

**Driving Tips**  
to Improve Gas Mileage

**MEET OUR 2012  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS**

# JEMICOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

June 2012



**We Did It, So Can You**

The Right Choice™ Home Performance with  
ENERGY STAR® Audit



President/CEO  
Randall Pugh

## Easy as Pie

**M**y wife has the best apple pie recipe. She uses crisp apples, cinnamon, butter and other ingredients for the perfect after-dinner treat. Like my wife's pie, your cooperative's energy mix is the right mix of ingredients to keep your electricity affordable. We call it an energy portfolio. Keep reading to learn how we developed our balanced portfolio.

Jackson EMC is a distribution utility, which means we acquire electricity that's distributed to our substations and eventually to your homes and businesses. We rely on coal, nuclear, natural gas, hydropower and biomass sources of generation. We need approximately 1,350 MW of generation to keep the power flowing to our more than 207,000 meters. Here's how we get our power.

### Strategic Power Supply Partner

We purchase 49 percent of our electricity through a strategic power supply partner, and for years, we've negotiated favorable power supply contracts, which helped us keep prices low. Our contract company works similar to a stock market broker. In addition to serving us, the group also serves 15 other Georgia EMCs, which leverages our purchasing power.

The power supply market can be volatile, with prices spiking up and plunging without notice. One thing about electricity is there's no warehouse to store inventory; once purchased, it's an instantaneous delivery. Having a power supply partner navigate this unpredictable market ensures that we purchase what we need, even during the highest peak demand times. If we don't need the power, they can sell to their other clients and vice versa. Power supply contracts have served us well over the years; however, the current contract is scheduled to end after 2015.

### Ownership in Transmission Lines and Generation Sources

Through the Oglethorpe Power Corporation (OPC), we either have contracts with or own parts of generation facilities. Some of these facilities are co-owned by Dalton Utilities, investor- and municipal-owned utilities. Through that joint ownership, we have access to generation resources we otherwise could not acquire. Those generation facilities produce the remainder of our energy mix, which includes 21 percent nuclear, 20 percent coal, 6 percent natural gas and oil and 2 percent hydroelectricity.

### Green Generation

Our remaining two percent energy mix comes from our purchases from Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA) and Green Power EMC involvement. We, along with 38 other EMCs, represent more than 1.6 million homes, businesses, factories and farms. Jackson EMC purchases 1 percent of our energy from hydroelectric power sources such as Buford Dam through our relationship with SEPA and one percent renewable generation sources as part of our Green Power membership. Green Power EMC is the largest operational green power program in the southeastern United States.

Our energy mix is a diversified portfolio that we've strategically developed to ensure we have enough power for years to come. Our goal is to maintain our portfolio mix, which meets our load growth, energy independence and federal regulations. What we can't afford are additional federal regulations that will surely increase our costs and impede our ability to keep electricity affordable. Our rates are about 15 percent lower than the national average, and we're fighting to keep it that way. ▲

## JEMCO news

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## onlinef@cts

### Sign Up for the Great Paper Escape and You Could Win!

Paperless pays off. When you sign up for paperless billing, you'll be automatically entered into our weekly drawing for one of two \$100 gift cards. That's two chances to win! In October, all paperless billing customers will be automatically entered into our grand prize drawing for one of two \$2,500 ENERGY STAR® appliance shopping sprees.

Need a few reasons to go green?

- It's more secure than receiving paper statements, reducing your risks of identity theft through mail fraud
- It reduces paper clutter and the need to shred documents
- It's good for the environment

Sign up today and view complete contest rules at [www.jacksonemc.com/paperless](http://www.jacksonemc.com/paperless). ▲



# An Audit You'll Love

Hearing the word audit makes most of us cringe, especially if it comes from the IRS; however, Jackson EMC offers the kind of audit you'll love. It made the Masseys smile, and will end up saving them energy dollars as well. The Right Choice™ Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Audit is just a mouse click or phone call away. Learn more about the Massey's experience to see if this audit is right for your home.

"We saw the audit ad in *Jemco News*, and decided to make the call," stated Gary Massey, a 30-year total electric customer by choice in Jackson County. "We recognize value when we see it, and we've chosen to live in total electric homes because of the savings. When we noticed discomfort in some areas of our home, we made the call for an audit."

Massey worked with Claire Guined, a JEMC Residential Marketing representative, to schedule his audit. "Claire was super. It's rare that you find a company that is so customer service focused," said Massey. Right Choice certified technicians went to the Massey's home to conduct the scientific analysis. The tests include measuring air infiltration, checking supply and return air flows, determining humidity/temperature, checking your heating and cooling system's performance and more. It takes approximately three hours to complete.

"We were impressed. After the testing, we received a notebook with printouts of everything they found. The technicians gave us honest advice, along with excellent customer service," recalled Massey. "We liked that the recommendation list was prioritized according to the greatest issues. Knowing we could decide what energy efficient improvements would fit our budget and lifestyle was important."

In addition to answers, the Masseys were eligible for federal tax credit and JEMC rebates for qualifying improvements. For improvements that cost \$1,000 to \$5,500, there's also the 0% HomePlus loan financing program for JEMC members.

"We turned some of the upgrades into do-it-yourself projects. We may not do them all, but we'll definitely do the top five from the recommendation list," said Debra Massey. The Masseys have already noticed increased comfort from the changes they've made. "Our home is extremely comfortable. There are no hot or cold spots anymore."

The Masseys are no strangers to JEMC programs. Last year, they took advantage of the limited-time Right Choice Tune Up service that offered a rebate for up to two HVAC unit tune-ups.

The Masseys have made small changes over time, such as going with almost 100 percent compact fluorescent lighting throughout the home. Gary Massey summed it up best, "We think having an audit is the best thing you can do. What's it going to hurt? No one will say you have to do this, it's your choice, and JEMC has the experts there to help you make your decision."

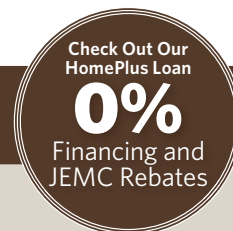
If you're having comfort issues, drafty spaces or unusually high energy bills, call today for a Right Choice Home Performance with ENERGY STAR audit, 1-800-462-3691. ▲

## 0% Financing + JEMC Rebates = **Comfort and Savings**

You don't have to put off getting those energy efficient improvements that cost \$1,000 to \$5,500. Your improvements may qualify for a 0% APR 36-month HomePlus loan.

**Call your district office today or visit us online at [www.jacksonemc.com/loans](http://www.jacksonemc.com/loans) for more information.**

The loan coupled with JEMC rebates could save you hundreds of dollars. Don't delay, the 0% HomePlus loan is available for a limited time. ▲



# Meet Our 2012 Scholarship Recipients

Each year, Jackson EMC awards the A.T. Sharpton Restricted and Unrestricted scholarships to deserving students entering or already attending an accredited college, university or technical college. This year's recipients will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The Restricted scholarship recipients must attend Gainesville State College, while the Unrestricted recipients may attend any two- or four-year accredited institution in the U.S. Nearly 300 applications were submitted, and five students were selected. Meet this year's winners.



## SEUNG KWAN BAEK

Baek graduated from Mill Creek High School, and will leave for Harvard College this fall. The son of Sang Hyun Baek and Sun Hee Lee of Buford, Baek plans to major in International Relations.



## BEN "CHASE" BENNETT

Currently attending Gainesville State College, Bennett plans to pursue an Associate Degree in Biological Sciences. Bennett is the son of Joseph and Myra Bennett of Gainesville.

## JEREMY CWIKLA

The son of Ilene Cwikla of Gainesville, Cwikla graduated from Chestatee High School. Cwikla will begin his studies at Gainesville State College with plans to study biology, and eventually become a medical doctor.



## JAMES PITCHER

A recent graduate of East Jackson County Comprehensive High School, Pitcher will continue his education at the University of Georgia where he will major in Pharmacy. Pitcher is the son of Jason and Susan Pitcher of Jefferson.



## CORY ZELLER

Cory Zeller, a Dacula High School graduate, is the son of Earnest and Janeen Zeller Jr. of Lawrenceville. With plans to major in Political Science, Zeller will attend Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, in the fall.

Scholarship awards are based on the following criteria: academic accomplishments, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, personal biographies and letters of recommendation. For more information about Jackson EMC's scholarship program or other youth programs, visit us at [www.jacksonemc.com/youth](http://www.jacksonemc.com/youth).

## Disabled, Elderly Couple Receives Grant for Heat Pump Replacement

Many of us imagine entering our twilight years enjoying retirement, time with our grandchildren or traveling. We don't imagine the possibility of being disabled or having to live on Social Security benefits. When a costly appliance breaks down, an expensive repair or replacement is the next step, what happens if you don't have the income? The latest individual grant recipients found themselves in this situation.

The Andersons\* both suffer from serious medical conditions, and the possibility of making it through a sweltering summer without air conditioning was a reality the couple was about to face without the help of the Jackson EMC Foundation grant for \$3,500. The Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) assisted the

couple with providing the necessary paperwork to complete their application.

No one can plan for these types of situations. We never know what life has in store; however, JEMC members are making a difference with just a few cents per month. If you know of someone who may qualify for a Jackson EMC Foundation grant, send them to [www.jacksonemc.com/ORU](http://www.jacksonemc.com/ORU). If they're unable to complete the application themselves, offer to assist them or find an advocate organization such as the DHS to help them.

If you're a member of or know of an organization that may qualify for a grant, please visit the website above. There's a continuous application process, so you can submit any time of the year. ▲

*\*Name changed.*

## operationroundup

### Jackson EMC Foundation Awards More Than \$114,000 in Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$114,243 in grants during their April meeting, including \$105,000 to organizations and \$9,243 to individuals.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$15,000 to Exodus Outreach**, a Buford non-profit organization serving people in all walks of life who are in need of support, for a summer program that offers at-risk students in Kindergarten through eighth grade a summer learning and development curriculum that provides supervision and readies the students to succeed in school in the fall.

**\$15,000 to Project Adam**, a Winder non-profit organization providing education, treatment and prevention services to those affected by drug and alcohol addictions, to purchase food for its residential facility and a web-based management system for outpatient treatment services.

**\$12,000 to Hope Clinic** in Lawrenceville, a primary care internal medicine clinic founded to provide the uninsured working poor with affordable care, to help purchase medical equipment for the clinic's second floor expansion that will allow it to double the number of clients served.

**\$10,500 to I Am, Inc.**, in Buford to purchase supplies for the Gaining Insight & Real Life Skills (GIRLS) leadership development program for girls age 10-18, aimed at reducing the instance of high-risk behaviors, increasing self-esteem and focusing on life skills that promote success, such as self-assessment, managing money, etiquette, goal-setting, public speaking and choosing a career.

**\$10,000 to the Spectrum Autism Support Group**, a parent-run non-profit group in Suwanee that provides support, education and resources for the entire spectrum of autism disorders, to enable disadvantaged autistic individuals ages four to 22 to attend the organization's weeklong summer camp program where daily activities are used to teach social skills lessons.

**\$10,000 to Avita Community Partners** in Gainesville, an agency assisting adults, children, adolescents and families affected by mental illness, emotional disorders, addictive diseases and developmental disabilities, to help

purchase a van that will transport adolescents recovering from substance abuse.

**\$10,000 to Extra Special People** in Watkinsville to provide an opportunity for special needs or seriously ill children from low-income or financially distressed families to attend a weeklong camp where they can explore nature, discover their own abilities, master new skills and make new friends.

**\$7,500 to NSPIRE Outreach** in Lawrenceville, an outreach effort providing homeless men and women in Gwinnett County with skills and tools that will help them leave the streets and become independent, to provide continuing education through GED courses, online courses, career training or courses at local colleges or technical schools.

**\$5,000 to Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS)**, a non-profit agency serving children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, to help provide Camp Hollywood in Lawrenceville, a unique summer day camp where

children with developmental disabilities can build social skills, self-respect, character and community living skills.

**\$5,000 to Camp Kudzu**, a year-round camping program for children with diabetes and their families to teach diabetes management skills that will reduce their risk of diabetes-related complications, as well improve their attitude about living with the disease.

**\$5,000 to the Young Women's Christian Organization (YWCO)** to help girls from low-income families attend the Girls Club, a structured recreational and educational summer program targeting young girls ages 5-14 from low- to moderate-income families, and to help defray bus transportation expenses.

#### Individual Grant Recipients:

**\$3,500** to replace the heat pump for a disabled woman.

**\$3,500** to build a wheelchair ramp for a profoundly disabled child.

**\$2,243** to help make car repairs for a disabled senior citizen.

## Which Way to Save? Using Ceiling Fans Year Round

Ceiling fans can save energy all year round. In summer, a fan turning counterclockwise creates airflow that makes you feel cooler. In winter, a fan turning in the opposite direction pushes warm air near the ceiling down into the living area.

For summer cooling, the fan is going in the right direction if you feel a cool breeze directly below the fan as soon as you turn it on. A ceiling fan can make you feel 4 to 8 degrees cooler, but you'll only save if you increase your thermostat setting by that amount. A 4-degree increase can save 10 to 15 percent on your cooling bills.

In winter, ceiling fans can help lower energy use by up to 10 percent. Since warm air rises, the air near the ceiling is warmer than the air near the floor. Running a ceiling fan clockwise on low helps push the warmer air back down into the room.

When you leave the room, be sure to turn the ceiling fan off to save energy. ▲



4° to 8°  
10% to 15%

## smartconnections

## Driving Tips to Improve Gas Mileage

While you can't control the price at the pump, you can reduce the amount of gasoline you use. Here are a few ways to save:

### Slow Down

The gas mileage for most vehicles starts decreasing rapidly at speeds above 60 mph, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 31 cents a gallon for gas, based on gas at \$3.87 a gallon.

### Use Cruise Control

Driving at a consistent rate of speed can save gas. Use cruise control on long drives.

### Avoid Unnecessary Idling

Idling can use a quarter to a half gallon of fuel per hour. If you're going to be sitting in your parked car for more than a minute or so, turn off the engine.



### Perform Routine Maintenance

Keeping your car well maintained with scheduled oil changes, clean filters and regular tune-ups helps make sure your vehicle runs at top efficiency.

### Keep Tires Properly Inflated

According to driving tests by *Consumer Reports* magazine, underinflated tires reduce fuel economy. Keeping your tires inflated at the proper pressure can improve your gas mileage by up to 3.3 percent. Look for the proper tire pressure for your vehicle on the driver's side door.

### Use the Recommended Grade of Oil

According to the DOE, you can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent by using the grade of motor oil recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

### Combine Short Trips and Plan Your Route

Warm engines run more efficiently than cold ones, so combining short errands into one trip saves gas. In addition, group errands in the same area to reduce the distance you travel.

### Save on Your Commute

See if your employer will let you change your work hours to avoid peak rush hour periods, when stop-and-go driving reduces your gas mileage, or will let you work from home at least a few days a week.

### Lose Weight

If your trunk is serving as extra storage space, it's time to clean it out. Additional weight costs gas mileage.

For more information, go to [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov), the DOE website for fuel economy information.

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[www.jacksonemc.com](http://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.

## *Fiery Tilapia Fish Tacos*

### Ingredients:

1 cup corn (blacken in skillet)	1 lime, zested and juiced	2 teaspoons salt
½ cup diced red onion	2 tablespoons sour cream	6 (4 ounce) tilapia fillets
½ cup diced red bell pepper	1 teaspoon cayenne pepper	2 tablespoons olive oil
1 cup fresh cilantro leaves, finely chopped	½ tablespoon ground black pepper	12 flour tortillas, warmed

### Instructions:

Preheat grill or non-stick skillet for medium-high heat to blacken the corn. Allow to brown slightly before removing. Clean the grill/skillet, and preheat to high. In a medium bowl, mix together corn, red onion, red bell pepper and cilantro. Stir in lime juice and zest. In a small bowl, combine cayenne pepper, ground black pepper and salt. Brush each fillet with olive oil, and sprinkle with spices. Arrange fillets on grill grate or skillet, and cook for 3 minutes per side. Cut the fillets into strips. For each fiery fish taco, top a flour tortilla with fish, sour cream, and corn salsa.