

Energy Efficiency
Tax Credits Restored

DEBUNKING ENERGY **MYTHS**

JEMICO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

February 2013



Turn Your Honey-Do
into Honey-Done

Check Out Our Energy Saving DIY Web Pages



President/CEO
Randall Pugh

Building Relationships Builds Business

When we use the tagline, *The Power to Improve Your Life*, we know it's partnerships that drive that power.

Cooperatives were formed by a group of people working together to get the goods, services or products they needed. Their goal couldn't be accomplished by just one person, but they knew that together, great things could be done.

That's how we've been able to expand the products and services that we offer. The suite of energy saving tools and services under our Right Choice™ product line offers everything from do-it-yourself energy audit kits to the more sophisticated home performance analysis conducted by certified energy technicians. Our partnership with Home Diagnostic Solutions (HDS), the company that conducts our high-tech audit testing, gives members recommendations from a trustworthy third party.

If energy improvements, repairs or upgrades are what you're looking for, we have partnerships with builders, insulation and heating and air conditioning contractors committed to energy efficient construction and installation, as well as with vendors of ENERGY STAR® appliances. These partnerships allow us to offer you rebates, incentives and low-interest financing.

Our tagline *The Power that Means Business* captures what partnerships mean when it comes to

servicing our commercial customers. One segment of our customer base that you don't hear a lot about in *Jemco News* is our commercial/industrial customers. In Georgia, large businesses have a choice of energy providers, and we're honored each time a company entrusts us to provide power to their business.

When a company chooses Jackson EMC, they're bringing jobs to the communities we serve, which grows our economy. We consider ourselves their partners in business and, like our residential services, we offer our business customers services to save money and improve their energy efficiency. Companies can call on us for energy audits, design assistance, technology assessments and more.

Publix, King's Hawaiian, Kubota Manufacturing of America, Rooms To Go, hospitals, school systems and more trust us to keep the power flowing to their businesses.

Although we've grown from the electric cooperative formed by a handful of citizens who wanted to bring electricity to their farms 75 years ago, the principles that guided us then remain in place today. We may serve a larger population; however, we do it the cooperative way. Recognizing the value of partnerships makes it easy to deliver the power to improve lives. ▲

onlinef@cts

Students: Check with Your High School Counselor Before the WYT Opportunity Passes You By

Four Jackson EMC delegate spots are up for grabs. Selected delegates will win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the Washington Youth Tour scheduled for **June 13-20, 2013**.

JEMC's delegates will join more than 1,500 highly talented, ambitious young people from across the country to experience our nation's capital and further develop their leadership skills.

Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, the Washington Youth Tour teaches high school students about U.S. history, government and the importance of public service. The tour was inspired by former President Lyndon Johnson who, in 1957, encouraged electric cooperatives to send youngsters to the



nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag represents.

Delegates must be 16 years old by the Washington Youth Tour. High school sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply. If you're interested, please see your high school counselor or guidance office for an application. **Applications are available through all high schools in the JEMC service area. Deadlines are set by each high school, so inquire today. For more information, visit www.jacksonemc.com/wyt.**

JEMCO news

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Turn Your Honey-Do into Honey-Done



Weekend warriors, do-it-yourselfers, honey-doers, whatever you go by, if you're one to tackle projects on your own, you should check out our energy saving DIY web pages.

You'll find instructional DVDs, step-by-step written instructions, tips and more. Simple projects such as caulking and sealing, weatherstripping and insulating knee walls are featured on our site.

Hosted by HGTV's Pat Simpson, the short videos show you exactly what you need to get the job done. "We've found that many issues uncovered in home energy audits are simple things that the homeowner can do themselves to save money. We pulled the most common issues and produced videos to give homeowners a resource at the click of a mouse," says Amy Bryan, JEMC Residential

Marketing director. "Our how-to videos help members save money and energy."

For complex issues that require contractors, our Residential Marketing representatives can provide homeowners with a list of JEMC participating contractors. "Some energy improvements also qualify for rebates and incentives, and we'll work with customers to ensure they get those to help offset some of their out-of-pocket costs."

Visit us online at www.jacksonemc.com/diy to see our videos, get energy saving tips, ideas and more. ▲

"We also encourage customers to visit local home shows for decorating and energy saving ideas. We've partnered with home show coordinators again this year to offer our members a coupon for the upcoming shows. We hope members will stop by the Jackson EMC booth as well. Representatives will be there to answer questions and share the latest products and services JEMC has to offer."

2013 NORTH GEORGIA HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Gwinnett Center
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway | Duluth, GA
770-998-9800

Friday, February 15	12 pm - 6 pm
Saturday, February 16	10 am - 6 pm
Sunday, February 17	12 pm - 5 pm

ADULTS: \$7
SENIOR CITIZENS W/ID: \$6
MILITARY W/ID: \$5
CHILDREN UNDER 12: FREE

\$1 OFF

2013 ATHENS HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Athens Classic Center
300 N. Thomas Street | Athens, GA
706-543-5760

Saturday, February 23	10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, February 24	12 pm - 5 pm

ADULTS: \$5
CHILDREN UNDER 3: FREE

\$1 OFF

2013 NORTH GEORGIA HOME EXPO

Brenau Downtown Center
301 Main Street SW | Gainesville, GA
770-534-8420

Saturday, April 20	10 am - 6 pm
Sunday, April 21	12 pm - 5 pm

ADULTS: \$5
CHILDREN UNDER 12: FREE

50% OFF



About Energy

There's a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow. Feed a cold, starve a fever. Break a mirror, and you'll have seven years of bad luck. These familiar myths and old wives' tales have been passed down for generations, but when it comes to energy, myths can cost us valuable energy dollars. Get the facts and save.

Myth 1:

KNOCKING THE CHILL OFF.

The term may be a southern thing, but “knocking the chill off” a cold room or house by cranking up the thermostat to heat it faster skyrockets your energy bill. An extremely high temperature setting has little effect on how quickly your home heats up. In fact, it may increase your heating system’s run-time, which causes it to use more energy. Programming your thermostat allows you to set temperatures for while you’re away, at home and more.



“We suggest setting the thermostat at 68°F in winter. Each degree above 68°F generally increases your heating costs by about three percent,” says Amy Bryan, JEMC Residential Marketing director.



Myth 2:

CLOSING VENTS SAVES ENERGY.

Closing vents in rooms that aren’t occupied or used often doesn’t save energy. Restricting conditioned air pushes it through other vents in the house. It can also cause backpressure on the fan that pushes the air through your system, which makes it use more energy and work harder.

Myth 3:

FLIPPING LIGHTS ON AND OFF COSTS MORE.

If you’ve been told it’s better to leave the light on than to flip the switch off and on, you can put that myth to rest. There’s some truth to this that stems from the early generations of light bulbs. Turning the lights on and off would decrease the lifespan of the bulb; however, technology has advanced to the point that this is no longer accurate. It’s best to switch the lights off, even if you’ll be returning in a few minutes.



where customers have two or more space heaters running at the same time for large areas. Those situations usually result in high energy bills, and create safety hazards when placed too close to furniture or flammable material.”

Myth 4:

HEATING WITH SPACE HEATERS SAVES MONEY.

Space heaters may be small, but they’re big energy guzzlers. Using a space heater in a room or small space, for a short time isn’t so bad; however, if you’re using a space heater for long periods to heat large spaces, you’re increasing your energy use and bill. “We advise customers to use space heaters with caution because they can cause spikes in your energy bill. In some cases, it’s better to increase the thermostat a degree or two if your home isn’t warm enough,” says Tiffeny Tolder, JEMC Residential Marketing representative. “We’ve conducted energy audits



Myth 5:

USING COMPUTER SCREEN SAVERS SAVES ENERGY.

Those mystical whirling geometric shapes may mesmerize you when you’re not working on your computer, but they’re not saving energy. In fact, your screen saver is a computer program that’s operating when you’re not using your computer, so you’re not saving energy at all. Instead, use your computer’s sleep mode setting to kick in after a period of inactivity. You can do the same for your monitor. ▲

For more tips and energy facts, check out our energy analyzer and calculators www.jacksonemc.com/analyzer

Wired Up! JEMC Service Area Youth Take First and Second Places in State Wiring Contest



Kevin Jones, a Madison County High School student, took first place in the State Wiring Career Development Event (CDE) competition, while Travis Cook from nearby Banks County High won second place. Competing against youth from all over the state, both Jones and Cook competed in chapter and area competitions to earn spots in the state competition.

The competition is broken into three categories: a problem solving multiple-choice exam, a practical wiring problem and an oral presentation. Active Future Farmers of America (FFA) members enrolled in a high school agriculture education class in Jackson EMC's service area are eligible to participate in the area competition. The top two individuals in each area contest go on to compete at the state level.

Jackson EMC has supported chapter, area and state wiring competitions for more than 40 years. The wiring competition was designed to support and promote electrification programs for agriculture students. Georgia's EMCs and FFA chapters sponsor the wiring competitions.

"The FFA wiring contest is one of the most demanding, yet rewarding FFA competitions and teaches students the practical skill of electrical wiring combined with the life skills of problem solving and public speaking," says Randall Pugh, Jackson EMC president/CEO.

Jones and Cook received gifts, scholarships and bragging rights. To learn more about youth programs supported by Jackson EMC, visit us online at www.jacksonemc.com/youth. ▲

Kevin Jones
(top), first place;
Travis Cook
(right), second
place

operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation Awards Nearly \$99,000 in Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$98,620 in grants during their December meeting, including \$97,000 to organizations and \$1,620 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Jackson County for its Power Hour comprehensive homework help and tutoring program, which provides members with the support, resources and guidance necessary to complete their homework, and to renew licenses for Kidstrax membership tracking software that will enable the club to track and report membership information.

\$15,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta's Lawrenceville Club for its Academic Success program, a comprehensive homework help and educational program that uses high-yield learning activities designed to involve members in actions that reinforce what they are learning in school, such as a food preparation class that teaches fractions.

\$15,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Winder-Barrow County for its Power Hour comprehensive homework help and tutoring program, which provides members with the support, resources and guidance necessary to complete their homework.

\$15,000 to the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry for its Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides clients with emergency food supplies, buying them time to deal with the difficult and frequently temporary circumstances they are facing, and helping them get back on their feet.

\$15,000 to the North Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry for its Medication Assistance Program, which covers the cost of non-narcotic /controlled substance prescriptions

for senior citizens and families that qualify for assistance when the amount of medication is too much or the co-pays are too costly.

\$10,000 to the Norcross Cooperative Ministry for its Emergency Assistance Program, which provides emergency rent funds to families who are experiencing temporary or long-term hardship, many of whom are referred by local churches, schools and agencies.

\$10,000 to YMCA-Piedmont (Brad Akins Branch) in Winder to enable underprivileged children from kindergarten to 8th grade to attend the PrYme Tyme afterschool program for a year, participating in activities that include homework, sports, arts, crafts and more in a safe environment while their parents are at work.

\$2,000 to Casa de Amistad to purchase the Windows 7 Operating System for computers used in its computer literacy program, and to purchase food for its food distribution program.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$995 to repair the septic tank for a **disabled woman**.

\$625 to make car repairs for a **lung cancer patient** who needs transportation to doctor's and treatment appointments.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TAX CREDITS RESTORED FOR 2012 AND 2013

Many residential energy efficiency tax credits that expired at the end of 2011 have been reinstated until the end of this year.

The American Tax Payer Relief Act enacted January 2, 2013, reinstated federal income tax credits designed to encourage homeowners to increase their residences' energy efficiency. The new bill retroactively restores tax credits for improvements installed in 2012 in addition to extending the credits through 2013.

Federal tax credits are available for eligible energy efficient heating and cooling equipment and electric heat pump water heaters, as well as improvements such as efficient exterior windows, doors and roofs, insulation and air sealing. These credits are for equipment and improvements

installed between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2013.

The credit amount for energy saving improvements is 10 percent of the materials cost, with a \$200 limit for windows. The federal tax credits are limited to a total of \$500 for fiscal years 2006 through 2013, so if you claimed energy efficiency credits in previous years, you may not be eligible for additional credits.

Some ENERGY STAR®-rated products may not meet the efficiency standards required for the tax credits. Eligible products should offer a Manufacturer Certification Statement showing that the product is covered.

If you installed eligible equipment or improvements during 2012, you can file for tax credit using the Residential Energy

Credits Form (Form 5695). Forms related to the act passed January 2 will not be available until late February or early March, according to the Internal Revenue Service. Check with a tax consultant regarding use of tax credits.

The tax credits for photovoltaic power systems, solar hot water

systems and other residential alternate energy systems don't expire until December 31, 2016.

Jackson EMC also offers rebates for some high efficiency heat pumps and water heaters, as well as for installing solar systems.

For more information, see www.jacksonemc.com/rebates.

AVAILABLE HVAC TAX CREDITS INCLUDE:

Equipment	Tax Credit	Minimum Efficiency
Electric Heat Pump Water Heater	\$300	• 2.0 Energy Factor
Electric Heat Pump	\$300	• 15 SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) • 13 EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) • 9 HSPF (Heating Seasonal Performance Factor)
Central Air Conditioner	\$300	• 16 SEER • 13 EER

Source: www.achrnews.com

smartconnections

Go Paperless and You Could Win an iPad!

When you sign up for paperless billing between January 15 and March 15, you'll be automatically entered into a drawing for an iPad.

Need a few more reasons to kiss the paper goodbye? 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

To sign up, visit us online at www.jacksonemc.com/paperless to get started. Once you set up your account profile, you'll have access to a variety of online options to make doing business with us easier.

You can update the phone number you want us to use to contact you. You can easily report streetlight and power outages, contribute to Project Share and sign up for automatic bank draft payment of your electric bill. You can even sign up to receive *Jemco News* online instead of in the mail. ▲



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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.

Carolina Pound Cake

Ingredients:

3 cups sugar	½ tsp. salt	1 cup milk
3¼ cups all-purpose flour (do not sift flour before measuring)	5 large eggs	3 tsp. vanilla extract
½ tsp. baking powder	2 sticks butter or margarine	1 tsp. almond flavoring (if desired)
	½ cup Crisco® shortening	

Make sure all ingredients are at room temperature.

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Cream shortening and add sugar gradually. Beat until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. On low speed, add flour and milk alternately, beginning and ending with flour. Add flavoring(s) and mix well. Grease and flour a tube pan (10" x 4"). Add batter and bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until it tests done. If done, the cake will leave the sides of the pan. Lightly touch the top to see if it springs back. If not, bake a few more minutes and test again.