

SPOTLIGHT

JONES-ON SLOW EMC—POWERING HOMES SINCE 1939



SEPTEMBER 2021

Defining Degree Days

Weather can significantly impact energy bills, and when the outdoor temperatures become extreme, your heating and cooling equipment works harder to keep your home comfortable.



Did you know the energy experts at JOEMC use degree days to anticipate heating and cooling needs for you, our consumer members?

Never heard of a degree day? Don't worry; you're not alone. Let's take a look at what degree days are and why they're essential for electric utilities.

Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to

the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65° F. The assumption is that we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.

So, the more extreme the outdoor temperatures—the higher the number of degree days. And the higher the number of degree days—the higher the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling. Summer may be coming to an end, but we still have some warm days ahead, so let's look at cooling degree days.

Cooling degree days are a measurement of how hot the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. With summer temperatures rising, you'll likely require more cooling for your home or business, which results in more cooling degree days. Variations in electric bills often follow closely with degree days, which is why electric utilities use this data to anticipate future energy demand.



Attention Educators...

Time is Running Out to Apply!



Are you an educator who has a Bright Idea that will spark a passion for learning in and out of the classroom? If

so, apply for one of JOEMC's Bright Ideas grants. Individual educators may apply for grants up to \$500; teams of educators may apply for grants up to \$2,000.

The application deadline is **Friday, September 24th**, so don't miss your opportunity to make your idea a reality. Apply today at <https://www.joemc.com/cooperative/community-programs/bright-ideas/>



SAFETYFIRST

Prepare to Protect

Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.

September is National Preparedness Month, and this month JOEMC encourages and reminds members to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. Here are few ways you can be prepared.

✓ **MAKE A PLAN**

Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster.

✓ **BUILD A KIT**

Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have if you have to evacuate quickly.

✓ **PREPARE FOR DISASTERS**

Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards and act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.

✓ **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT PREPAREDNESS**

Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.

These are just a few ways to ensure you are prepared when disasters strike. *For more helpful information regarding Preparedness Month visit, ready.gov.*



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

ENERGYEFFICIENCY

The Value of a Clean Air Filter

It's been a hot summer, which means your air conditioning system has been working hard to keep you comfortable.

It only takes a couple of minutes to change the air filter in your heating/cooling system. It's simple and easy, and as TogetherWeSave.com has shown, changing your filter every month can save you up to \$82 a year.

But that's not all you can save. A dirty air filter makes your system work harder to keep you cool, which wastes energy. Changing your air filter regularly helps to ensure efficient operation and keep

your electricity bill in check. In addition, a dirty air filter allows dust and dirt to build up in your system. Changing your air filter regularly can reduce the need for costly maintenance and prevent damage to your system.

And when winter arrives, it's just as essential to change your air filter regularly. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm, and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

For more tips on managing your energy, visit joemc.com.

MEMBERSERVICES

National Drive Electric Week 2021 is Sept. 25-Oct. 3 and JOEMC is joining a nationwide celebration to highlight the many benefits of driving electric.



Considering Driving Electric?

Electric vehicles have a lot to offer. They are fun to drive, with faster acceleration and a more responsive, zippy feel behind the wheel. Powering a car with electricity is cheaper than powering it with gas, so they cost less to run. Electric vehicles are also convenient. Most people charge their vehicles at home, which eliminates trips to the gas station, and they also tend to have fewer parts, which means less maintenance and no oil changes. They also

contribute to a brighter environmental and economic future by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while decreasing our dependence on foreign oil and supporting local commerce and tourism.

Jones-Onslow is taking steps to make it more convenient than ever to drive an electric vehicle. We are partnering with other electric cooperatives across North Carolina to build an electric vehicle charging network that

allows EV drivers to easily travel throughout our state and visit co-op communities. This network includes two Level 2 EV charging stations installed at our headquarter office in Jacksonville and the Hampton Inn in Sneads Ferry.

If you're considering driving electric, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at (910) 353-1940 or for more information visit ncdriveelectric.com/joemc.

Did You Receive the Message?

Notifications Can Keep You Informed

If you have a cell phone associated with your electric account, you recently received a text message regarding Outage Text Alerts. In addition to Outage alerts, did you know that you can also receive other types of notifications from Jones-Onslow EMC? These notifications can ensure that your account is up-to-date and you do not have any surprises on your monthly electric bill.

OTHER NOTIFICATIONS INCLUDE:

- **Daily Usage Alerts:** Will keep you informed of your daily electric usage and even alert you when it seems higher than usual.
- **Two-Day Due Date Reminder:** Ensure that you do not miss your payment date and receive a late fee.
- **Third-party Notifications:** Can assist you with keeping elderly parents on track with their monthly bills.

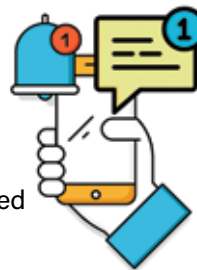
▪ **Cutoff Notification:**

Alerts are sent the day the account is scheduled for disconnection for nonpayment.

- **Payment Receipts:** A receipt of payment made which includes the account number, amount paid, and the date and time the payment was posted to the electric account.

If you'd like to receive notifications via email or text, sign in to your online Member Portal, select "notifications" from the menu on the left. Sign-up today, <https://billing.joemc.com/joemc/login.jsp>.

And as always, don't hesitate to call one of our knowledgeable and friendly Consumer Services Representatives at 910-353-1940 if you have any questions.



Healthy Chocolate & Banana Quesadilla

Healthy Chocolate & Banana Quesadilla is a quick and simple, 3-ingredient recipe that is loaded with 8 grams of protein and 8 grams of fiber to fill you up and leave your sweet-tooth satisfied!

Ingredients

- 1 whole wheat tortilla
- 1 ½ Tbsp. chocolate almond butter
- 1 small banana

Instructions

1. Spread the almond butter over half of the tortilla. Top the almond butter with sliced bananas and fold the tortilla in half. Spray each side with a quick shot of non-stick pan spray.
2. In a skillet over medium-high heat, cook the quesadilla on each side for 1-2 minutes, or until golden brown. Slice in half and enjoy immediately.

CEO Column: Why Electric Vehicles Are Part of Our Brighter Future

As a member of JOEMC, you may be familiar with our Brighter Future vision of serving this community by providing safe and reliable access to energy that is affordable and increasingly sustainable. As we work toward this vision, it is critical that we appropriately stay ahead of trends to ensure we meet the emerging power needs of our member-consumers.



Jones-Onslow EMC
CEO Jeffrey T. Clark

A significant emerging trend across the nation is consumer adoption of electric vehicles. In 2020, a survey provided exclusively to members of electric cooperatives across the nation showed that 1 in 6 co-op members are likely to consider an electric vehicle as their next car. Although that may not seem like a critical mass, to ensure continued reliability, our engineers are planning for this increased electric demand and just as importantly, so we can provide solutions to our members making the switch.

Because we know interest in these vehicles is on an upward trajectory, we are making investments now to build public charging stations in our local community. Doing so will help ensure our region is not overlooked for tourism, commerce, and economic development opportunities, and it facilitates driving an electric vehicle for people here locally.

Currently, we have participated in locating two public charging stations in our service area — one at our headquarters facility in Jacksonville and the other through a partnership with the Hampton Inn in Sneads Ferry. We continue to explore adding more charging stations in our community, whether at existing businesses or public spaces or working with developers as they build new commercial properties.

If charging is managed appropriately, electric vehicles can significantly benefit the electric grid in ways that will not impact the reliability and affordability of electricity. When charged at night, EVs add load to the grid when it is historically most underused. Power is the most expensive at peak demand hours, like late afternoon in the summer and early morning in the winter. Nighttime EV charging is an example of spreading load across more hours of the day to help flatten expensive peaks and this is an area we will continue to explore.

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These benefits to the grid are important, but EV drivers often realize other benefits, like cost savings, more convenience, less maintenance, better impact on the environment, and—many would argue—a better driving experience.

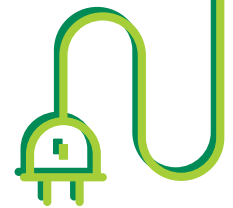
You can learn more about the many significant benefits of driving electric, see information addressing common myths and misunderstandings of EVs, and find financial incentives for driving electric at ncdriveelectric.com/joemc and joemc.com/energy-center/technology-renewables.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills.

By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: energy.gov



www.joemc.com