespoons sriracha sauce
- Mint leaves
- Thyme sprigs

Directions

1. From a boneless leg of lamb, cut 1-inch-thick slices that are cross-grain to the leg. Trim excess fat. Cut into 1½-inch cubes and place into a sealable container.
2. Pour in the olive oil, the lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper. Shake to mix. Refrigerate for 1–24 hours.
3. Then skewer five or six pieces of meat loosely touching on a pre-soaked wooden skewer or metal skewers. Set aside.
4. To make the milk sauce or bechamel, pour milk into a medium saucepan and bring to a non-boiling warm temperature.
5. In a small saucepan on medium-low heat, melt the butter, then add the flour. Stir constantly without making the butter bubble.
6. This is a very slow process—let it cook for 3–5 minutes until creamy and not gritty.
7. Next, start whisking in the milk a little at a time. Milk evaporating? Remove it from the heat and continue to add the milk while whisking. When it gets to the thickness of crepe batter, it is finished. Set aside.
8. In a pan, add the butter, olive oil, and sliced onion.
9. Sauté until soft but not browned.
10. Place the cooked onions and the bechamel into a food processor. Blend until the onions are no longer visible. Transfer to an oven-safe container and place in the oven on warm.
11. To make the hot honey, combine the honey, cayenne sauce, and sriracha sauce. Whisk to blend.
12. Preheat grill to 350–400 degrees for the lamb.
13. Turning frequently, cook your skewers for about 7 minutes. Brush with melted butter while cooking.
14. To serve, ladle some soubise in the middle of the plate, no more than a third. Place the grilled skewer on top and drizzle with hot honey. Garnish with a few sprigs of thyme and a few leaves of mint.