

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



A Weekend Warrior's Guide to Saving Energy This Winter

Button Up Your Home and Use Less Energy

JANUARY 2024 | IN THIS ISSUE

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SAY GOODBYE TO SEASONAL SURPRISES WITH BUDGET BILLING

BRACE YOURSELF FOR SEVERE WINTER WEATHER



MAKING PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

You're probably familiar with Punxsutawney Phil, the celebrated groundhog who predicts if winter will stick around or spring will come early.

Punxsutawney Phil, the weather-predicting groundhog, made his debut in 1886 and he was given the title, "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinaire." The excitement on Groundhog Day centers around whether Phil will see his shadow. He tends to predict longer winters, but I think any forecast by a large rodent could be debated. Some put his accuracy around 40%.

Come February 2, the sun plays a big role in the festivities in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Regardless of what Phil predicts in the coming weeks, the start of a new year is always a good time to be looking at ways you can make life easier.

It's also a great time to consider if your current bill payment method fits your

needs. Jackson EMC has several payment options based on your preferences. Do you want to pay the same amount each month? Learn more about our budget billing program, which levels your payments each month. Want more control of when you'll pay for your electric use? Look at PrePay, which allows you to make smaller payments before you use electricity. Or, do you want to make payments automatically each month? You can try auto pay to automatically draft your bank account or credit/debit card.

The new year is also a great time to explore new options for the upcoming year. You may also be curious about electric vehicles or solar power. Not-for-profit co-ops, like Jackson EMC, are great resources for learning more about EVs and solar power and we want to be your trusted energy expert. Our website has a fantastic tool for comparing EVs by year, model, price and driving range. Or, interested in solar energy but don't want the cost and upkeep of installing solar panels on your home? Check out

our Cooperative Solar program. Whether you own or rent, you can still enjoy the benefits of solar energy through Cooperative Solar.

We're here to help you make wise energy choices. And we hope you consider the folks at your local electric cooperative to be your "Hometown Energy Experts" any day of the year. This issue of *JEMCO News* has some great tips on low-cost ways to save energy in the year ahead.

Have a story on how you reduced your energy use during the year? Share it with me at chip@jacksonemc.com.



CHIP JAKINS
President & CEO

Say Goodbye to Seasonal Surprises with Budget Billing

Don't let weather changes affect your monthly electric bill. Embrace peace of mind and predictable budgeting with Jackson EMC's budget billing program, which allows you to pay the same amount each month.

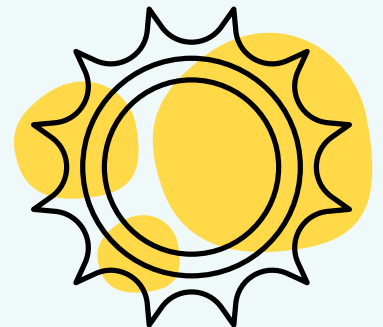
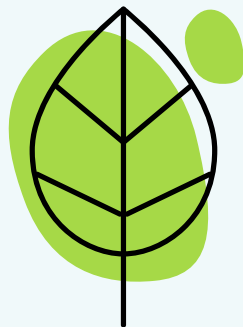
In winter and summer months, heating and air conditioning systems are used more often, which is reflected in electric bills. Budget billing takes the 12-month average of your household's electric bill and balances it, so you pay a fixed amount each month for the next 12 months.

Enroll in **Budget Billing** today and enjoy the benefits of:

- Consistent monthly electric bills
- Predictable budgeting throughout the year
- Peace of mind knowing your energy costs are under control



VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BUDGETBILLING](https://www.jacksonemc.com/budgetbilling) FOR MORE DETAILS



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ARE YOU UP FOR AMAZING?

Apply for the Washington Youth Tour

High school sophomores and juniors, are you ready for an unforgettable journey?

As a Jackson EMC delegate on the Washington Youth Tour, you'll explore the capital's iconic landmarks, museums and meet with members of Congress. Immerse yourself in leadership workshops, engage with government officials and create lifelong friendships.

Discover your inner leader, develop communication skills and appreciate the cooperative spirit that built America.



See what it's like to be a Washington Youth Tour delegate



APPLICATIONS DUE:

January 31, 2024

TOUR DATES:

June 14-21, 2024

APPLY:

jacksonemc.com/wyt

A Weekend Warrior's Guide to Saving Energy This Winter

Are you a weekend warrior who likes to get a bunch of things off your to-do list in a single weekend? If home improvements are on your to-do list, consider some energy-saving projects that could be completed in a day or less.

With seasonal cold weather on the horizon, now is the time to button up your home to use less energy when temperatures go down – a move that could help you avoid a higher-than-expected bill.

Whether you're a weekend warrior pro or a DIY dabbler, you can take steps now to manage your energy use this winter.



Quick and Easy



- **Inspect your air filter.**
Clean HVAC filters can save 5-15% on your electric bill. Check your air filter every 1-2 months and replace when dirty.
- **Give your vents space.**
Blocked vents can reduce the efficiency of air flow in your home. Make sure your air supply and return vents are not blocked by furniture or other objects.
- **Set your thermostat to 68 degrees.**
As a rule of thumb, your heating cost will increase 3% for each degree above 68 degrees.
- **Close the fireplace damper.**
Consider using your fireplace sparingly, as it draws your home's heated air up the chimney. When your fireplace isn't in use, be sure to close the damper.
- **Add or replace weather stripping.**
Check around doors and windows to ensure you can't feel air flowing. If you can, adding or replacing the weather stripping is an easy fix.



Call the Pros



- **Schedule an HVAC inspection every six months.**

Call an HVAC professional for checkups and maintenance every six months to ensure your system operates at peak performance. You can find a qualified contractor at jacksonemc.com/contractor.

- **Check attic insulation.**

Proper insulation in your attic will keep your home comfortable while lowering your heating bill. Check your attic insulation to ensure a blown-in fiberglass depth of 12-14", a blown-in cellulose depth of 8-9", or a batt depth of at least 10". Not sure how to check your attic's insulation? Call an insulation professional.

- **Check water heater.**

Consider replacing an older, inefficient water heater with a new high-efficiency model. Be sure to ask a professional installer about water heaters with a higher insulation R-value in the tank wall and a good warranty for at least 10 years.



A Little More Work



- **Install a smart thermostat.**

A smart thermostat conserves energy by customizing your preferences for heating and cooling your home. Jackson EMC members can get rebates on select smart thermostats at jacksonemcmarketplace.com.

- **Seal leaks.**

Use a spray foam sealant to seal holes around pipes coming inside your home in bathrooms and kitchen cabinets.

- **Seal ductwork.**

Leaky air ductwork often accounts for as much as 30% of total heating and cooling costs. Seal ducts permanently with mastic or a rated metal duct tape used primarily for areas around the unit needing access, such as the filter rack.

- **Repair leaky faucets and pipes.**

A faucet dripping hot water can waste gallons of water each year - plus the electricity used to heat it.



\$110,600 IN GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$110,600 to organizations during a recent meeting.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$18,600 to Creative Enterprises, Inc., Lawrenceville, which provides employment opportunities, and social and life skills training to individuals with developmental disabilities for its Sponsorships for Services Program.

\$15,000 to American Red Cross Northeast Georgia, to provide disaster relief, including food, shelter, personal needs and clothing, to families in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties who have lost their home to a fire or natural disaster, and for smoke alarms.

\$15,000 to Madison County Rotary Club Foundation to purchase materials for handicap ramps, which are constructed by Rotary Club members for local individuals who cannot afford them, increasing their general mobility and improving safety in the event they need to evacuate their home.

\$15,000 to Mosaic Georgia, Inc., Duluth, to provide assistance for its Children's Advocacy Center program that includes family aftercare and counseling for clients in all counties served by Jackson EMC.

\$12,000 to Helping Mamas, Norcross, to purchase 105,819 diapers to distribute to women and children in need in Gwinnett and Hall counties.

\$10,000 to Foundation of Wesley Woods, for Lanier Gardens of Athens, to help provide a wellness nurse for preventative care support, especially fall reduction, to foster independent living among its senior citizen residents.

\$10,000 to Fresh Wind Recovery Ministry, Inc., Athens, to provide admission fees for its Recovery Program for individuals with addiction in all counties served by Jackson EMC.

\$10,000 to Palm House Recovery Center, Athens, a recovery residence for men and women, 18 years or older, with substance use disorder issues to help pay for admission and program fees for clients with a financial need.

\$5,000 to Giving Health, Inc., whose goal is to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families who cannot afford access to affordable healthcare, to provide access to virtual medical and mental health services for 25 households in need in Jackson EMC's service area.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
OR TO APPLY FOR A FOUNDATION GRANT,
VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](https://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation)

Brace Yourself for Severe Winter Weather

When winter storms strike with ice and very cold temperatures, the possibility of power outages increases. During a power outage, Jackson EMC works to restore power as quickly as conditions and safety procedures allow.

You can take these steps to prepare for winter storms:

- **Know Your Medical Needs:** Talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines.
- **Food Supplies:** Keep a three-day supply of food and water for each person in your household.
- **Food Storage:** If you lose power, keep freezers and refrigerators closed. Refrigerators keep food cold for about four hours and full freezers keeps the temperature for about 48 hours.
- **Extra Supplies:** Make sure you have extra batteries on hand, and a portable charger or power bank to charge your phone for communication with loved ones.

Stay safe by:

- Staying away from downed lines.
- Placing a generator only outdoors and away from windows.
- Avoiding using a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Disconnecting appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/STORM](https://www.jacksonemc.com/storm)

Is your Security System Due for a Makeover?

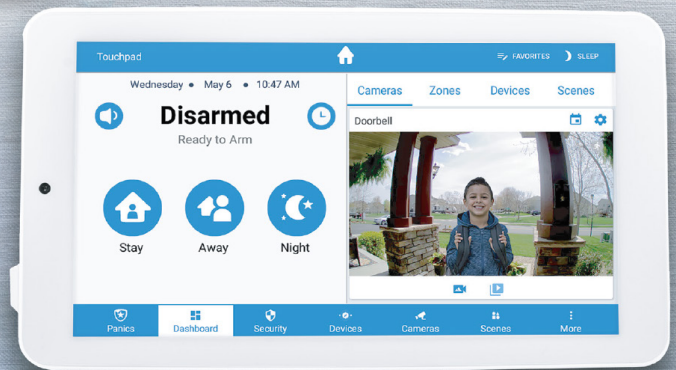
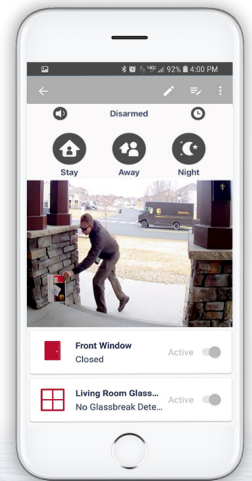
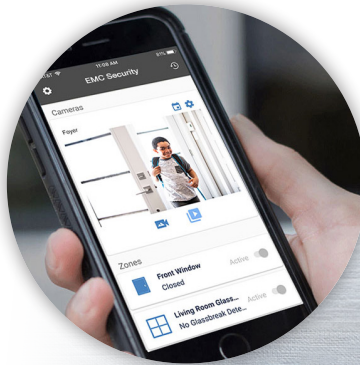


Did you know that EMC Security can often use the components of your existing security to save you money?

Unlike many other security companies that insist on selling you an entirely new system, EMC Security strives to maximize your existing wiring and equipment, keeping costs for our consumers as low as possible.

If you're looking for upgrades and additions, EMC Security has the latest equipment that can be added to give the existing system a modern makeover. Consider these steps to upgrade your current home security system:

- **Replace outdated components.**
Ensure the system remains reliable and efficient by swapping out any outdated components. EMC Security can test and replace as needed.
- **Install newer keypads.**
Enjoy advanced features to manage your security system more efficiently.
- **Add a mobile app.**
Gain control from anywhere. By adding a mobile app to your system, you can arm or disarm your security system, monitor activity and receive notifications from anywhere.
- **Add a video doorbell.**
See, hear and speak to visitors at your door from your device or computer. You'll also receive notifications when motion is detected, ensuring you're aware of activity at your door.
- **Integrate smart devices.**
Take your security system up a notch by integrating smart devices that simplify your home functions. Connect lights, locks, thermostats and water detection devices for added convenience and potential savings.



**Give your home security system a makeover with EMC Security
at 770-963-0305 or visit emcsecurity.com.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jackson Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) has its corporate office at 850 Commerce Highway in Jefferson, Ga., with district offices in Gainesville, Lawrenceville, Jefferson and Hull. Jackson EMC is a cooperative providing electric service to 10 Northeast Georgia counties - Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe.

The cooperative is governed by a nine-member board of directors geographically representing the service area. Board members serve three-year staggered terms. Board members representing Banks, Franklin, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties will be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at the corporate office in Jefferson.

Candidates may be nominated by the nominating committee, or by a petition complying with Article III Section 4 of the Bylaws that is signed by 50 or more members. Petitions must be delivered to the Corporation's office in Jefferson not less than 150 days, and not more than 200 days, prior to the Annual Meeting. The complete director nomination and election process is contained in Articles II and III of the Jackson EMC Bylaws, which are available at jacksonemc.com or at any office.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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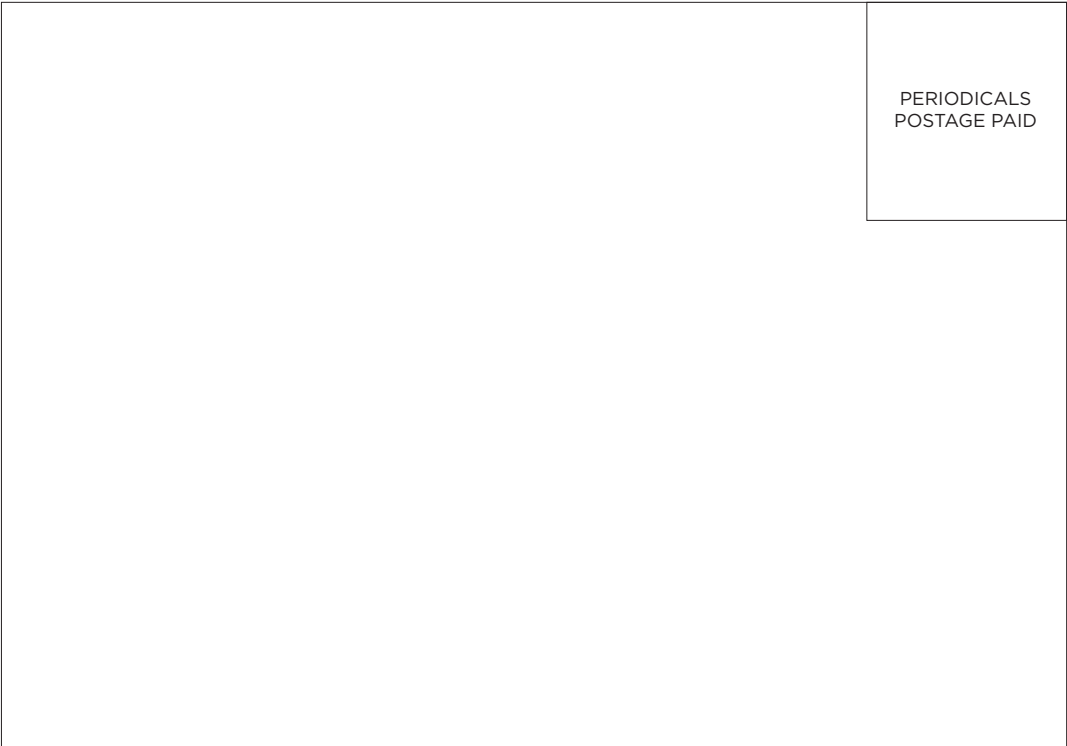
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Hull, GA
(706) 548-5362

850 Commerce Road
Jefferson, GA
(706) 367-5281

825 Buford Dr
Lawrenceville, GA
(770) 963-6166

EMC SECURITY
55 Satellite Blvd., NW
Suwanee, GA
(770) 963-0305 or
(706) 543-4009



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jacksonemc.com



Thank you for rating us #1



Our members have always been our highest priority. So it's an honor to win an award based on our members' positive experience with us. We have been ranked **#1 in Customer Satisfaction** with Residential Electric Service among Cooperatives in the J.D. Power 2023 U.S. Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study.

We couldn't have done it without you.