




A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# SPOT LIGHT

LIGHT

JOEMC Member Newsletter      June 2020



## Beneficial Electrification for Your Home and the Environment

Over the past few years the concept known as “environmentally beneficial electrification” has been gaining traction among a growing number of groups. Frequently promoted to reduce greenhouse gases and help the environment, beneficial electrification also helps members by providing products that are cleaner, quieter and easier to maintain.

Conventional appliances fueled on-site, like natural gas water heaters, have been traditionally thought to be more efficient and easier on the environment. However, thanks to the flexibility of the electric grid itself, electricity today is using less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced. More utilities are shifting to renewable technologies

and make existing generation technologies cleaner.

Electric appliances themselves are also becoming more efficient or “greener” because of technological improvements and increased government standards. So, what will change around the home and how will it impact you?

- Lawnmowers:** Major changes are happening to small motors around your home—like the one in your lawnmower or leaf blower. There are already corded and cordless models available and as batteries continue to improve and fall in cost, consumers can expect to see cordless models dominate.
- Heat Pumps/Water Heaters:** Hybrid heat pump/water heaters are far more efficient than standard electric water heaters and still offer the benefits of an electric-only system, such as quiet operation and greater durability.
- Electric Vehicles:** The car in your driveway may change out its gas tank for a battery. Electric vehicles are widely praised for being safer, easier to maintain (no oil changes) and performing better on the road with more acceleration and torque. Currently more expensive than their gas-fueled counterparts, electric vehicles will fall in price as more companies enter the market and battery technology improves. For more information, visit [joemc.com/energy-center](http://joemc.com/energy-center) and click on the Technology & Renewables Icon.

While gas-fueled appliances and vehicles aren’t going away anytime soon, beneficial electrification is going to transform your home over the next five to ten years and Jones-Onslow is here to help guide the way. ♦



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save. Visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) for more energy efficiency tips.

## Youth Tour 2020 Canceled

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the commitment to keeping delegates, staff, and communities safe, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has canceled all in-person programs through June 24, including its annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Jones-Onslow does, however, want to recognize the four outstanding high school students that were selected earlier in the year to represent the co-op before its cancellation.



**KARA NOVAK** attends Southwest High School and is the daughter of Jon and Kristi Novak. Kara was the Valedictorian her Freshman Year, she is a Junior Marshall, Avid Leader, and Scholar Athlete Winner. She is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, Key Club, and Winter Indoor Track Team.

Kara enjoys running, volunteering in the community, reading, cooking, photography, public speaking, and spending time with family.

**COLIN DAVIS** attends Onslow Early College High School and is the son of Gabriel and Yolanda Potter. Colin participated in the Rotary Club Youth Leadership Conference and Onslow County Close-up. He received the OECHS Pinnacle award for science and the Presidential award. He is involved in the Student Government Association, Philosophy Club and Fine



Arts Society. Colin enjoys playing the violin, singing, hiking, poetry-writing, research, chemistry, and cooking.



**TAYLOR DEUPREE** attends Jacksonville High School and is the daughter of Cody and Stephanie Deupree. Taylor is a member of the National Honor Society, Hosa Club, Spanish Club, Key Club, and the Varsity Women's Soccer Team. Taylor enjoys sports, travel, and spending time with family and friends

**HANNAH JOHNSTON** attends White Oak High School and is the daughter of Anthony and Jennifer Johnston. She is a member of the Swimming team, Green Team, Interact, and Student to Student. Hannah enjoys sewing, playing sports, and volunteering at the local wildlife rehabilitation center.



In lieu of attending this year's Youth Tour in Washington DC, representatives will receive academic scholarships from JOEMC following their high school graduations in 2021. ♦

## CUSTOMERSERVICE

### Power just go out? Text us to let us know.

Signing up for the co-op's outage text alert program is simple and easy!

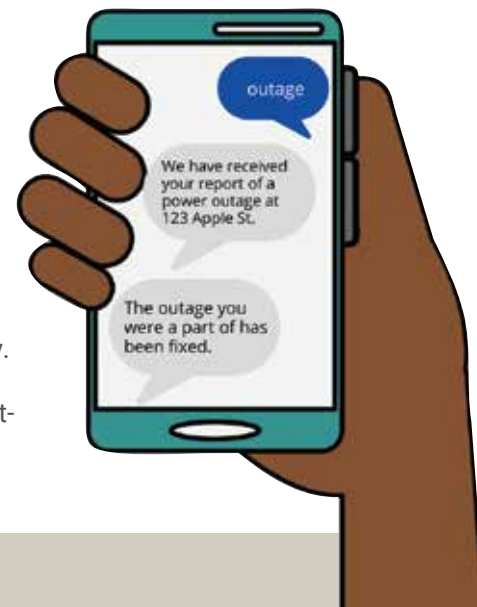
- Visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and click on the Outage Hub Icon. Locate Outage Text Alerts and click on the Sign Up button.

- Enter your cell phone number and account number. Hit submit, and after responding to a verification text you're signed up.

Save the phone number you receive (from the verification text) to your cell phone contacts so you can quickly report an outage if ever needed. Standard text and data rates may apply.

Remember, to report an outage or for updates, you must be registered for outage text alerts prior to the outage you are trying to report. If you register after the outage has started, you will not get alerts for that outage.

Stay connected and stay informed with Jones Onslow's outage text alerts. ♦



# KEEPING YOU SAFE

## Generator Safety Tips

More and more people are purchasing stand-by or backup generators for their homes and businesses. These can be a big help during power outages, but safety should be a major concern. If you are going to have the generator feed your home directly, you should contact a licensed electrical contractor to wire the unit safely and according to the Electrical Code. This will help prevent dangerous situations from happening to you and the electrical personnel restoring power.

When it comes to portable generators, always use caution when operating the unit. Improper use can cause problems and injury to electrical utility workers as a result of “feedback” to the utility’s electrical distribution systems. ◆



### HERE ARE SOME SAFETY TIPS TO REMEMBER:

- Familiarize yourself with the generator before using it. Don't try to figure it out during an emergency.
- After reading the owner's manual, pay attention to the number of receptacles available on the generator.
- Never overload a generator by using a power strip or plugging too many cords into it. Remember: one extension cord per appliance per outlet.
- To avoid damage to the generator, use a heavy duty extension cord. The tag on the cord must be rated for the total electrical load you need.
- Keep a fully-charged, approved fire extinguisher nearby. Do not smoke or store fuel near the generator while it's running.
- Never place a portable generator inside your home or any enclosed space. Generators produce deadly carbon monoxide and should be placed at least 25 feet away from your home.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## Time for a New HVAC Unit?

How do you know it's time to replace your aging heating and cooling equipment? Here are a few clues that your HVAC equipment is headed for its final curtain.

**1. YOUR HVAC SYSTEM CAN BE DESCRIBED AS “VINTAGE”.** If your heat pump or air conditioner is more than 10 years old it's approaching the end of its useful life. While some units hang on for years, replacing an older unit with one that's ENERGY STAR rated can save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs. If your furnace is more than 15 years old, it's time to think about replacing it with an ENERGY STAR qualified furnace or, even better, an efficient heat pump that can also reduce your cooling cost.

**2. YOUR HVAC SYSTEM ISN'T KEEPING UP WITH YOUR HEATING AND COOLING NEEDS.** HVAC equipment gets less efficient as it ages. This can increase your energy costs and decrease your comfort.

**3. YOUR EQUIPMENT HAS NEEDED SEVERAL REPAIRS RECENTLY OR YOU'RE FACING THE COST OF REPLACING A MAJOR COMPONENT LIKE A COMPRESSOR.** It often makes more sense to replace your equipment with a new high-efficiency unit that can reduce your energy bills.

**4. YOUR HOME'S AIR IS TOO HUMID OR TOO DRY.** Inadequate equipment or leaky duct work can cause the air to be too dry in the winter or too humid in the summer.

**5. YOU NEED TO DUST MORE OFTEN EVEN THOUGH YOU CHANGE THE HVAC SYSTEM FILTER(S) REGULARLY.** Ductwork can also deteriorate over time. Leaky ducts pull particles from attics and crawl spaces and cir-

culate them throughout your house. In addition, ductwork may get accidentally damaged or the joints may need sealing.

**6. YOUR HEATING OR COOLING SYSTEM IS NOISY.** Noise can indicate developing mechanical problems or undersized ductwork.

**7. YOU'RE ADDING ON TO YOUR HOME.** Your heating and cooling unit may not be large enough to handle the extra workload and the duct system may need redesigning. If you suspect it's time to replace your equipment, schedule a visit from a certified HVAC contractor to discuss your options.

Members who install an ENERGY STAR rated electric central AC, air-to-air heat pump, or a geothermal heat pump are eligible for a heating and cooling rebate from JOEMC of up to \$350. For more information, go to [joemc.com/energy-center](http://joemc.com/energy-center) and click on the Products & Rebates Icon. ◆



# KEEPING YOU INFORMED

## A Brighter Future for All



From the time we were formed by local community members, Jones-Onslow EMC has been committed to building a brighter future for the people, businesses, and communities we serve. Our original mission was to bring electricity

and new opportunity to our region. Since then, it has since expanded to include the pursuit of new energy solutions, community enrichment, and economic development initiatives that provide us new ways to deliver value to our members.

Looking to the decade ahead and beyond, we remain focused on providing you electricity that is reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible. To achieve this low-cost, low-carbon future, JOEMC is working with the state's other electric cooperatives to reach significant carbon reduction goals. We are targeting a 50 percent drop in carbon emissions from our 2005 levels by 2030, and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. To meet these sustainability goals while upholding our commitments to reliability and affordability, our efforts will be focused in areas that make the electric grid more flexible, efficient, resilient, and capable of supporting new energy solutions and the vitality of our communities.

New technologies are already leading to the creation of a virtual power plant, which coordinates thousands of resources across the grid, ranging from solar energy, battery storage, microgrids, smart thermostats, and electric vehicle charging stations to balance supply and demand on the system. This sophisticated approach provides growing potential for increased power reliability and lower costs for you, as well as greater convenience and control of your home electricity use. Electric cooperatives like JOEMC are at the forefront of these efforts and strong partnerships with members like you will ensure that we all continue to benefit from a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

In addition to powering our communities, we are also contributing to a brighter future by empowering those we serve. Concern for community is a hallmark of the cooperative and our commitment to community has been amplified during these unprecedented circumstances of the past few months. We want to make sure that our communities have the strength to succeed despite the challenges we face, which is why we continue to invest in education grants, non-profit/civic group sponsorships, zero-interest economic development loans, and other efforts aimed at improving the daily lives of our members. Because we are located in and belong to the communities we serve, we understand our local needs firsthand and remain driven to make a real difference, now and in the years to come.

To learn more about all the ways we are ensuring a brighter future for all, visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com).

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



## Pulled Pork & Orzo Italian Salad

### Ingredients:

- 5-6 lbs. pork butt, cooked, shredded, chopped (cook ahead in crockpot)
- 1 box (16 oz.) orzo, cooked per package directions
- 1 jar (8.5 oz.) julienned sun dried tomatoes with oil, undrained
- 1 jar (3.5 oz.) capers, drained
- 1 jar (12 oz.) roasted red peppers, drained and chopped
- 1 cup white raisins
- 1 cup toasted pine nuts
- ½ cup loosely packed, chopped fresh parsley
- 1 bag (6 oz.) baby spinach, roughly chopped
- 3 tbsp dried oregano
- 2 tbsp honey
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- Salt and pepper
- 4 heads roasted garlic\*
- 1 cup oil\*

### Directions:

Fold pork into orzo. Add remaining ingredients, stirring until well blended. Serve immediately or refrigerate to serve later. Best if removed from refrigerator 30 minutes before serving.

\*Cut tops from 4 heads of garlic. Place in small baking dish. Pour oil over garlic. Roast at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Cool and squeeze cloves into salad, along with the oil.

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