

Say Bon Voyage to Your Interest
0% Financing & Rebates

Protecting Your
High-Tech Life

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

April 2012

Dreading the Shred?

Join the Great Paper Escape,
You Could Win Prizes!

HIGHEST IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AMONG
MIDSIZE UTILITIES IN THE SOUTH™ BY
J.D. POWER AND ASSOCIATES





President/CEO
Randall Pugh

Jackson EMC received the highest numerical score among midsize utilities in the South region in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2011 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study.SM Study based on 98,562 online interviews ranking the 30 largest providers in the South (AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, LA, MS, NM, OK, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in July 2010-May 2011. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

JEMCO news

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Be Creative with Your Earth Day Plans, and You Could Win!

At Jackson EMC, we offer a variety of products and services to support the environment. While the traditional acts of planting trees and other beautification projects allow us to commemorate Earth Day, consider some creative ways to use our products that offer environmental and financial benefits throughout the year.

This month, we're introducing the *Great Paper Escape*, our paperless billing campaign. When you sign up to receive bill notification through email instead of mail, you'll be automatically entered into a weekly drawing for one of two \$100 gift cards. All paperless billing members, new and those who signed up before the campaign, will be entered into a final drawing for two \$2,500 ENERGY STAR[®] qualified appliance shopping sprees. For more details, see page 3.

Rebates and 0% financing offers for ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, HVAC units and water heaters allow you to replace those inefficient, energy-guzzling appliances. Our rebate offers can get you hundreds of dollars in return for your purchase, and energy efficient improvements totaling \$1,000 or more may qualify you for 0% Annual Percentage Rate financing for 36 months. See pages 4-5 for more information.

You have a few more weeks to sign up for our energy saving Time-of-Use rate. If it fits your lifestyle, the Time-of-Use rate requires you to limit your electric usage between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays from June 1 through September 15. Reducing energy usage

during summer peak demand periods helps us control the high cost of purchasing electricity, and you'll pay a lower rate than the regular residential rate on summer weekends, at non-peak times and the rest of the year.

The first step to saving energy and money is to find out just how you're using energy. Having a Right Choice[™] Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Audit or requesting a Do-It-Yourself audit kit can reveal problem areas in your home. An HVAC unit that's working harder to heat or cool your home is not only wasting your energy dollars, it's also increasing your carbon footprint.

Below, you'll find our Green Power Green-e Energy certificate, which means our Green Power program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. You can purchase a 150-kilowatt-hour block of green energy. When you sign up for Green Power, you'll see an additional \$4.50 charge on your bill each month, or 3 cents per kilowatt-hour, to cover the added expense of generating from a green source.

Let this Earth Day serve as a reminder to explore ways you can creatively do something for the Earth. Whether it's signing up for paperless billing or replacing your older, inefficient water heater with a qualified ENERGY STAR heater, make this Earth Day benefit you and the environment. ▲

online@cts

Product Content Label

The product is sold in blocks of 150 kilowatt-hours (kWh). The product will be made up of the following renewable resources.

Green-e Energy Certified New ³ Renewables in Jackson EMC Green Power Program	2011 ¹		2012 ²		Generation Location
Biomass	100%	100%			Georgia
Geothermal	0%	0%			
Eligible hydroelectric ⁴	0%	0%			
Solar	0%	0%			
Wind	0%	0%			
Total	100%	100%			

- The 2011 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2011.
- The 2012 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased during the preceding year.
- New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 1997.
- Eligible hydroelectric facilities are defined in the Green-e Energy National Standard (http://www.green-e.org/getcert_re_stan.shtml) and include facilities certified by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) (www.lowimpacthydro.org); facilities that are run-of-the-river hydropower facilities with a total rated nameplate capacity

equal to or less than 5 MW; and facilities comprised of a turbine in a pipeline or a turbine in an irrigation canal.

For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Jackson EMC includes: Coal (25.6%), Nuclear (22.4%), Oil (0%), Natural Gas (9.3%), Hydroelectric (1.0%), and Other (41.8%).

The average home in the United States uses 900 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EPA]

For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Jackson Electric Membership Corporation, (706) 367-5281, <http://www.jacksonemc.com/Green-Power.39.0.html>



Green-e Energy certifies that Jackson Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 1-888-63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org.

Get Your Happy Back

Join the Great Paper Escape!



You're just a few mouse clicks away from having one less bill for the shredder. Join the **Great Paper Escape** by signing up for Paperless Billing, and you could win one of two \$100 gift cards in our weekly drawing. All Paperless Billing members, including those who signed up prior to the **Great Paper Escape**, will be entered into a final drawing for two \$2,500 ENERGY STAR® qualified appliance shopping sprees.*

Green Tip:

If 20% of American households switched from paper to electronic bills, statements and payments each year, the collective impact would save nearly 151 million pounds of paper, according to PayItGreen.org.

Why Go Paperless?

Trying to determine if it's really 'greener' on the paperless side of the fence? Consider this:

- **It's good for the environment**
- **It's more secure than receiving paper statements, since paper-based information and mail fraud are much bigger threats for identity theft**
- **It reduces paper clutter around the house**
- **It eliminates the need to shred personal documents**
- **It's more convenient**
- **Billing history and usage information can be easily accessed**

See website to enter and for complete contest rules:
www.jacksonemc.com/paperless

Eligibility: To be eligible for the "Great Paper Escape" promotion, you must be an active member of Jackson Electric Membership Corporation, must be at least 18 years of age, must have created an online account profile at www.jacksonemc.com and elected the paperless billing option. Members who elect paperless billing, cancel and then re-elect paperless billing during the promotion period will not be eligible to be entered in prize drawings. Employees of Jackson EMC and their immediate families, along with members of the cooperative's board of directors and their immediate families, appliance partners and their immediate families, and HVAC and water heating contractor network members and their immediate families are not eligible for this promotion.

*Applicable ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances available to winners include refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, water heaters and heat pumps.



BON VOYAGE

Get Up to \$925 in JEMC Rebates

SAY BON VOYAGE TO YOUR INTEREST

Pay for those costly energy efficient improvements over 36 months, while your interest sets sail. While funding lasts, take advantage of **JEMC's 0% APR* financing** for energy efficient improvements and qualified appliances, and get money back.

Wallet Woes?

Many of us are doing our best to stay afloat in this economy. Cutting back on luxuries and enjoying staycations instead of vacations are just a few ways Americans are watching their wallets. You may think investing in a new appliance or making energy efficient improvements can't fit into your trimmed down budget. Think again.

Appliances account for up to 13% of your energy use, and if those appliances are older, they're probably inefficient and using more energy to work than they should. The same goes for those water heaters and heating and air conditioning units. These larger ticket items are something you don't want to replace until it's necessary, but waiting for this equipment to break before replacing could cost you even more money. Making purchases now gives you 0% interest and hundreds of dollars in JEMC rebates.

If you have an older clothes washer, dishwasher, refrigerator or freezer, they could be draining your energy dollars and inflating your monthly electric bill. ENERGY STAR® qualified appliance purchases must be a minimum of \$1,000 up to \$5,500 to be eligible for the HomePlus loan offer. The 0% financing offer applies to your primary residence, and has been extended for a limited time.

You Do the Math

No one knows your financial situation better than you do. If you've heard the latest advice from financial gurus, the message is to take a conservative approach to credit obligations and large purchases. If you've had a service call or two for that older washer or water heater, perhaps now's the time to weigh the financial benefits that come with the 0% HomePlus loan against purchasing the appliance without financing or rebate options.

Get Money Back

The 0% HomePlus loan was tailored to take the sting out of purchasing big-ticket items such as water heaters, refrigerators and HVAC units. Spreading your payments out over three years, cashing in on JEMC rebates and potential federal tax credits are a few of the benefits that come with knowing you'll have an energy efficient appliance working for your wallet instead of against it. JEMC is offering a \$400 rebate on ENERGY STAR heat pumps, and a \$525 rebate on qualifying water heaters.

Call Today

Call today to learn more about our 0% HomePlus financing offers, rebates and more or visit us online at www.jacksonemc.com/loans for details. ▲

*Annual Percentage Rate





Jackson EMC Foundation Grant Helps Disabled Member

Recovering from a stroke and living on a fixed income put a Jackson EMC member behind on dental bills, along with limiting future dental work. The \$3,435 grant will help the recipient catch up on a past due dental bill, as well as schedule dental work to make repairs.

Approximately 59 percent of low-income individuals don't have dental care insurance or access to dental care according to the Kaiser Commission. Limited access to preventive dental care can cause expensive procedures and lead to tooth loss, decay, gum disease and other serious health issues.

The JEMC Foundation provides assistance to both organizations and individuals. If you know of an individual who could benefit from a JEMC Foundation grant, have them visit our website at www.jacksonemc.com/ORU to download the application. The application is easy to complete. Traditionally, individual grants are limited to \$3,500. ▲



operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation Awards Nearly \$64,000 in Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$63,835 in grants during their February meeting, including \$56,900 to organizations and \$6,935 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to YMCA - Georgia Mountains in Gainesville to help 30 underprivileged children kindergarten to 8th grade attend the Kids Time Afterschool Program, which provides a safe environment with homework assistance, enrichment activities, relationship building, sports, games and arts and crafts on site at Hall County and Gainesville City elementary schools.

\$10,000 to The Potters House to help feed, house, counsel and provide educational programs such as adult literacy to men recovering from substance abuse through an intensive residential program of the Atlanta Mission on a 570-acre working farm in Jefferson.

\$7,000 to Center Point, a Gainesville non-profit which mentors at-risk young people in Gainesville City and Hall County schools, to provide free and low-cost counseling to youth and their families who could not otherwise participate in therapy.

\$5,000 to the Gwinnett Community Clinic to help fund a part-time nurse practitioner who works with volunteer physicians and nurses to manage the care of the clinic's roughly 750 patients who are uninsured and do not qualify for Georgia Medicaid.

\$5,000 to the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, a network of 19 area congregations that provides temporary housing and services to homeless families in need, to cover building and transportation expenses, and provide childcare so homeless parents can work or seek work.

\$5,000 to Lekotek of Georgia, a charitable organization that provides children with disabilities with accessible play, adaptive technology and toys, information and resources, to purchase additional toys and educational materials for its satellite location at Children's Healthcare in Duluth.

\$4,900 to Clarke County Special Olympics to allow about 70 local athletes to compete in the Georgia Special Olympics Fall and

Winter games, which provide students the opportunity to compete and further develop their independence, social and behavioral interactions.

\$2,500 to the Gainesville/Hall Community Food Pantry to purchase food.

\$2,500 to the Region 5 DFCS Resource Development Unit in Jefferson to help fund the B.O.O.T. (Building Outstanding Opportunities Together) Camp two-day retreat that provides local foster and adoptive parents with parent development training, peer support and advocacy.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$3,435 to help cover dental bills and dentures for a disabled woman.

\$3,500 to help relocate a manufactured home for a senior citizen whose former home was destroyed by fire.



JEMC Smart Meter Installation Program Wraps Up

More than 206,000 traditional meters have been upgraded to smart meters, ending Jackson EMC's three-year meter upgrade deployment. Part of the Advanced Meters Infrastructure (AMI) program, the new smart meters send data remotely through a secure and protected signal. Only your meter number and energy usage information are communicated remotely, keeping your personal information safe.

There was no charge for the smart meter installation, and the upgraded meters will help the cooperative serve you more efficiently. We've joined many utilities across the nation who've implemented smart meter technology. To date, more than 20 million smart meters have been deployed nationwide.

Your smart meter allows us to see many issues with your service or service area in advance and respond to them before you notice them, such as trees on power lines. We'll also have the ability to troubleshoot energy usage questions from the office.

To learn more about JEMC's smart meter deployment, visit us online at www.jacksonemc.com/smartmeter. ▲

smartconnections

Protect Your High-Tech Life

After a long day, you check out Facebook and look up a recipe online for dinner. After dinner, the family sits down to watch a television show on the DVR and your son does homework on the computer. One power surge, however, could make that all go away.

Electronics that are sensitive to variations in power voltage have become an increasing large presence in modern life. That's why surge protection is so important.

A power surge, or transient voltage, is an increase in voltage significantly above the standard level. If the voltage is high enough, it can turn your electronics into high-tech paperweights. Also, voltage variations over time can cause your electronics to fail prematurely.

What causes power surges? One cause is lightning. If it strikes near a power line, that line can send the energy into your house's electrical system.

With Jackson EMC's Lightning Pro Surge Protection Program, your electronics are shielded against damage due to lightning or power surges. Jackson EMC offers whole-house protection for major appliances,

uninterruptible power supply systems, as well as plug-in units that protect your electronics. Your electronics will be replaced or repaired free if lightning or a power surge passes through the surge protector and damages them.

Lightning Pro UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) offers added protection for your computer and its data. In the event of a power outage, the UPS will let you save your work and safely power down your computer.

The Lightning Pro Meter Socket Adapter (MSA) protects your larger, motor-driven appliances such as refrigerators and heat pumps for a lease of just \$6.95 a month plus tax. Jackson EMC will install the MSA on your meter, maintain it and replace it if necessary. If a surge passes through the device and still damages your motor-driven appliances,



we'll replace or repair them.

For more about Lightning Pro Products and to download an order form, go to www.jacksonemc.com/surge. ▲

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PERIODICALS
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www.jacksonemc.com

what's cookin'?

Cooperative **Cooking**

Each month *Jemco News* features recipes which represent the people and products of Jackson EMC.

If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Jackson EMC area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to:

Cooperative Cooking
Jackson EMC
P.O. Box 38
Jefferson, GA 30549

Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Jemco News* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.

Pan Seared Steak with Steak Butter

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 boneless rib-eye or New York strip (shell) steak, 1½ to 2 pounds and 2½ inches thick, room temperature
Coarse salt
Cracked pepper

Steak Butter:

4 tablespoons room-temperature butter
Coarse salt
Ground pepper
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 garlic clove, minced
Mix the ingredients together, season with coarse salt and ground pepper, to taste.

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Heat oil in a large cast-iron or other ovenproof skillet (not a nonstick) over medium-high heat until it begins to smoke. Pat steak dry with paper towels. Season each side with 1 teaspoon coarse salt and 1 teaspoon cracked pepper. Cook steak in skillet over medium-high heat until a dark crust has formed, 5 to 7 minutes per side (reduce heat if meat is browning too quickly). Holding steak with tongs, quickly brown all edges, turning as necessary; lay steak flat in skillet. Transfer skillet to oven. Roast until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part of steak registers desired doneness, 5 to 15 minutes. Transfer to a plate; spread with 1 tablespoon Steak Butter. Cover loosely with aluminum foil, and let rest 5 to 10 minutes (temperature will then rise another 5 to 10 degrees). Slice across the grain; serve with remaining Steak Butter.