




A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# SPOT LIGHT

LIGHT

JOEMC Member Newsletter      October 2019



## Fall Into Energy Savings

As the leaves turn orange and red, you can do a few things around your home to save some green. Follow the tips below to prepare your home for a more energy-efficient and comfortable winter.

### Weatherize

- Air leaks in your home not only cause uncomfortable drafts but waste energy. Reducing air leaks could cut 10 percent from an average household's monthly energy bill. The most common places where air escapes homes are floors, walls, ceilings, ducts, fireplaces, plumbing penetrations, doors, windows, fans, vents and electrical outlets.
- Weatherize your home by caulking and weather-stripping all doors and windows.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use. It's also a good time to have your chimney cleaned and inspected.

### Heating System

- Don't block your radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free.
- Have your heating system serviced once a year by a certified technician.
- Regularly replace heating system filters.

### Thermostat

- Try to set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees when you are home and lower the temperature when you go to bed and are not at home. This will ensure optimal home heating and save energy. For every degree you lower your thermostat you save about two percent off your heating bill.
- A programmable thermostat can help tailor the temperature to your schedule.

### Windows

- Use locks on your windows to make them tighter and draft resistant.
- Keep shades and curtains open during the day on the south side of your home to allow solar heating. Close them at night to retain heat.

### Water Heating

- Turn your water heater down to 120°F to save money on your energy bill. If you have children in the house, this is also a safety measure.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucets.
- Use the energy-saving settings on dishwashers and washing machines and run them with full loads. Wash clothes in cold water. ▼



IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED  
our offices will be closed for Veterans Day  
Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## 4 Low-Cost Energy Tips for Renters

An energy efficient heating system can go far in helping to reduce winter energy costs. But not everyone can make HVAC upgrades, whether they're renting or their budget won't allow it.

Here are four low-cost efficiency tips that can help you reduce winter energy bills:

### 1 Mind the thermostat

You might be able to trim your energy bill by carefully managing the temperature in your home. The Department of Energy suggests setting your thermostat to 68 degrees on winter days. If that's too cool, try other ways to stay warm like layering with an extra sweater. You can save more energy by turning down the thermostat even lower at night or when no one is home.

### 2 Stop air leaks

Small gaps around windows, doors, wiring and plumbing penetrations can be major sources of energy loss. This problem can be alleviated with a little weather stripping and caulk, but you should check with your

landlord before you get started. A door draft stopper (also known as a "door snake," which cost from \$10–\$20) is a simple way to block gaps underneath exterior doors. Sealing air leaks around your home could shave up to one-fifth of your heating and cooling bills.

### 3 Manage your windows and window coverings

Your windows may be letting heat out during the winter and letting heat in during the summer. Window coverings, like medium or heavy-weight curtains, and thermal blinds can help. On cold winter days, window coverings can keep warmth inside and improve comfort. Opening up window coverings when you're receiving direct sunlight is a 'passive solar' technique that can help cut your heating costs.



*Get the most out of your hot water use by only washing full loads of dishes.*

### 4 Look for energy wasters

There are also small steps you can take every day to reduce your energy use. Water heaters should be kept at the warm setting (120 degrees). Wash dishes and clothes on the most economical settings that will do the job and always wash full loads. Use the microwave instead of the oven when possible. ▼

# KEEPING YOU SAFE

## Play it Safe with Wall Outlets

Wall outlets are the bridge from electricity to appliances. They make it possible for our lamps, cell phone chargers, coffee makers and televisions to run. We don't even think about how that happens or whether there are any dangers associated with them, however, there are a few things you can look out for.



1. Make sure to regularly check outlets for damages. All wires should be covered and plates should be tightened down. If the plates are cracked, replace immediately.
2. If outlets are warm to the touch or discolored, contact an electrician to determine the cause.
3. In older homes, consider upgrading outlets to the safer, three-prong style that are grounded. If you don't have three-prong outlets, never force a three-prong plug into a two-slot outlet.
4. GFCI outlets should be installed in any area where there is water, such as kitchens, pools, crawl spaces and bathrooms. These outlets monitor electricity flowing in a circuit and trip the circuit if an imbalance is detected, protecting people from electric shock.
5. If young children are in the home, cover outlets with plastic child safety plugs to keep little fingers and objects out of tempting outlets.
6. Don't plug too many electrical devices into an outlet; this increases the risk of fire. If a power strip is filling up, transfer some items to another outlet. Turn the switch to a power strip off when appliances are not in use. ►

## October is National Co-op Month

When you think of October—pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason—it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Jones-Onslow EMC, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how JOEMC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

We're committed to helping make our communities a better place to live, work, and raise families by working with various organizations through economic development projects, civic functions, and community-betterment initiatives.

At JOEMC, we do more than supply power. Because we're local and owned by you, our members, building communities is core to our mission. That's why we invest in programs and opportunities that leave a lasting impression on the people that live here. ▼



## We Want to Know What You Think

This fall, JOEMC will partner with TSE Services and Data Decisions Group to conduct member satisfaction surveys.

Member feedback will be collected via telephone interviews as well as online surveys. If JOEMC has your email address on file and you are one of the randomly selected participants, you will receive an email invitation to participate in the survey. Members whose email address the cooperative does not have will be contacted by telephone to complete the survey.

Members may receive the email invitation or phone call between October and

December asking for their participation. If contacted by telephone, the call will come from a 919 area code as JOEMC's partner is based in the Raleigh area.

The feedback you provide will help us gauge our performance in serving you, our consumer-members, and assist us in providing better service in the future. We encourage you to share your email address with us so you can potentially be contacted about completing a survey.

We appreciate your time and thank you for sharing your thoughts. ►



## Cybersecurity: Keeping Your Information Safe and Electricity Reliable



In addition to October being Co-op Month, it is also National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. I'd like to take time to let you know what JOEMC is doing to keep your information safe and electricity reliable.

In an increasingly digitally interconnected world, cybersecurity is a top priority for your cooperative and the electric utility industry as a whole. Technology has improved nearly every segment of daily life, including a smarter grid but along with the benefits comes the need to safeguard member information and power grid operations.

At JOEMC we have a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy that begins with three key initiatives:

### 1. Secure Member Data

Our member's personal data is very important to us. For instance, JOEMC does not store credit card data. When members elect to save it, we use a process called "tokenization" to identify the card number using a unique code known only to us and the payment processor. The card number is never saved/stored on our systems.

### 2. Secure Our Systems

Jones-Onslow maintains a multitude of unique systems to offer services and reliable electricity to our members. Each system comes with a new set of cyber risks. We mitigate cybersecurity risks by employing a multi-layered "zero trust" approach; utilizing technology such as firewalls and intrusion protection systems. We also leverage third-party cybersecurity firms to analyze our networks and systems in real time — protecting and alerting our IT department of abnormalities 24 hours a day.

### 3. Secure The Grid

As the electric grid evolves with technology, the new 'smart grid' brings a whole new set of cyber risks. JOEMC's multi-layered approach to cybersecurity, along with physical security measures, protects our grid that serves each one of you. Ensuring the lights stay on is the top priority for our linemen AND every other employee at the co-op.

Cybersecurity is a never-ending job. Criminal hackers and other threats, combined with fast-paced technology advances, make cybersecurity like the Wild West! It's a rapidly changing world and we must adapt and evolve with adversaries coming from all around the world.

We believe the best defense is a strong offense, especially when it comes to cybersecurity. I can assure you that JOEMC is well prepared and constantly hardening our cybersecurity initiatives to ensure the protection of member information, your cooperative, and the electric grid from cyber threats.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



## Pumpkin Whoopie Pies

### Ingredients:

2 eggs  
2 cups light brown sugar  
1 cup vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 can (15 ounces) of pumpkin  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt

### Filling

1 4-ounce cream cheese, softened  
½ cup butter, softened  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
4–5 cups powdered sugar

### Directions:

1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease a couple of baking sheets. 2) Beat eggs, brown sugar, oil, pumpkin and vanilla in a bowl until smooth. 3) In a separate bowl, combine flour, pumpkin spice, baking powder and soda, plus salt. 4) Add dry ingredients to the wet mixture a half cup at a time, blending until smooth after each addition. 5) Drop a heaping tablespoon of batter onto a greased sheet and slightly flatten. Bake 8–10 minutes. Cool on rack. 6) For the filling, beat cream cheese, butter and vanilla together until light and fluffy. Add in the powdered sugar a half cup at a time. 7) Use a quart-sized baggie and fill with icing. Cut off the tip of the bag to pipe the filling onto a "pie." Top with another pie.

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