

Butter Pecan Cake

2 ²/₃ cups chopped pecans
 1 ¹/₄ cups butter, softened, divided
 2 cups sugar
 4 eggs
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 3 cups all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
¹/₂ teaspoon salt
 1 cup milk

Frosting

1 cup butter softened
 8 to 8 ¹/₂ cups confectioners sugar
 1 can (5 oz) evaporated milk
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Place pecans and ¹/₄ cup butter in a baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes, stirring frequently; set aside. In a large bowl, cream sugar and remaining butter until light and fluffy. Add eggs, beating well after each addition. Stir in vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt; add to the creamed mixture alternately with milk, beating well after each addition. Stir in ¹/₃ cups of toasted pecans. Pour into three greased and floured 9 inch round baking pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans. For frosting cream butter and confectioners' sugar in a large bowl. Add milk and vanilla; beat until smooth. Stir in remaining toasted pecans. Spread frosting between layers and over top and sides of cake.



A Touchstone Energy® Partner

Spotlight is published monthly by Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation for its customers. Correspondence should be directed to Jones-Onslow EMC, attn: newsletter editor, 259 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, N.C. 28546.

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK...

J. Ronald McElheney

Looking for information on how to lower your energy bills this winter? Jones-Onslow has you covered.

Jones-Onslow is part of a nationwide energy efficiency campaign known as Together We Save. The campaign's mission is to motivate cooperative customers like you to make small changes in behavior that add up to big savings. And at Jones-Onslow, we're always looking for ways to bring value to customers. Together We Save offers an unprecedented collection of resources and advice on simple energy efficiency steps you can take in your home.

We've recently recharged the Together We Save campaign with more tips and ideas to help you save on your energy bills. Where can you go to access this money-saving information? Log on to TogetherWeSave.com, the online epicenter of the campaign. Once you arrive, enter your Zip Code and you will be redirected to Jones-Onslow's customized site, personalized to reflect our rates and region. Now you're ready to start saving!

TogetherWeSave.com offers everything from videos and interactive applications to an energy savings forum. Use the navigation bar across the top of the landing page to explore the site.

Touchstone Energy Web TV (located under the "Watch and Learn" tab) is a compilation of more than 50 short how-to videos on topics such as lighting, heating/cooling, insulation, and many other energy efficiency topics. The library recently added dozens of new videos.

Got an old refrigerator in your basement or garage? It's probably costing you more than you think. Click on the "Energy Savings Applications" tab and scroll down to find out how much you could possibly save by saying goodbye to that old refrigerator. Another new application demonstrates how to save even more with ENERGY STAR qualified appliances.

Take the Energy Savings Home Tour ("Add Up Your Savings" tab) and discover how all of these small changes add up in a big way. The Home Tour guides you through each room in a typical home and recommends several energy-savings tips in each room. Areas highlighted in yellow prompt you to take various interactive energy-saving steps, demonstrating how these changes can translate to real savings on your utility bill.

Live in a manufactured home? A new feature points out more than a dozen ways you can cut energy costs throughout your home.

Helping our customers save money during tough times is important to us. It's just one more way we are trying to help look out for you.

If you're interested in more information on how to make your home more energy-efficient, let us know. Contact the office at (910) 353-1940 or (800) 681-1515 with questions.



Spotlight

A Monthly Publication for the Customers of Jones-Onslow EMC

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Does Your Water Heater Need A Winter Coat?

As you pull out your sweaters and jackets for the coming winter, you should think about bundling up your electric water heater as well.

Electric water heating accounts for nearly 15% of your monthly electric bill. However, you can reduce that cost with an insulated water heater wrap and pipe insulation, especially if the unit is located in unconditioned space like a garage.

If the outside of your water heater is warm to the touch, it is losing heat through the walls of the tank. Installing an insulating blanket is one of the most effective do-it-yourself energy-saving projects you can perform. The blanket will reduce standby heat loss by 25-40%.

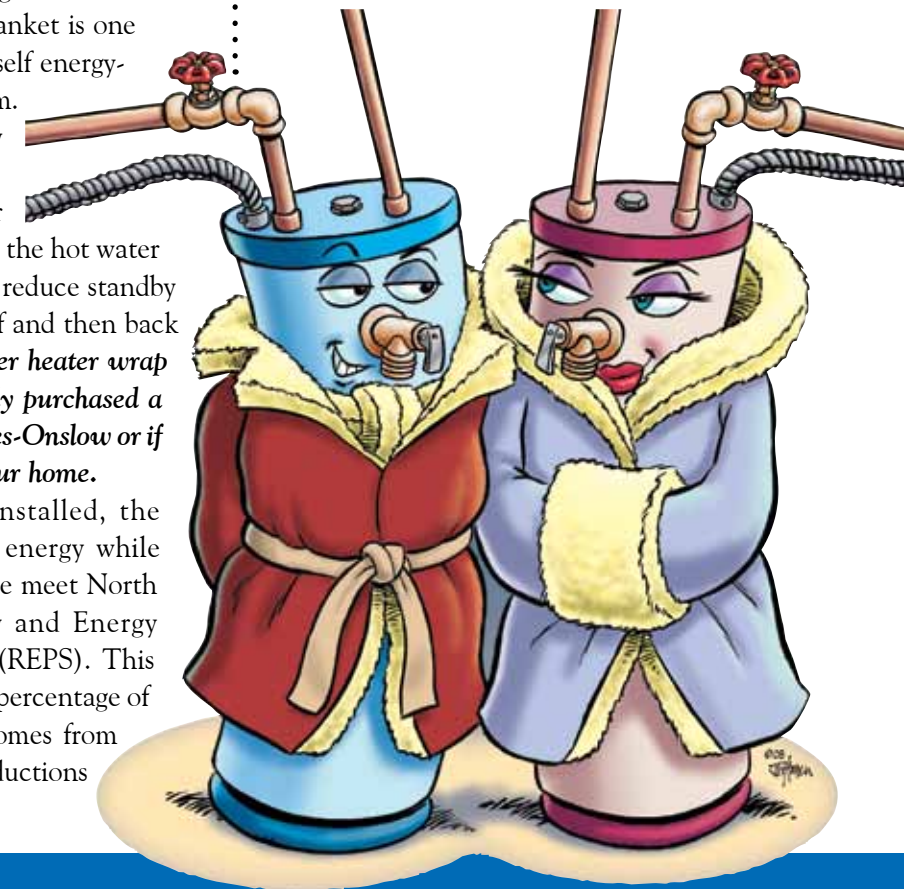
Additionally, insulating your hot water pipes reduces losses as the hot water is flowing to the faucet and will reduce standby losses when the tap is turned off and then back on within an hour or so. **A water heater wrap kit isn't needed if you've already purchased a Vaughn Water Heater from Jones-Onslow or if a gas water heater is used in your home.**

With all pieces properly installed, the kits can save you money and energy while helping your electric cooperative meet North Carolina's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards (REPS). This mandate requires that a certain percentage of Jones-Onslow's electric sales comes from renewable energy sources or reductions

in electricity usage through energy efficiency.

Jones-Onslow has these kits available to customers for \$12 each plus sales tax. The kits, which have a \$50 retail value, include a water heater blanket and pipe insulation as well as an Earth Massage water-efficient showerhead and bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators.

The water heater wrap kits are available for purchase at our Jacksonville and Snead Ferry offices.



Enjoy An Evergreen Holiday Season: Get The Most Out Of Energy This Holiday!

Holidays are a festive time of year, with gifts, fun decorations, family visits, and lots of laughter. But they can also ring in extra energy use for heating, decorative lights, and more.

So what steps can you take to make sure the holidays don't leave a surprise "gift" on your next electric bill?

LIGHTS OFF AT BEDTIME

Whether or not you fork out extra bucks to switch to LEDs (see chart to the right), it's a good idea to turn off your holiday lights before you go to bed. Consider installing timers to reduce the amount of time your holiday lights are on. Just 10 incandescent strands lit for 13 hours a day can easily add more than \$50 to an electric bill. Limit light displays to no more than six hours nightly.

GUEST AFFECT USAGE

Lights aren't the only holiday addition impacting your electric bill—family guests add to your costs, too. Because everyone wants to stay toasty during colder holiday months, heating usually accounts for the lion's share of cold-weather energy costs. Extra guests translate into extra water to heat for showers.

Make sure to set your thermostat as low as comfort permits. Each degree above 68 degrees adds 2 to 3 percent to the amount of energy needed to heat your home. Conversely, you'll save by lowering your thermostat (and leaving it there).

You can expect extra guests to strain your electric water heater—folks often take longer showers in colder weather, increasing water heating costs. Before guests arrive consider installing a low-flow showerhead to reduce the amount of water used.

Finally, in the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power electronic gifts and gadgets is used while the products are off. This phantom power use can be avoided by unplugging the items or using a power strip.



If Your Lights Go Out...

- Check your home's fuses or breakers.
- Check, if possible, to see if your neighbor's power is also off.
- Call the Outage Report System at (910) 353-7117 or (800) 681-4146 to report the problem.

Decorating for the holidays? Consider using ENERGY STAR qualified decorative light strings (DLS). These lights:

- Consume 75% less energy than conventional incandescent light strands.
- Last up to 10 times longer!
- Are cool to the touch, reducing risk of fire.
- A traditional light string with 300 lights costs about \$4.50* in energy costs over the holiday season. In contrast, an ENERGY STAR certified light-emitting diode (LED) equivalent costs only \$0.43* to operate!

Source: ENERGY STAR
*Savings estimate from Pacific Gas & Electric based on their testing and residential rates

YOU'RE ONLY AS ENERGY EFFICIENT AS YOUR OLDEST APPLIANCE.

I'm saving \$146 a year by pulling the plug on my old fridge. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

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TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Cooperative Offices Will Be Closed On Thursday & Friday, December 23 & 24, In Observance Of The Christmas Holidays and on Friday, December 31, In Observance Of New Year's.



Make The Change Of Season Safely

1. Make sure space heaters are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab. Also check that power cords are not frayed, cracked or cut.
2. Do not use an extension cord to power a space heater. Plug directly into the electrical outlet. Make sure the circuit can handle the power demands of the space heater and any other appliances plugged into it.
3. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials such as curtains, draperies, loose paper and upholstery. Keep space heaters out of reach from small children and pets. Never use heaters as drying racks.
4. Space heaters should have an automatic shut-off in the event they tip over.
5. If the heater is running on fuels such as gas, kerosene or wood, follow manufacturer's instructions carefully. Make sure carbon monoxide detectors are installed. Keep chimneys and flues free from corrosion or blockages.
6. Check to see if electric blankets are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab. Do not tuck your electric blanket under the mattress and don't put anything on top of the blanket. Do not allow pets to sleep on electric blankets.
7. Use only weatherproof outdoor electrical appliances for outdoor activities.

