SPOTLIGHT
Jones-Onslow EMC—Powering the Community Since 1939

2026 November

JOEMC
Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation

Energy Myths vs. Facts

Cooler weather is on the horizon, so we are here to help you bust some of the common myths about saving energy while heating your home.

✗ **MYTH #1:** It takes less energy to have my thermostat maintain a comfortable temperature while I'm away than it does to have it heat up my house when I get home.

✓ **FACT:** If you will be out for more than a few hours, it is actually more cost-effective to turn on your heat when you return. It is recommended that you adjust your thermostat down in the winter by a few degrees while you are sleeping or away from home.

✗ **MYTH #2:** The higher the thermostat setting, the faster my home will heat.

✓ **FACT:** Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 68 degrees during winter months.

✗ **MYTH #3:** I can save money simply by installing a programmable thermostat.

✓ **FACT:** On their own, programmable thermostats do not make your heating system more efficient. They can save you money, once properly programmed, by automatically regulating the temperature inside your house to coincide with when you're there and when you're not.

✗ **MYTH #4:** Closing air vents in unused rooms in my house will save energy.

✓ **FACT:** Proper airflow is important for heating your home. It may seem like heating less space by closing vents would save energy. However, closing air vents actually increases the air pressure in your HVAC, which could make it work harder and use more energy.

✗ **MYTH #5:** It's not worth the time or money to seal small air leaks around my windows or doors.

✓ **FACT:** Sealing those small air leaks around doors and windows is generally an easy DIY project that can pay off by helping you save up to 10 percent on your annual energy bills, according to ENERGY STAR®.

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SEEKING YOUNG LEADERS: YOUTH TOUR 2027
Applications Open in December

Each year, Jones-Onslow EMC gives local students the opportunity to take part in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, which is an unforgettable experience that brings together young people from across the state and nation for a week in Washington, D.C. Participants explore our nation's history, visit iconic landmarks, learn firsthand how government works, and discover the important role electric cooperatives play in their communities.

Pictured Are 2026 JOEMC Youth Tour Winners

In the summer of 2027, Youth Tour will be held June 17-23, and JOEMC will sponsor four local high school juniors for an all-expenses paid trip to the nation's capital.

In addition to the trip, participants will also have the opportunity to win one of three annual scholarships, including the Gwen B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship, the Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship, and the Youth Leadership Council Scholarship.

Read more about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and apply at **joemc.com/community.**

Save the date and keep an eye out for the opportunity to apply in December!

Share Energy, Spread Joy with Power Bucks

Are you searching for the perfect holiday gift for someone who already has it all? Do you simply enjoy giving back? Consider lighting up someone's day with Power Bucks!

Power Bucks allows you to make a payment on a fellow cooperative member's account, either anonymously or as a gift to place under the tree.

You can also donate to JOEMC's general Power Bucks fund, and your gift will be applied to the account of a member in need.

You can call in any time and speak to one of our member services representatives at **910-353-1940** to purchase Power Bucks in any amount of $25 or more. We'll apply the credit to the account of your choice, and you'll receive a Power Buck card via email to share as a gift.

Give the gift of energy or lend a helping hand to a fellow member struggling this holiday season!

POWERbucks

Beware of Utility Phone Scams

Stay alert for fraudulent utility calls. Scammers can spoof caller ID to make a phone call appear to come from your electric utility—even when it doesn't. They may threaten disconnection, demand immediate payment or ask for personal information. Don't rely on caller ID alone to verify a caller's identity. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and contact your utility using the phone number printed on your bill or listed on the official website.

We're grateful for the members and communities we love to serve. Please note our offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you have a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

QUICK TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. A lower temperature setting can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Is it Time to Test Your GFCI Outlets?

The holidays are just around the corner... and so is all the cooking that comes with them!

Before the holidays hit, take some time to test your kitchen's ground-fault circuit interrupter outlets (GFCI).

GFCI outlets should be installed in any area of your home with access to water, including your kitchen, bathrooms, and laundry room. These outlets monitor the flow of electricity in a circuit, and if there is an irregularity, the flow of electricity is shut off, preventing electric shock.

Ideally, your GFCI outlets should be tested monthly to keep your family and your home safe. To test GFCI outlets, you can use the built-in test and reset buttons on the outlet itself, or you can use a dedicated GFCI tester device.

To perform the test, you will first plug in a small appliance or the tester device and confirm that the plugged-in item is receiving power. Then, you will firmly press the "test" button on the outlet. You should hear a clicking sound, and the reset button will pop out. The device you plugged in should turn off immediately, showing that the flow of power has been stopped. Once you have confirmed that the outlet is working, simply press the reset button.

If your outlet did not shut off power when tested, it may be time to call an electrician to make sure your home is operating as safely as possible.

Ricky Maready, CEO

A Message from the CEO

More Than Power, a Reason to Be Thankful

As Thanksgiving approaches, we often find ourselves reflecting on the things that matter most: family, friends, community and the countless blessings that surround us. Here at Jones-Onslow EMC, I find myself reflecting on something else that makes this season especially meaningful—the privilege of serving you, our members, and working alongside an extraordinary group of employees who make our cooperative what it is today.

Being part of an electric cooperative means something special. Unlike other utilities, Jones-Onslow EMC was built by the communities we serve, and those same communities continue to shape who we are. You are more than a customer. You are a member, an owner and the reason we come to work each day with a commitment to providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

And for that, we are truly thankful.

I am also incredibly grateful for the dedicated employees who make up the Jones-Onslow EMC family. Whether they are restoring power after a storm, answering a member's question, maintaining our electric system or working behind the scenes to keep our cooperative running smoothly, their commitment to service is something I witness every day. Their hard work, compassion and willingness to go the extra mile are what make this organization so special. I couldn't be prouder of the people who represent Jones-Onslow EMC.

But our commitment to serving members extends well beyond keeping the lights on.

Throughout the year, we have the opportunity to give back to the communities that have given us so much. Through programs such as Bright Ideas education grants, college scholarships and the Washington Youth Tour, we invest in the next generation of leaders, educators and innovators. These programs are more than financial contributions. They are investments in the future of the communities we call home.

We also recognize that sometimes the greatest impact comes from small acts of kindness. Through our Power Bucks program, members have the opportunity to make a difference by helping neighbors in need. It is a simple reminder of the cooperative spirit that has guided us from the very beginning—neighbors helping neighbors.

That same spirit is reflected in the programs and resources we offer to help members take control of their energy use and household budgets. From Budget Billing and Flex-Pay to energy efficiency resources and daily usage information available through our Member Portal, our goal is to provide options that make managing electricity easier and more convenient. We understand that every household is different, and we are committed to helping our members find solutions that work for them.

As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables this year, I hope we all take a moment to appreciate the people who make our lives better, the communities that bring us together and the opportunities we have to make a difference in someone else's life.

At Jones-Onslow EMC, we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for the trust you place in us, for the employees who serve with pride and for the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of our members every single day.

From our cooperative family to yours, I wish you a safe, joyful and blessed Thanksgiving.

THANKSGIVING LEFTOVERS MASHED POTATO SOUP

Went a little too wild with your mashed potato output this holiday? Here's a quick method to turn them into soup and load the bowls with toppings, kind of like a baked potato bar.

Source: www.carolinacountry.com

INGREDIENTS

½ large yellow onion, chopped
1 tablespoon butter
1½ cups chicken broth
3 cups leftover mashed potatoes
Black pepper and salt to taste
Optional toppings: shredded cheddar cheese, chopped bacon or ham, sliced scallions, bread crumbs, minced parsley, sour cream.

DIRECTIONS

1. In a non-stick pot, sauté onions in butter until tender.
2. Add the chicken broth to the pot.
3. Slowly add the mashed potatoes, stirring constantly to blend them with the broth.
4. Add more water or broth as needed for soup consistency.
5. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with various toppings.

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