



## NEW Self-Service PaySite Kiosk in Swansboro & Trenton

Jones-Onslow EMC recently launched TWO new self-service PaySite kiosks. One is conveniently located inside the Piggly Wiggly at 715 West Corbett Avenue in Swansboro, and the second is inside the vestibule at the Jones County Government Center, 110 S. Market Street, Trenton. The self-service payment kiosks

allow members to pay their electric bills in their neighborhood.

Using the kiosk is free, and the payment posts to your account immediately, as if you had driven to our office to pay it. PaySite accepts cash, checks, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover Card. All you do

is scan your bill (or type in your account number) and follow the instructions on the screen. It's that easy!

See more easy and convenient ways you can pay your bill, visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and look under the Customer Service tab.



### All JOEMC PaySite kiosk locations

1. **JACKSONVILLE**  
 JOEMC Main Office  
 259 Western Blvd.  
 • Available 24/7  
 • Located outside
2. **JACKSONVILLE**  
 Realo Discount Drugs  
 423 Yopp Rd.  
 • Available during store hours
3. **SNEADS FERRY**  
 JOEMC District Office  
 1225 State Hwy 210  
 • Available 24/7  
 • Located inside vestibule
4. **TRENTON**  
 Jones County Govt. Center  
 110 S. Market St.  
 • Available 24/7  
 • Located inside vestibule
5. **SWANSBORO**  
 Piggly Wiggly  
 715 W. Corbett Ave.  
 • Available during store hours

# 10 Steps to Take Before Installing Solar

As solar panel prices decline and technology improves, installing a residential solar system makes sense for some members. However, it's important to find out the facts before committing to a purchase. Consider these points as you explore whether solar is right for your situation.

## 1. Make Your Home More Energy Efficient Before Buying a Solar System

Adding insulation, sealing air leaks, and completing other projects can cut your energy costs immediately, and you'll also be able to reduce the size of the solar system you purchase.

## 2. Research, Research, Research Before Buying

JOEMC should be one of your first contacts. Experts at your co-op can answer basic questions, provide resource materials and can direct you to reputable contractors.

## 3. Understand How Your Solar System Works with Our System

Most solar systems are designed to provide you with a portion of the electricity you need. At night, on cloudy days and possibly at high-energy-use times, you'll need more power than your system can produce. That means you'll still be connected to our power lines. Make sure you and your contractor understand the appropriate policies for connecting to our grid and for specifics on purchasing any excess energy your system might provide and if we are able to purchase your excess solar generation.

## 4. Review Your Energy Use So You Can Determine What Size Solar System to Install

Our staff can help you review your energy use, and help you determine how the projects you've undertaken to improve energy efficiency may help lower your future energy use. This information will help you determine the size and type of solar system best suited to your situation. Buying a solar system that is too big for your home will increase your costs and reduce your chances of recouping your investment.



See our [FAQ section on solar](#) to learn more; go to [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and click on [Technology and Renewables](#) under the [Energy Center](#) tab.

## 5. Tally Upfront Costs

If you purchase a solar system, you will be the owner, and you'll be responsible for the purchase price, as well as ongoing maintenance and repairs. It pays to spend time figuring out all the expenses you'll be responsible for during the life of the system. These include the cost of the system, installation, interconnection costs, insurance, taxes and possibly other costs.

## 6. Search for Incentives, Rebates and Tax Credits

Opportunities vary by location. One database offering details is [dsireusa.org](http://dsireusa.org). This site includes lists of federal and state incentives, credits, exemptions, grants, loans and rebates. The most widely available incentive is the federal income tax credit. Discuss with your tax advisor to determine how this affects your income taxes.

## 7. Accept Short-Term and Long-Term Responsibilities

In the short term, you'll need to meet our interconnection agreement's requirements, including paying any costs of connecting to our grid. Also, prior to installation, you will need to contact your town and/or county agencies to conduct a safety inspection. Long-term, you'll be responsible for maintenance and system repairs.

## 8. Follow All Safety Precautions

Improper connection and maintenance of your system may endanger people and the grid's reliability. Be sure to have a safety inspection done and follow all safety precautions.

## 9. Choose a Reputable Contractor

When reviewing potential contractors, check out other installations the contractor has completed, compare at least three bids, check references and thoroughly examine contracts. If possible, ask an attorney to review the contract before signing. If a contractor tells you it will be free, choose another contractor.

## 10. Maintain Good Records

Keep files on your pre-purchase research and pre-installation data provided by your co-op, as well as bids, contracts, inspection reports, maintenance records and all other details you have collected. In addition, set up a system to track and compare your actual system performance with predictions provided by the contractor.

*Like any major investment, installing a home solar system is a big decision. As your local energy partner, we're here to help you make the best decision to suit your lifestyle and budget.*

# ATTENTION

# ALL

# EDUCATORS

Submit your *Bright Ideas Grant* application by our *early bird deadline of September 9<sup>TH</sup>* and be entered to win one of five \$100 *VISA gift cards.*



## It's Time to Sharpen Your Pencils



The Bright Ideas Grant Program is the cornerstone of our Educational Programs. Jones-Onslow is excited to celebrate 29 years of partnering with local educators and school systems by kicking off its Bright Ideas Grant Program for the 2022-2023 school year. Bright Ideas grants are designed to help provide teachers with specific opportunities to enhance their classroom educational experiences. We will be getting the information out about this year's program to the schools this month.

This year we will give over \$75,000 to educators in Onslow, Jones, and the Topsail schools in Pender County. The deadline for submitting bright ideas will be **September 23rd**, with the **early bird deadline of September 9th**. To date, we have given out over \$1.5 million in Bright Idea Grants that have funded over 2,300 projects but, more importantly, have directly impacted the education of over 575,000 students.

For more information, go to [joemc.com](http://joemc.com), or contact Paula Redick at [predick@joemc.com](mailto:predick@joemc.com) or 910-353-1940.

## Pretzel Fruit Pizza

A FRESH TWIST ON PIZZA

### INGREDIENTS

3 cups finely crushed pretzels  
2/3 cup sugar  
1 1/4 cups cold butter  
1/4 cup lime juice  
1 tsp. grated lime peel  
1 1/2 cups whipped topping  
7-8 cups assorted fresh fruit

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, combine pretzels and sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press into a 14-inch pizza pan.
2. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until set. Cool on a wire rack; refrigerate for 30 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine milk, lime juice and peel. Fold in whipped topping; spread over crust. Cover and chill. Top with fruit just before serving.

[carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com).



**Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.**

# It's No Longer JUST your "Light Bill"

*Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, almost always. Because electricity is abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.*



*As a Jones-Onslow member, you pay the second-lowest-cost for 1,000 kilowatt-hours in the state of North Carolina.*

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household uses more air conditioning, appliances, and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains ten or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

## Electricity powers quality of life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater, and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers,

TV, and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. The need for electricity is increasing at home, in schools and businesses, and commercial sectors such as transportation.

Typically when demand increases, so does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's look at how electricity's value compares to other ordinary expenses.

Across our nation, over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%, medical care increased 2.8%, and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased by 1%.

As a Jones-Onslow member, you pay the second-lowest-cost for 1,000 kilowatt-hours in North Carolina. And while members experienced a \$4



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

increase on their electric bill in February 2021, there has not been an electric usage rate increase (kilowatt-hour cost) since early 2013 because your cooperative continually works to control costs and hold down expenses. While approximately 70 cents of every dollar of your bill pays for your wholesale power costs, we've managed to cover all other expenses with the remaining 30 cents and still kept the power on 99.986% of the time. Considering how we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series, or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why JOEMC will continue working hard to power your life, reliably, and affordably.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy

