




JOEMC

A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

SPOT
LIGHT

JOEMC Member Newsletter

August 2017

Attention Educators...Apply Online & Tell us your Bright Ideas!

It's that time of year again...Jones-Onslow is searching for Bright Ideas grant applications from teachers and principals, grades K-12, in the 48 public schools in Jones and Onslow counties, as well as the Topsail area of Pender County.



The grants, which are awarded in any discipline, enable educators to help students learn through innovative scholastic projects that are not covered by regular school funds. Educators may

apply for individual grants up to \$500 or in teams for grants up to \$2,000.

After twenty-three years, JOEMC's Bright Ideas Grant Program has awarded 1,572 grants to more than 4,750 educators. These funds have had a direct impact on the education

of close to 457,000 students in our community schools.

All grant applications must be submitted online to JOEMC by Friday, September 22, 2017. Bright Ideas grant recipients will be announced in the fall and honored at a special awards banquet.

Educators can get Bright Ideas grant information from their school principal or by visiting joemc.com (go to *The Cooperative* menu and look under *Community*). ▼



Early Bird Entry

Email your Bright Ideas application to JOEMC by Friday, September 8, 2017 and your name will be put in a drawing to win an Apple Ipad for your classroom.



Northside High School, "Global Artreach Artwork"

Richlands Primary School, "Ready, Set, Grow"



JOEMC offices will be
CLOSED
Monday, Sept. 4th
in observance of
Labor Day.

Protect Your High-Tech Life

After a long day, you check out Facebook or Instagram and look up a recipe online for dinner. After dinner, the family sits down to watch a television show on the DVR and your son does homework on the computer. One power surge, however, could make that all go away.

We often think about the need for surge protection for our homes and sensitive electronics during the rumble and flash of thunder storms but with so many activities demanding our time these days, many of us forget to follow through and take action. Electronics that are sensitive to variations in power voltage have become an increasingly large presence in life...that's why surge protection is so important.

A power surge, or transient voltage, is an increase in voltage significantly above the standard level. If the voltage is high enough, it can turn electronics into high-tech paperweights. Also, voltage variations over time can cause



your electronics to fail prematurely.

What causes power surges? One cause is lightning...and if it strikes near a power line, it can send the energy into your house's electrical system.

With JOEMC's PowerGuard surge suppression equipment, your electronics are shielded against damage due to lightning or power surges up to 60,000 Amps. A trained technician will install a special meter base surge protector right behind your electric meter to help capture electrical surges before they can enter your home and cause damage. In addition, surge protection for major appliances is offered as in-home plug-in units that protect can equipment around your home. ▼

No Signs on Poles—Utility Poles are not Bulletin Boards



Think before you post that sign!

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers. In addition to this being a hazard to JOEMC employees, it's against the law (NC General Statute 14-145).

Jones-Onslow EMC removes signs and items that are attached to our poles. Companies and individuals who post signs on poles could face legal action or fines.

Their jobs are dangerous enough—HELP US TO KEEP THEM SAFE! ▼



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Stop Air Flow and High Energy Bills

Do you know what causes your home to be too cold in the winter or oppressively hot in the summer? Your home is more than likely leaking air and at the same time you are wasting money.

One of the best things you can do if you have high electric bills is check the insulation. How much is in your attic, basement and crawl space? What kind is it? And is there an air barrier along with the insulation? The answers to these questions will determine how much

energy and money you can save.

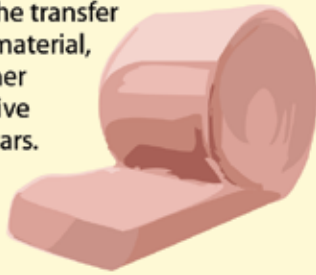
Air infiltration is one of the main problems for most homes. It's healthy to have some air flow in and out of your home but too much leads to discomfort and high electric bills. Properly installed insulation paired with an air barrier can do a lot to save.

If you have fiberglass insulation, whether blown or rolled batts, you'll need to create an air barrier by sealing all of the cracks and gaps between the living space and unfinished areas with caulk and expanding foam. Cellulose does a better job of blocking air but only foam insulation offers its own air barrier.

Check out the chart to the left and go to the website EnergySavers.gov to learn more about insulation. You can also contact Jones-Onslow and talk to one of our energy advisers about whether your home needs more insulation. By doing so, you'll be well on your way to a more comfortable home and lower electric bills. ▼

Comparing Insulation VALUE

Adding insulation? Check the material's R-value—the ability of insulation to resist the transfer of heat. R-value depends on material, thickness, and density. A higher R-value indicates more effective insulation, saving energy dollars.



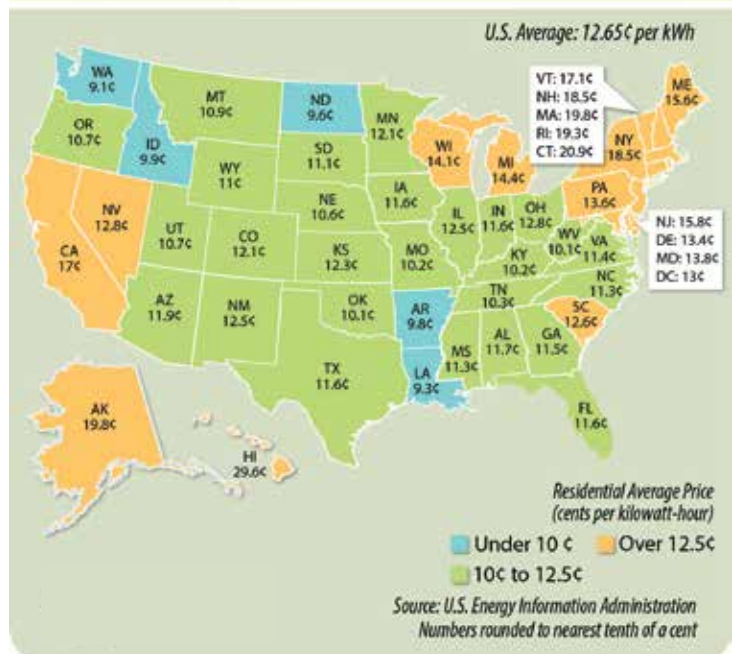
Compare R-values and common uses for several types of insulation:

Type of Insulation	R-value per inch (range)	Common Uses	Installation Method
Batts, Rolls			
Fiberglass	3.17 (3.0-4.0)	Wall, floor, and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists, or rafters
Rock Wool	3.17 (3.0-3.7)	Wall, floor, and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists, or rafters
Cotton	3.2	Wall, floor, and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists, or rafters
Loose, Poured, or Blown			
Fiberglass	2.2 (2.2-4.0)	Ceiling cavities	Poured and fluffed, or blown by machine
Rock Wool	3.1 (2.8-3.7)	Ceiling cavities	Poured and fluffed, or blown by machine
Dry Cellulose	3.2 (2.8-3.7)	Ceiling cavities	Blown by machine
Wet-Spray Cellulose	3.5 (3.0-3.7)	Wall cavities	Sprayed into cavities
Perlite	2.7 (2.5-4.0)	Hollow concrete block	Poured
Polyurethane	6.2 (5.8-6.8)	Wall and ceiling cavities, roofs	Foamed into cavities
Open-cell Isocyanurate (Icynene™)	3.6	Wall and ceiling cavities	Foamed into open or closed cavities
Magnesium Silicate (Air Krete™)	3.9	Wall cavities	Foamed into open cavities

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, E Source

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2015 figures, in cents per kWh



Controlling Costs and Planning for the Future

A big part of managing our electric cooperative, from both my perspective and that of our board of directors, is keeping costs as low as possible. It's a fundamental part of how we do business as a not-for-profit utility owned by our members. We don't answer to investors and we're not motivated to sell any more electricity



than what you need. Our priority is to serve you to the best of our abilities with safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible power.

Through proper maintenance of our system and stable power costs, JOEMC is able to keep rates low. Over the long term, that shouldn't change. But there are industry factors that will increase our cost of doing business in the near-term. Some of these may impact rates,

some may not, but I do want to share them as they are a part of how your electric cooperative operates.

For one, new technology has opened up options for how we manage the system that delivers power to your home. By putting this technology to work for us, we'll open up opportunities to operate more securely, more reliably and more efficiently in the future. New software and hardware upgrades will harden our system against cyber threats, which target electric utilities no matter the size. New system control components will allow us to better integrate distributed generation, such as solar panels and generators at homes and businesses in our community. This will ensure new resources can be connected to the grid while maintaining high standards of reliability. By investing in these system enhancements now, we're paving the way for cost savings down the line – similar to the way energy efficiency improvements in your home pay for themselves over time.

Second, our cost of power – which makes up the majority of your bill each month – is being affected by recent state law and federal regulations. JOEMC and our wholesale power provider, NCEMC, do not own any coal plants. However, the cost of power we purchase from Duke Energy is increasing beginning in 2018, as Duke Energy works to comply with state law and federal regulations related to coal ash management.

We will continue to do whatever we can to mitigate rising costs because we know these costs ultimately have an impact on your family budget. Should industry factors affect rates, we will let you know well ahead of time, and we will continue to pursue new technologies to build a stronger, more efficient electric distribution system to better serve you now, and into the future.

Visit our website at joemc.com or call our office at (910) 353-1940 or (800) 682-1515 to learn about programs and solutions that put you in control of your home energy use and budget.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



Strawberry Yogurt Muffins

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup chopped strawberries
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup vanilla Greek yogurt
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Directions:

In a medium bowl whisk together flour, sugar and baking soda. Stir in chopped strawberries. Set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, yogurt, butter and vanilla extract. Gradually stir the dry ingredients into the wet until fully combined. Spray muffin pan with cooking spray. Divide batter evenly among a 12-cup muffin pan. Bake for 18-25 minutes at 375°.

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