



JOEMC Member Newsletter November 2017

Jones-Onslow EMC Supports Solar in Schools

Queens Creek Elementary School in Onslow County recently unveiled a new 5-kW PV solar installation, provided through an NC GreenPower grant program. Funding for the panels was provided by NC GreenPower, the State Employees' Credit Union, Jones-Onslow EMC, and donations from local businesses, school staff and families.

It is the eighth installation funded through the NC GreenPower Solar School program (now in its second year) but it's the FIRST project on electric co-op lines.

"These panels represent more than just producing some renewable electricity — they represent the beginning of the future in our industry and in your world," Jones-Onslow EMC CEO Jeff Clark told the students at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "We've all heard the old adage about a journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step.

"...they represent the beginning of the future in our industry..."

We are taking that step today. And all along this journey, we will be creating a brighter future for all of us and those who come behind us."

Queens Creek Elementary School has been an NC Green School of Excellence since 2014, an honor that recognizes K-12 schools in the state dedicated to sustainability.

"We are so excited to be bringing this wonderful opportunity to our school, community and students,"



said Queens Creek Principal Elaine Justice. "Not only will we be modeling good stewardship, but our students will also use the solar array to enhance their math and science curriculum."

Major components of the roughly \$40,000 pole-mounted solar system include 12 SunPower solar modules provided by NC GreenPower, interactive inverters, and an internet monitoring system that provides students with solar irradiation, ambient air temperature, module temperature and other data.

The grid-tied array is estimated to produce about 6,570 kWh each year, with a potential cost savings to the school of \$657 annually. The panels will provide power to the school library and cafeteria. ►



COMMUNITY FESTIVALS HIGHLIGHT HOLIDAY SEASON

JACKSONVILLE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARADE

(presented by Marine Federal Credit Union)
Saturday, November 18 starting at 9:45am at Coastal Carolina Community College. Contact the Greater Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce at (910) 347-3141 for more information.

SWANSBORO CHRISTMAS FLOTILLA

Friday, November 24 starting around dusk at the Swansboro waterfront. For more information, contact the Swansboro Festival Committee at (910) 326-7370 or the Swansboro Chamber of Commerce at (910) 326-1174.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Festival will be November 17-19 at the American Legion Building at the Onslow Fairgrounds in Jacksonville. Admission is a \$2 donation and the event is presented by the Onslow Caregivers Inc. to raise funds for Onslow County Home Health and Hospice patients. Hours are: November 17 and 18, 10am-7pm and November 19, 11am-6pm. For more information call (910) 324-1650 or email jhcole@centurylink.net. ►



METER TAMPERING
UP TO \$500 FINE,
2 YEARS IN PRISON.
NC LAW G.S. 14-151.1

Stealing Electricity Costs Us All

Electricity theft is not a victimless crime. When someone tampers with a meter and steals electricity, it costs you, the members of Jones-Onslow EMC. Tracking and confirming theft is also a time-intensive, expensive job for employees of JOEMC. Throughout the country, billions of dollars of electricity are stolen every year, at the expense of legitimate customers.

To help deter theft and help recover some of the associated costs, JOEMC requires a deposit of \$350 plus charges a minimum of \$175 in fees where meter tampering and power theft has been confirmed. In addition to these fees, reimbursement for the energy that was stolen must also be paid (this number may be estimated).

If you see or suspect meter tampering

to steal electricity or for any reason—please report it to Jones-Onslow immediately. Not only does it cost other members, it can also be a safety issue that puts innocent bystanders and our linemen at risk of injury or worse. It's a serious crime that can result in hefty fines and possible jail time. ▼

WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

Accidents happen. Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **NO** FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **A** FIRE:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

To exit safely:

Jump out of the vehicle, making sure **NO** part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.

Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.

The ground could be energized.

Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

ENERGYEFFICIENCY

5 Energy Saving Tips for the Holiday Season

1. Take Advantage of the Heat From the Sun

Open curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home.

2. Adjust the Temperature

Decreasing the temperature by one-degree can save up to 5% on heating costs. Try to keep the thermostat around 68 degrees during the winter.

3. Keep the Oven Door Shut

Opening the oven door can be tempting while cooking that holiday meal but doing so can drop the oven temperature as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy. Use the oven window to check on the food instead.

4. Use LED decorative lights.

LEDs consume far less electricity than incandescent bulbs, and decorative LED light strings such as Christmas tree lights are no different. Not only do LED holiday lights consume less electricity, they are much cooler than incandescent lights, reducing the risk of fire.

5. Install a Timer

Install a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your bill and to reduce energy consumption. ►



REBATES

Do you want some cash back?

Did you know that JOEMC offers rebates to members who purchase Energy Star appliances, HVAC equipment, or a heat pump water heater? Some details and qualifications of the program have changed in recent months – for example, to qualify for a \$250 rebate for the purchase of a high-efficiency heat pump, the unit must be a 16 SEER or greater. For the latest guidelines and rebate form, visit joemc.com (look under ENERGY CENTER and Energy Efficiency), or call the office and speak to a representative. ▼

COMMUNITYIMPACT

High School Juniors : “SAY YES” to Youth Tour to Washington D.C.

JOEMC is accepting applications from standout high school juniors willing to step out of their comfort zone and “SAY YES” to the opportunity of a lifetime: The North Carolina Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



The Youth Tour allows students to experience the nation’s capital like they never have before. Tourists will take part in adventures like paying their respects at Arlington National Cemetery, visiting the Washington Monument, meeting federal elected officials and touring Smithsonian museums, all while building connections with peers and future leaders from across the nation.

JOEMC will sponsor four local students to join the June 9-15, 2018 Youth Tour. The all-expense paid, weeklong Tour is a tradition of electric cooperatives across the country that is more than 50 years strong. About 1,800 students from more than 40 states are expected to participate in 2018, and North Carolina’s electric cooperatives will send a delegation of nearly 45 students.

Students entering their senior year (current juniors) in Fall 2018 are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply. JOEMC representatives will be chosen through an essay contest with a pre-selected topic. A JOEMC representative will be visiting local high schools during the next several weeks to promote the program. You can also call the co-op office at (910) 353-1940 and speak with the Youth Tour coordinator, Paula Redick. ►

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Thankful to Serve You

As we enter a month of reflection and thanksgiving, one thing at the forefront of our minds at JOEMC is how grateful we are to serve you, our cooperative members. Safe, reliable and affordable electricity is a daily necessity and we are thankful to both power and empower our members and our communities.



Our commitment to serving you extends far beyond providing electricity. We also invest in local communities by providing scholarships, grants and educational opportunities (see the article on page one of this newsletter about the exciting Solar in Schools Project with Queens Creek Elementary School). From securing loans that fund much-needed community

projects and generate new economic development, to providing Bright Ideas grants that bring innovative classroom projects to life, we strive to strengthen all aspects of our communities and give them new opportunities to grow and thrive.

As a not-for-profit business, JOEMC's core mission is service. And because our co-op is locally owned and operated, we live and work alongside our members. We share your sense of pride in our communities and are grateful for the many ways we can contribute to their success.

We are also thankful for your commitment to our co-op, from taking the time to attend our annual meeting and learning about your cooperative and the various services and programs that we offer, to enriching our communities by your active participation in civic groups, little leagues and other community-changing organizations. By choosing to participate and get involved, together we are improving the local quality of life.

Thank you for being part of Jones-Onslow EMC and for your role in helping us live out the cooperative difference. We value your support and are thankful today, and every day, to continue serving you.

Happy Thanksgiving! We wish all of you a safe and happy holiday.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO

JOEMC offices will be **CLOSED** Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, to celebrate Christmas & Monday, January 1, in observance of the New Year.



Pumpkin Spice Coffee Creamer

Ingredients:

- 1 ¼ cup heavy cream
- 1 cup whole milk
- ⅓ cup pure maple syrup
- ¼ cup pumpkin puree
- ¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ⅛ teaspoon ground allspice
- Pinch of ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Directions:

Whisk together the cream, milk, maple syrup, pumpkin puree, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, and cloves in a medium pot set over medium heat. Cook, stirring frequently, until just simmering. Remove the pot from the heat and blend in the vanilla. Allow to cool at room temperature for about 30 minutes before transferring to a jar or bottle. Store in the refrigerator for 7-10 days. Shake well before using.

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SPOTLIGHT is published monthly by Jones-Onslow EMC for its members. Direct correspondences to: Jones-Onslow EMC, ATTN: Newsletter Editor, 259 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, N.C. 28546.

JOEMC
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Membership Corporation
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