



Understanding the Impact of Heat Strips on Your Electric Bill

Turning your thermostat up a little at a time can mean big savings

If your electric bill is higher than anticipated in the wintertime, the answer may be found in how often the heat strips in your heating system are activated. Heat strips are the emergency or auxiliary part of your heating system, designed to work when it is exceptionally cold, and they require more

energy to operate than the normal operations of your system. Although it is necessary for your heat pump to use heat strips to perform some tasks, such as defrosting your unit, there are some things you can do to prevent your heat pump from using them frequently.

If your home is well insulated, keeping the thermostat at a low, regulated temperature should keep you from using your heat pump, and heat strips, excessively. If you lower the temperature when you are sleeping, or when you leave the house for an extended period of time, don't raise it more than two degrees at a time when you wake up or return home. Raising it any more than two degrees at a time will cause the system to go into auxiliary mode and activate the heat strips, which will increase your energy use unnecessarily.

Using a programmable thermostat is an excellent way to ensure your heat strips only come on when needed. In the event you have turned the heat down while away, prior to returning, you can raise the thermostat setting in two-degree increments using the app on



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your phone, resulting in a comfortable temperature upon arrival without utilizing the unit's heat strips.

Under normal conditions, the cost of running a heat pump for a JOEMC member is around 30 to 35 cents per hour. When operating in the auxiliary/emergency heating mode, that cost goes up to around \$1.30 per hour. If your heat pump is operating in auxiliary/emergency mode without due cause (outdoor temperatures are above freezing or no drastic adjustment to your thermostat), it is possible that your system is malfunctioning. You should contact a licensed heating and cooling professional and have it serviced immediately. ▶

Charging Your Electric Vehicle at Home

If you are thinking about purchasing a plug-in electric vehicle, Jones-Onslow is ready to help you navigate this new technology. Before purchasing an electric vehicle, you may want to ask yourself the following questions:

How will I charge my electric vehicle at home?

Charging an electric vehicle depends on several factors, including vehicle type, driving distance and frequency of use. There are two main levels of home charging equipment:

- **AC Level 1:** Level 1 charging is done through a 120-volt outlet, which is the standard household size charging. This should not require extra equipment or installation. Depending on the vehicle type, it may take anywhere between 8–20 hours to charge your vehicle this way.
- **AC Level 2:** Level 2 charging uses a 240-volt outlet (usually intended for large appliances) and a charging station. Level 2 charging is three to five times faster than a Level 1 charger. Before installing a Level 2 charger, contact your electric cooperative. Jones-Onslow EMC will help you determine whether you have sufficient load capacity and if a service upgrade is necessary.



Depending on the equipment you select and local installation costs, charging equipment can range from \$500 and exceed \$1,000. Please let your electric cooperative know if you are planning to purchase an electric vehicle and install a charging station so we can ensure your home is set up to properly handle the increased load.

How much does it cost to charge my electric car at home?

To estimate how much it will cost to recharge your electric car at home, you'll want to see how much electricity costs per kilowatt-hour—for JOEMC members it is 11 cents per kWh. If your electric vehicle is rated 38kWh/100 miles, it will cost approximately \$3.91 to drive your car 100 miles. ▼

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How Much is that Space Heater Really Costing You...

Winter is here and with it comes colder temperatures. Space heaters can work great as a supplemental source of heat but you may want to consider using them sparingly as they can be costly to operate.

DESCRIBE YOUR HOME

Number of space heaters:

Hours per day:

Cost per kWh (\$):

Take a look at JOEMC's space heater calculator to find out how much it is costing you to operate. You can find the Home Energy Calculators by visiting joemc.com > Energy Center > Home Energy Calculators > Space Heaters or <https://tinyurl.com/y8an6dqb>. ▶

TOTAL:

Cost per month:

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Stay Connected: Update Your Contact Information

Having your current phone numbers on file with JOEMC is the best way to make sure you don't miss out on important communication!

LOCATION ID

If Jones-Onslow EMC doesn't have the correct phone number linked to your location, it becomes much more difficult for you to report an outage. At JOEMC, we use the phone numbers you provide to link your service address to our outage-management system. This system instantly logs an outage at your service address and helps predict the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem and restore your power.

NOTIFICATIONS

Keeping the co-op updated with your contact info ensures you'll receive advance notification of any planned outages that will affect your location. It also helps us

when there's a question about energy use or billing. If we can easily reach you, any discrepancies on your account don't have time to become big problems, and they can be taken care of promptly.

ADD YOUR EMAIL, TOO!

While you're updating your phone numbers, make sure your current email addresses are added to your account to receive notifications and important news in this way, as well!

You can update your info online at joemc.com or give us a quick call at 910-353-1940 to have a Customer Service Representative help you. ▼

KEEPING YOU SAFE

Why Birds Can Sit on Powerlines

You might think it's because the wires are insulated, but they're actually not insulated at all – that's why downed power lines are so dangerous. No, the only reason why birds aren't electrocuted is because they are only touching one wire and nothing else.

Like all energy, electricity seeks balance. That means electricity will flow from high-energy areas to areas of less energy, always using the path of least resistance. If the bird had one foot on the wire and the other foot on, for example, the ground or on a different wire with less voltage, the bird would be electrocuted. The electricity would pass through the bird on its way from the high-voltage line to the lower-voltage line or the ground.

But as long as both of the bird's feet are on the same wire, the bird is safe. The current doesn't have anywhere else to go, so the electricity won't pass through the bird – it stays on the path of least resistance, the wire. ►



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Fun, Food, Door Prizes and Entertainment

JOEMC members—bring the family out for an evening of fun, food, door prizes and entertainment!

On Friday, March 27, Jones-Onslow will hold its Annual Meeting of Members at the American Legion Building/ Onslow County Fairgrounds located at 146 Broadhurst Road in Jacksonville. See more details in next month's newsletter and on social media. ►

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We Love Our Community

“To move forward, you have to give back.”



This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Jones-Onslow EMC to the communities we serve. With Valentine’s Day and National Heart Month celebrated this month, we can’t think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped bring electricity to rural eastern North Carolina many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive – because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that’s you!) that we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. JOEMC knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for our youth, such as education scholarships or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community’s brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. It means organizing food and clothing drives for the United Way or the co-op employees contributing more than \$15,000 to the Christmas Cheer Program of Onslow County. And it means partnering with our local non-profit organizations to assist them in fulfilling needs and caring out their mission.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I’m certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



Mini Marbled Cherry Cheesecakes

Ingredients:

- 18 Oreos
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry filling

Directions:

- 1) Heat oven to 350 degrees.
- 2) Line muffin tins with 18 paper liners. Place one chocolate cookie in the bottom of each paper liner.
- 3) In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, sugar, eggs and vanilla until light and fluffy. Fold in half of the fruit filling. Note: You can substitute apple or blueberry filling, if desired.
- 4) Fill each muffin liner about three-fourths full with mixture.
- 5) Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until done. Cool. Top each cheesecake with one spoonful of remaining fruit filling.

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SPOTLIGHT is published monthly by Jones-Onslow EMC for its members. Direct correspondences to: Jones-Onslow EMC, ATTN: Newsletter Editor, 259 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, N.C. 28546.

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Membership Corporation
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