Summer Energy-Saving Tips For Your Home...

Don’t let the warm weather of the coming months turn into “summertime blues” when the monthly electric bill arrives. Here are some tips to help keep your electric bill in check...

Adjust the thermostat
Lowering a thermostat in the winter can save as much as $85 a year. During warmer months, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save money, too. Set the temperature between 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills. Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home’s temperature throughout the year.

Be a “fan-atic”
While they don’t replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent in electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you are leaving.

Regular maintenance essential
We recommend that customers have their HVAC systems serviced annually by a certified HVAC technician. HVAC professionals will check the entire system to make sure it is running efficiently. This will help extend the life of the system and save money.

ENERGY STAR equipment
When it’s time to replace that cooling system, we recommend replacing it with an ENERGY STAR qualified model. This could reduce energy costs by as much as 30 percent. HVAC Rebates from JOEMC are also available for qualifying ENERGY STAR models. Contact us to find out more.

Instead of getting burned this summer with high energy bills, check out the energy efficiency sections of www.joemc.com or TogetherWeSave.com for more money-saving ideas for you and your family.
JOEMC Board Secretary/Treasurer Recognized at Statewide Meeting

Thomas D. Waller, JOEMC Board Secretary/Treasurer, was recognized recently for 15 years of service to the cooperative and its members.

Mr. Waller, from the Trenton community of Jones County, began his service on the JOEMC Board in January 2000. He has served in the position of Secretary/Treasurer since December 2009.

The commendable service award was presented at the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives’ (NCAEC) annual meeting on April 15. NCAEC is the trade association for the 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Jones-Onslow.

“Mr. Waller has dedicated himself to Jones-Onslow and its customers for the past 15 years,” said Board Chairman John Pierce. “He has worked hard, along with the rest of the board and employees, to make JOEMC a model of excellence, not only in the state of North Carolina but throughout the country.”

Customers to see “new look” Electric Bill...

When you open your electric bill in the next couple of months, you may notice that it looks a little different...that’s because it is. We’ve given the bill a new look in hopes that it’s easier to read and understand.

The re-design of the bill was done with one thing in mind...provide customers with a quick glance where you can easily see important information that you want to know.

A quick look of your electric account will be shown on the front side of the bill. This section will include one line showing all payments and credits since your last electric statement. There will also be one line that shows all charges since the last statement. This should allow customers to easily identify the amount that is owed and the date that it should be paid by.

In addition, there is a “Notice” section that will contain important information about your account (if applicable).

On the reverse side of the bill, specific details will be displayed. This information will include how many kilowatt hours you used in the current month, a historical chart and comparison of your use, as well as your meter readings and details about each payment and credit, displayed in chronological order.

In addition, we’ll also use the reverse side of the bill to provide you with important JOEMC announcements or to provide other information on various items such as “What is Facilities Charge?”

Finally, the detachable payment stub that is returned to JOEMC will be larger...this will make it easier to read as well as write in information like the amount being paid.
Congratulations to this Year’s Basketball Camp Scholarship Winners...

Jones-Onslow has selected three students to represent the cooperative at two basketball camps this summer.

Hunter Heltsley, from Southwest Middle School, will attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp this month at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Gabrielle Ciceron, from Northwoods Park Middle School, and Sikia Kornegay, from Trexler Middle School, will attend the NC State Wolfpack Academy in Raleigh.

Students currently enrolled in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grades were eligible to participate in the contest. Recipients were selected as a result of their excellent applications and essays on why they wanted to attend the basketball camp.

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Hurricane Season is Here...

Living where we do, we’re at the mercy of many types of severe weather situations. And now that summer is here, there’s the possibility of thunderstorms or even hurricanes.

During these weather situations, we’ve got a plan for restoring electric service to the greatest number of customers in the shortest time possible.

Part of this plan is to assign all outside personnel to each of the cooperative’s substations throughout the service area. As soon as it is safe to be on the road, employees begin working from each of the substations.

The cooperative’s priorities for restoring electric service are as follows:

**Transmission Lines**
Transmission lines carry electricity over long distances. These lines supply power to one or more substations throughout the service area.

**Substations**
If a problem occurs in a substation, it will cause all of the homes and businesses served by the substation to be out of service. This could affect hundreds or thousands of people.

**Main Distribution Lines**
These lines are checked next. They carry electricity from a substation to a group of consumers that live in the same community. When power is restored here, all customers served by this line should have power to their homes as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

**Tap Lines**
Tap lines carry power to utility poles or underground transformers and serve smaller groups from the main distribution lines.

**Individual Services**
Damage can occur on the service line between your house and a transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. The co-op needs to know your situation so a service crew can repair it.

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Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

- **Water**: Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
- **Food**: Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
- **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
- **Tools**: Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
- **First aid supplies, medicine**
- **Important documents**

Visit redcross.org/domore to learn more about disaster kits.

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency
from the CEO’s desk…

J. Ronald McElheney

The 2015 Hurricane Season started on June 1 and ends the last of November. In recent years, our community has been extremely fortunate that we have not been affected in a major way by any storms. Despite the lack of activity, that doesn’t keep JOEMC from preparing for weather events that can cause major destruction to our electrical infrastructure. We stay prepared, year-round, ready to respond, should power outages occur for our customers.

We constantly evaluate our emergency response plan to ensure we have the proper procedures and materials in place to handle a natural disaster. Our employees have participated, in past years, in a statewide hurricane simulation to help evaluate our emergency plan and determine how effective it would be should an emergency situation take place. These drills prove beneficial and allow us to think and react to situations.

On your side of the aisle, it is extremely important that we have accurate contact information for all customers. This information is essential to helping restore power should we experience outages. Each customer’s account is referenced to the phone number(s) we have in our database. If we have an incorrect phone number or you have failed to provide us with one, you will not be recognized by our Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System when you call to report an outage. You’ll still be able to report the outage by talking to one of our employees but the IVR System allows you to do it quicker by automating the process. Your contact phone number is only one of several ways that identify you and your service. The IVR system also recognizes your account number, as well as your meter number, if you call in and have those numbers handy.

Preventive maintenance also goes a long way to help minimize outages during inclement weather and major storms. Right-of-way maintenance is one area we concentrate heavily on to make sure our electrical system stays in excellent condition. You can help us maintain our right-of-ways and ensure system reliability by planting trees responsibly. Trees should never be planted under or near power lines because they will eventually cause safety and reliability issues that take time and cost money to maintain. If you have any question about where you should plant a tree, call us and we can help you identify a safe location, or you can also visit our website, www.joemc.com, and look under the “right-of-way maintenance” section under the “Safety” tab under “Energy Center”. Here you’ll find a document, courtesy of the National Arbor Day Foundation, concerning proper tree planting around power lines.

Cooperative Offices will be Closed on Friday, July 3, in Observance of Independence Day