

SPOTLIGHT

JONES-ON SLOW EMC—POWERING HOMES SINCE 1939



MARCH 2022

Has Your Bill Been Higher Than Normal...

It's important to know that weather matters when it comes to your electric bill, and winter weather has been in full effect since the new year started. These cold temperatures significantly impact your bill, especially if they fall within the same billing cycle.

January was one of those months that brought numerous cold temperature days; 23 to be exact. These days' temperatures dipped below freezing, and out of the 23, 13 never went beyond the 40s. These extreme temperatures caused higher electric usage, equating to higher bills.

Now let's chat about the equipment we use to heat our homes. Most homes in our area use heat pumps for the heat source due to their energy efficiency

capability. The heat pump is doing its job—heating your home. However, when the outdoor temperature drops near or below 32 degrees, the auxiliary heat

The average cost is a dollar more per hour...

turns on automatically to help heat your home to the selected temperature. Unfortunately, when the auxiliary heat is in use, your energy consumption is higher, increasing your monthly bill. The average cost is a dollar more per

hour, which does not sound like a lot, but it adds up when it occurs for several hours per day for numerous days.

We are nearing the end of the winter season but always remember no matter if the temperatures are extremely cold or hotter than normal, they affect your bill. For more information about your energy usage, visit the **Energy Center** on our website at joemc.com.

Connect with Us Virtually

March 25 at 10 a.m.



As mentioned in last month's newsletter, JOEMC will once again hold the annual meeting virtually. We are excited to have the opportunity to bring the co-op's business directly to you in your home or business on Friday, March 25, at 10 a.m. or any time after that. Members can watch the meeting on the **Jones-Onslow EMC Facebook** page and on our website, joemc.com, for viewing whenever it is convenient.

If you haven't received it already, be looking in your mailbox for your registration packet. If you have any questions, you may speak to one of our consumer representatives by calling our office at 910-353-1940.

Free Online Tool Helps You Track Your Daily Usage

Have you found the JOEMC Daily Usage summary yet? This free online tool helps you track your daily usage and shows you a summary of how local weather affects your power use. This brings the weather's impact on your bill into focus.

In addition to tracking your daily power use, you can set it to notify you via email when you exceed a set daily limit, which you determine. By monitoring your daily usage, you'll better understand the amount of your monthly electric bill.

The Daily Usage summary is easy to find under **My Account** at joemc.com or on the JOEMC mobile app.



COMMUNITYFOCUS

JOEMC Sends Local Veteran on Expedition

His advice to veterans considering applying is, "do it, step out of your comfort zone, and sign-up today."

Our local community is home to many veterans, many of whom live with a disability. For the fifth year—Jones-Onslow EMC, in conjunction with one of our financial partners, is searching for disabled veterans from its service territory to nominate for the No Barriers Warriors Expedition Program, a Colorado-based nonprofit organization.

The program, sponsored by Co-Bank, provides expeditions that mentally and physically challenge veterans on outdoor excursions through mountaineering, rafting, and rock climbing. These five-day expeditions offer veterans an opportunity to challenge limitations (both real and perceived) and create a support network that can last a lifetime. Co-Bank covers the total cost for participants, including meals, gear, and travel expenses.

During the summer of 2021, JOEMC was honored to send member

Staff Sgt. Jesse Dollar to one of the Expeditions located near Fort Collins, Colorado. During his seven-day expedition, he hiked, rock climbed, repelled, and talked about his experiences and how he was dealing with some of the impacts of being a disabled veteran. Jesse's experiences will last a lifetime. When asked, Jesse said,

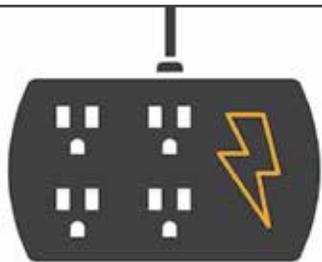


"when reading the No Barriers website, I was intrigued, but once I arrived, it was so much more than what I read. The seven-day expedition was both a physical and mental challenge. One of the best parts of the trip is getting to know the others on the expedition who have gone through similar situations during their time of service; it built a family unit."

His advice to veterans considering applying is, "do it, step out of your comfort zone, and sign-up today."

For more information, visit joemc.com/cooperative/community-programs/no-barriers/ or nobarriersusa.org.

SAFETYFIRST



SURGE PROTECTION

Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event



REMEMBER:

Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from various sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can majorly damage electronic devices and equipment in your home.

Occasional power surges are inevitable, but by unplugging devices when you think a surge may occur and using additional levels of protection like power strips or whole-home suppressors, you can better safeguard your sensitive electronics and gadgets.

Contact JOEMC at (910) 353-1940 if you have questions about ways to protect your home from power surges.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills.

5 WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY *When Working from Home*

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. And more time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five easy ways to save energy when working from home.

1. USE A SMART POWER STRIP. Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors, and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also allow you to select which devices should stay in "always-on" mode.

2. UNPLUG YOUR LEAST-USED EQUIPMENT. If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. Go ahead and unplug your least-used devices since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.

3. CHOOSE ENERGY STAR®-CERTIFIED OFFICE EQUIPMENT. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment, and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating include power management features to make saving energy easy. Most are designed to run cooler and last longer. If you're looking to purchase new

equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you're getting the most energy-efficient features.

4. FLIP THE SWITCH AND USE NATURAL LIGHT INSTEAD. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains, and other window coverings to let natural light in—and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use! It can still be chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun.

5. CONTROL YOUR THERMOSTAT. Home heating and cooling make up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple of degrees when it is colder during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter. You're more likely to stay focused and alert when it's cooler in your home, so all the more reason to mind the thermostat.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills, and whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Contact Jones-Onslow EMC, if you have questions about your bills or want additional information about saving energy at home.



Pressure Cooker Chicken Cacciatore

Servings: 6

Ingredients

1-1½ lbs. chicken breasts or thighs
Flour
1 pinch salt, plus 2 teaspoons, divided
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 onion, diced
16 ounces mushrooms, sliced
3 cloves garlic, minced
½ cup chicken broth
1 bell pepper, diced
1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes
4 tablespoons butter
Capers & Parsley (both are optional)
Lemon
Pasta (your choice)
Parmesan cheese (optional)

Directions

1. Dredge chicken in flour and pinch of salt. Turn on sauté function on pressure cooker. Add oil; sauté chicken 2-3 minutes on each side. Remove and set aside.
2. Add onion, mushrooms and garlic. Sauté until softened. Add broth and let sizzle out.
3. Add chicken, bell pepper, tomatoes and remaining salt to pressure cooker. Cook on high pressure 15 minutes. Release pressure.
4. Shred chicken. Stir in butter, capers, parsley and a squeeze or two of lemon juice. Serve with pasta and top with additional parsley and Parmesan cheese, if desired.

A Little Money Back in Your Pocket...

Returning money to our members is a significant cooperative value, and we hope you agree that it's also a nice benefit of being a cooperative member. During the latter part of February, your cooperative mailed a "green" letter to you, our members, concerning your Board of Directors' authorization of a capital credits refund. There is a space provided for your signature and a return envelope so you can mail it back to our office.

The name "capital credits" may sound complex, but it's a simple concept. Capital credits are the annual margins—revenues minus expenses of the cooperative—allocated to each member based on their individual purchase and use of electricity. Until they're returned to members, capital credits are funds used as operating capital to invest in power lines, substations, and other electric system assets that provide all JOEMC members with reliable electricity. After using the money for a period of years to finance investments in electric facilities, it is returned to our members.

To assure your return of capital credits and the fiscal health of your cooperative, your Board of Directors has approved and put into place an equity management plan. The plan uses an industry-best standard that looks at the percent of member equity to total assets. It includes a schedule for the regular return of member equity in the form of capital credits.

The equity plan also determines how much of the cooperative's investment in electric system assets will be covered

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through member capital and how much will be covered by long-term debt. Our goal is to balance member capital (equity) and debt to give members the lowest possible rates.

This year, the capital credit refund authorization (almost \$2.3 million) will be for members who received electric service from JOEMC during 1999 and 2021.

These refunds will consist of 100% of the remaining allocated capital credits from 1999 and 25% from 2021.

All active members who received service during the years mentioned above will receive their refund in the form of a "capital credit refund" on their electric bill. All inactive members who received service from the cooperative during those years will receive a capital credit check in the mail.

Since 1998, JOEMC has returned \$37.5 million in capital credits to our members, including this current retirement. It pays to be a member of a cooperative and we're pleased to provide good value in addition to good service to our members. ❖



Jones-Onslow EMC
CEO Jeffery T. Clark

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Our offices will be closed on April 15 for Good Friday.



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