


HEY TEACHERS...



A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

SPOT LIGHT

JOEMC Member Newsletter

August 2018

Educators...Give Us Your Bright Ideas!

This fall, Jones-Onslow celebrates 25 years of partnering with local educators and school systems by kicking off its Bright Ideas Grant Program.

JOEMC is searching for Bright Ideas grant applications from teachers and principals, grades K-12, in the 51 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.

In the first 24 years JOEMC's Bright Ideas Grant Program has awarded 1,647 grants totaling more than \$1.2

million to over 5,000 educators. These funds have had a direct impact on the education of close to 457,500 students in our community schools.



EARLY BIRD ENTRY

Email your Bright Ideas application to JOEMC by **Friday, September 7, 2018** and your name will be put in a drawing to win an Apple Ipad for your classroom.

"There's no better investment than in our children because they are our future," said JOEMC's CEO Jeff Clark. "We are proud that we have been able to partner with our schools for Bright Ideas and look forward to working with them for many, many years."

All grant applications must be submitted online to JOEMC by Friday, September 21, 2018. Bright Ideas grant recipients will be announced in the fall and honored at a special awards banquet.



*"Food for Thought- an Aquaponics System"
Richlands High School*

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). ▼



2018: A Year of Energy Efficiency

AUGUST Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces. Visit joemc.com for more energy efficiency tips.

Remember...Call 811 Before You Dig

August 11th is national "Call before you dig" or "811" Day but Jones-Onslow would like to remind members that ANYTIME you start a digging project around the home they should dial 8-1-1 at least three working



days prior. This free and simple step can save lives and reduce risk of injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

"Every time you break ground, even for something simple like planting a shrub or installing a mailbox, you should call 811 first," said JOEMC's Vice President of Operations Jeff Allen. "No matter your level of expertise, it's important to know what's below the ground to prevent the potentially serious consequences of hitting a utility line."

The national 811 "Call Before You Dig" phone number links homeowners

to a call center, which then dispatches local utility companies to mark line locations with paint or flags. These marked lines show you where it is – and isn't – safe to break ground. Once your lines have been marked, make sure to dig carefully around the marks, not on top of them. Because utility line locations can shift, it's important to call each time you are planning to dig.

For more information about safe digging and the "Call Before You Dig" process, visit nc811.org.

DID YOU KNOW

JOEMC Offers Remote Payment Kiosks to Pay Your Bill

4 payment sites...2 sites available 24-hours a day.

Free to use & posts immediately to your account.

Kiosks accept cash, check and Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card.

JOEMC just made paying your electric bill easier and convenient with PaySite Kiosks located right in your neighborhood. Our kiosks are free to use and the payment posts to your account immediately, just as if you had driven to our office to pay it. You can pay in cash but the kiosks also accept checks or Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card. Simply scan your bill (or type in your account number) and follow the instructions on the screen. It's fast and convenient!

An important thing to note is that the machines don't return change so if members make a payment in cash, any overpayment to an account will be applied as a credit to the account.



PAY BILLS HERE

PAYING IN PERSON
HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

KIOSK LOCATIONS:

- HandyMart stores located at:
 - Swansboro, 701 West Corbett Avenue
 - Near Richlands, 5506 Richlands Hwy, JacksonvillePayment at these kiosks is available 24 hours a day.
- Realo Drugstores located at:
 - Surf City, 13500 Highway 50, Holly Ridge
 - Jacksonville, 423 Yopp Road (Wal-Mart Shopping Center)Payment at these kiosks is available during Realo's business hours (hours vary from weekdays to weekends). ▶



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 so 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.

REBATES

- High Efficiency Central AC (15 SEER) / \$35
- High Efficiency Central AC (16 SEER or greater) / \$50
- High Efficiency Heat Pump (16 SEER or greater) / \$250
- Geothermal Heat Pump (19 EER or greater) / \$350
- Heat Pump Water Heater (55 gallon unit or less) / \$300
- Energy Star Appliance (visit website for qualifying appliances) / \$25. ▶

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Stay Cool During the Dog Days of Summer with Home Energy Savings



It's the hottest time of the year, but you can take a few cues from Fido to stay cool during these dog days of summer and keep a tight leash on energy use!

• THROW YOUR AIR CONDITIONER A BONE

When it's hot outside, your air conditioner needs all the help it can get. Open interior doors and vents to help air circulate and reduce the strain on your HVAC system. Along with that, close exterior doors and windows, as well as any blinds, shades or curtains, to help keep the heat of the day out and cooled air in.

Also consider changing air filters regularly (dirty filters make your system work harder), make sure air ducts are sealed and insulated and consider installing a smart thermostat – these devices can help keep energy use at a minimum by automatically customizing cooling schedules to fit your life.

• PUT YOUR ENERGY USE ON "PAWS"

Waiting to use major appliances, especially those that generate heat like the clothes dryer and dishwasher, until the late evening, overnight or early morning hours can help your home stay cooler.

• ALSO AVOID USING AN INDOOR OVEN OR STOVE

Grill out or try a cold meal like a salad instead. Check out carolinacountry.com/grilling for inspiration! In addition, if you go out to eat, ask for a "doggie bag" and eat the leftovers the next day instead of fixing another meal.

• FETCH A FAN FOR EASY SAVINGS

If you don't want to turn down the thermostat, opt for a ceiling or portable fan. Make sure your ceiling fan turns counter clockwise during hot weather to push cool air down. Remember to turn fans off when you're not using them; fans cool you, not the room.

• GET MORE BANG FOR YOUR BARK WITH ENERGY MANAGEMENT TOOLS

JOEMC offers a number of tools like at-home and online energy audits as well as home energy calculators (including those for appliances, lighting and HVAC systems) that can help you take control of your energy use and budget. Contact us or visit joemc.com to retrieve more energy-saving tips! ▶

7

SIMPLE, NO-COST WAYS TO STAY COOL THIS SUMMER



#1: Shift your use.

Major appliances like dishwashers, as well as clothes washers and dryers, introduce heat and moisture to your home, so shift their use to the coolest parts of the day, like early in the morning or late at night.



#2: Keep kitchens cool.

An indoor stove or oven can raise the temperature in your kitchen by as much as 5 to 10 degrees, so cook inside with your microwave or crockpot, or move the cooking to an outdoor grill.



#3: Turn it off.

Lights, particularly incandescent lights, as well as common household appliances generate heat when they are on and in use, so turn them off and unplug appliances.



#4: Feel the breeze.

Although fans don't technically change the temperature of the room, they can make you feel 3 to 4 degrees cooler—a definite win!



#5: Keep sunshine out.

Close blinds, shades and curtains, especially on windows that get direct sun to block light and heat.



#6: Introduce an open door policy.

Keep the doors to rooms inside your home open so air can flow through naturally.



#7: Replace & remove.

Replace dirty air filters and remove obstructions, like furniture or rugs, from your return registers to increase the efficiency of your HVAC system and the air flow within your home.

What is Grid Resiliency?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts talked about in the electric industry today. This concept made headlines in the last several months in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history.



Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in North Carolina, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things – it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve

you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our members.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it starts with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation – such as nuclear, natural gas, wind, solar and hydro – to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in today's new technologies all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. When thousands of consumers were without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system.

Similar to the way we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, the electric grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that the pole is as strong – or as resilient – as it can be.

Living in North Carolina, we know that significant power outages can occur especially as we enter the summer storm season. We are confident in the resiliency of our system to recover, whatever the situation, with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as “the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched.” When it comes to providing our members with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out!

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



Peanut Butter Pie Milk Shake

Ingredients:

Chocolate syrup
2 pints vanilla ice cream
1 cup creamy peanut butter
½ cup milk
2 Tbsp jarred caramel topping
1 cup chocolate wafer cookies, crumbled
Whipped cream

Directions:

Drizzle 1 Tbsp chocolate syrup down inside of chilled glass. Repeat with 3 more chilled glasses. Blend 2 pints ice cream, ½ cup milk, 1 cup peanut butter and 2 Tbsp of caramel syrup in a blender until foamy and thick, about 3-4 minutes. Divide milk shake evenly among prepared glasses. Top each with whipped cream and ¼ cup of crumbled wafer cookies. Serve immediately.

Serves 4

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Our office's will be closed on Monday, September 3rd for Labor Day.