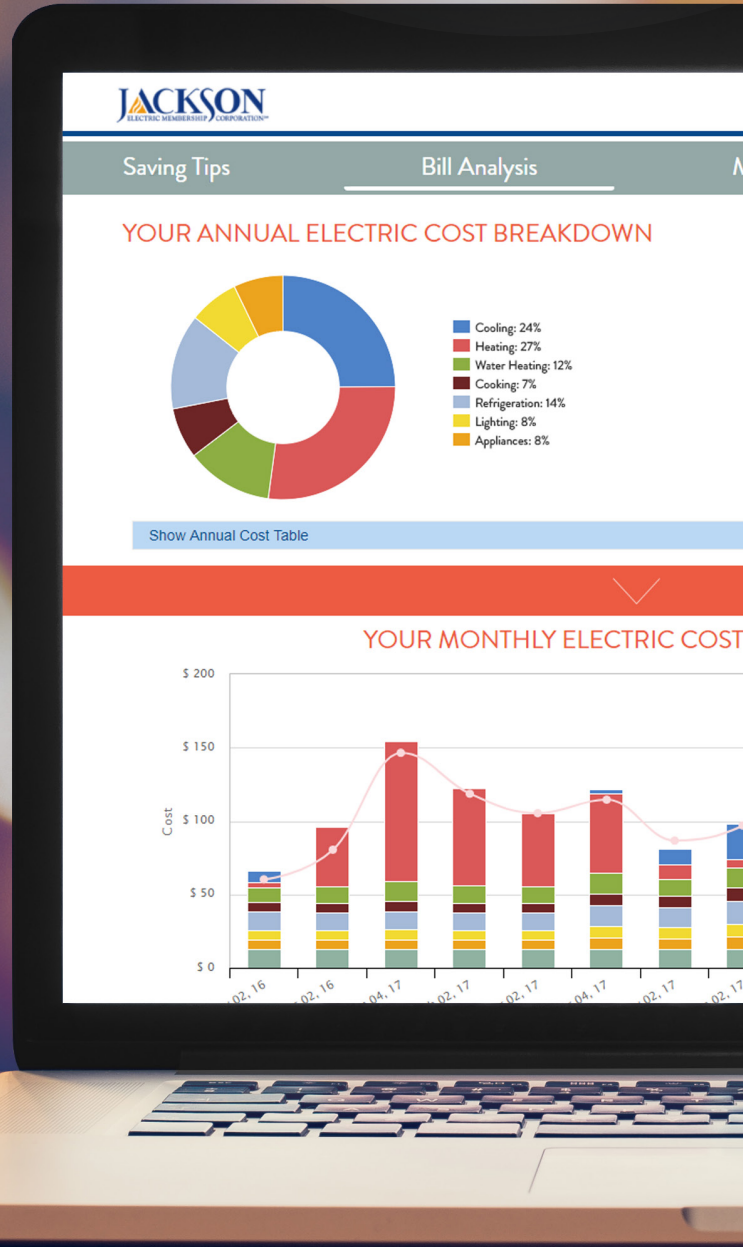


# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

ARE YOU ENERGY

*Savvy?*



DECEMBER 2017

BUDGET BILLING EASES HOUSEHOLD PLANNING  
THANK A LINEMAN WITH NEW LICENSE PLATE  
TINY STITCHES HELPING BABIES IN NEED



# FORWARD THINKING

I love a good New Year's resolution. When the New Year begins, a few good resolutions help me feel like I am starting the year off strong. The New Year represents an opportunity for a fresh start and a new perspective. I think it's also the perfect atmosphere for setting new personal challenges and goals. I always make more progress when I have goals in mind and I'm eager to start tackling them.

I think every person – and organization – needs goals. It's that big picture thinking that gets us moving in the right direction. What do we want to achieve in the next year? Where do we want to be in five years? Or, ten years? What could we be doing better? What weaknesses do we want to overcome? What strengths can we use to make ourselves better?

We ask ourselves those questions at Jackson EMC. As an organization, it's our version of a New Year's resolution. We challenge ourselves by setting goals each year for moving the cooperative forward. It's a collaborative process that allows us to take a measure of the progress we've made and look ahead at how we can make your cooperative better.

As your cooperative, we take an all-hands approach to laying out Jackson EMC's strategic goals for the future. Our linemen, engineers, customer service representatives, marketing representatives, office staff and others all have a say in how they can move the cooperative forward. Each team analyzes their strengths and weaknesses, and their role in making Jackson EMC the best it can be for our members, our communities and our employees.

Our teams recently wrapped up this intensive process. And, I must say: If you love a good New Year's resolution as much as I do, then you'll love what these teams have done. I'm so impressed with the innovative

and goal-oriented ideas each team contributed. They've really raised the bar! Over the next year, teams across the cooperative will implement their goals. You'll see some of the previous efforts in this issue of JEMCO News with My Energy Use and the Home Energy Monitor.

As we move through 2018, another major initiative for Jackson EMC will be laying the groundwork for a one-stop way to pay your bill, get power outage information, receive estimated power restoration times, and much more. We'll accomplish this through an exciting new technology partnership that will bring many enhancements to better serve you. This project will move our core information systems to a new platform enabling seamless integration and creating a web-based Smart Hub. Once launched, you'll have the opportunity to receive certain communications from Jackson EMC via text messages or email, if you prefer. We'll be sharing more information about those changes later in the new year.

As we wrap up 2017, we're ready to hit the ground running with our new resolutions to exceed your expectations in 2018!

**What ideas do you have for how we can improve? Send me a note to [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

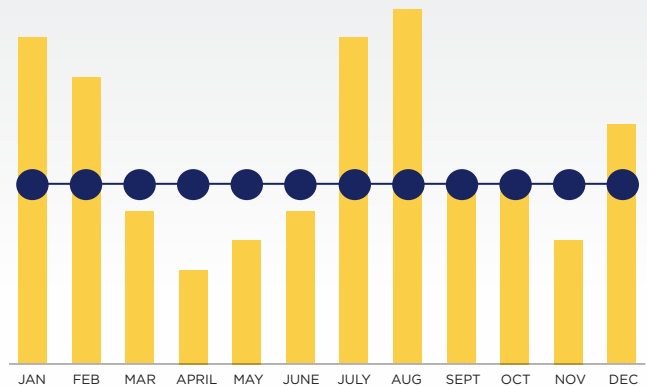
## BUDGET BILLING

# Ease Household Budget Planning

### NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY HOW MUCH YOUR ELECTRIC BILL WILL COST EACH MONTH?

With Jackson EMC's budget billing program, you 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 members pay the same amount each month.



KEY: ■ MONTHLY ENERGY USE ● ELECTRIC BILL

VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BUDGETBILLING](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/BUDGETBILLING) FOR DETAILS.

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# Thank A LINEMAN

## License Plate Now Available for Georgia Motorists

You can show your support and appreciation for Jackson EMC linemen and other utility line crews through the purchase of Georgia's first "Thank a Lineman" vehicle license plate.

Proceeds from the new specialty license plate will benefit the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation, which provides assistance to burn patients and their families at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta.

The new specialty license plate became available in October — one month after Tropical Storm Irma, which caused extensive damage to power lines in Georgia. Jackson EMC linemen and other utility line crews received widespread support from their communities as linemen worked to restore power after Irma.



GEORGIANS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A "THANK A LINEMAN" LICENSE PLATE MAY VISIT [WWW.SFBF.NET/LICENSE-PLATE](http://WWW.SFBF.NET/LICENSE-PLATE) WHEN RENEWING THEIR ANNUAL MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.



Each year you renew the specialty license plate, \$10 of the Georgia Department of Revenue's \$35 annual specialty tag fee for "Thank a Lineman" license plates will be contributed to the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation.



# ARE YOU ENERGY

# Savvy!

## HOW JACKSON EMC'S ONLINE RESOURCES CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

**For many people, winter's chill often signals a rise in electric bills. Which has many asking, is Mother Nature the sole culprit? Perhaps.**

But, if weather isn't the only cause of higher electric bills, do you know the other sources?

If you're not already savvy on how to save money on your electric bills, Jackson EMC has online tools that can help guide you.

For starters, Jackson EMC's **Home Energy Monitor** gives you a personalized report on your energy usage. Knowing where your energy dollars are going is a key step to intentionally lowering your electric bill. The web-based Home Energy Monitor not only shows you where your energy dollars are being spent, but also gives recommendations on how to lower your costs.

For most residents, heating and cooling costs represent a large portion of their energy usage. But, do you know how much another major contributor - water heating - is costing you? The Home Energy Monitor provides that insight.

After completing the brief online profile of your residence, you will receive personalized saving tips and the steps you can take to lower your energy use. For example, installing a smart thermostat and using ENERGY STAR™ rated appliances can result in significant savings. The Home Energy Monitor tells you how much you can expect to save annually with each recommendation.

You can also view an analysis showing how much of your bill is from other energy usage, such as cooking, refrigeration and lighting.

Once you've learned where your energy dollars are being spent, you can use another web-based tool, Jackson EMC's **My Energy Use** portal, to view when you're consuming energy by the day and hour. My Energy Use's dashboard is accessible via your online account at [ebill.jacksonemc.com](http://ebill.jacksonemc.com).

Learning the hourly and daily energy use habits of your family, you may notice patterns that can be opportunities to become more energy efficient. For example, a spike in usage each morning at 7 a.m. may signal the need for your family to turn off more lights and appliances when getting dressed each day.

With the combination of My Energy Use and the Home Energy Monitor, you're savvier on your energy usage, which leads to savings on your electric bill.



TO USE THE HOME ENERGY MONITOR  
AND MY ENERGY USE, VISIT:  
[JACKSONEMC.COM/MONITOR](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/MONITOR)  
[JACKSONEMC.COM/MYENERGYUSE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/MYENERGYUSE)



When a nurse noticed some families taking their newborns home in just a diaper and towel, she gathered a group of colleagues to use their sewing skills to help babies have a better start.

**Today, Tiny Stitches, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides disadvantaged newborns in North Georgia with enough clothing and blankets to keep them warm for the first three months of their lives.**

Based in Suwanee, Tiny Stitches has more than 200 volunteers spread across North Georgia lovingly sewing, knitting and crocheting handmade blankets, nightgowns, sleepers, caps, socks, undershirts and more for newborns. Those items are then packaged in a tote bag and taken for delivery to families in need. Since its inception in 1999, the group has provided more than 8,160 layettes for newborns.

Last year, Tiny Stitches provided 255 layettes for newborns in Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Franklin counties. The group recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation to purchase supplies for its volunteers, who sew blankets and clothing for newborns.

“Our volunteers help because these babies wouldn’t have any warm clothes or blankets,” said Susan Brunton, president of Tiny Stitches.

Volunteers can sew at home or join local workshops, where they can drop off their creations, collect sewing supplies and yarn, and share ideas with fellow sewers. Regular workshops are held throughout Northeast Georgia. Supply donations are also accepted at the Atlanta Sewing Center in Duluth and Marietta.



After knitting, crocheting and sewing items, the layettes are taken to various local hospitals, health departments, women’s shelters and civic organizations for distribution. The families receiving these handmade gifts often don’t know who created them.

“We don’t do it for the thank you’s,” Brunton said. “We do it for the babies and to make life a little easier for the family.”

Jackson EMC members are also helping newborns in need, thanks to their Operation Round Up contributions, Brunton said.

“The Jackson EMC Foundation has really helped us,” she said. “We couldn’t do what we do without a Jackson EMC Foundation grant. We can’t thank them enough.”



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [TINYSTITCHES.ORG](http://TINYSTITCHES.ORG).

## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Jackson EMC is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the following: the provisions of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Act of 1991, as amended; Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, as amended; Section 42 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended; 41 CFR Part 60-300, and other protected veterans; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Labor, OFCCP, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability or Vietnam or disabled veteran status shall be excluded from participation in, admission, or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of this organization’s programs or activities. **This contractor and subcontractor shall abide by the requirements of CFR 60-300.5(a) and 60-741.5(a).** These regulations prohibit discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of their status as protected veterans or individuals with disabilities, and prohibit discrimination against all individuals based on their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Moreover, these regulations require that covered prime contractors and subcontractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status, or disability.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization’s nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Keith Johnson, Vice President, Human Resources and Employee Development. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

## OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation  
Board of Directors awarded

### \$94,000 IN GRANTS

to area organizations during  
its October meeting.

**\$15,000 | Gateway House**, a Hall County nonprofit serving victims of domestic violence and their children, to provide emergency legal assistance in requesting, filing and enforcing a Temporary Protective Order (TPO) and safety planning to keep abusive partners from having contact with or harassing domestic violence victims.

**\$15,000 | Hebron Community Health Center** in Lawrenceville, a nonprofit organization providing medical and dental care to low-income, uninsured Gwinnett residents, to provide diagnostic follow-up testing, prescription medication and diabetic supplies.

**\$15,000 | Jackson County Habitat for Humanity**, to purchase materials for its 16th house, including electrical, plumbing and HVAC unit.

**\$12,500 | Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens**, a network of 31 area congregations and more than 800 volunteers, for its Hospitality Shelter Program that provides temporary housing and services to homeless families in need, a case manager and childcare so homeless parents can work or seek work, and for its Extended Network Program.

**\$12,500 | Ser Familia**, a comprehensive social services program in Buford for Latino families, to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health counseling services, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and suicide counseling, to purchase materials and supplies to prepare a child's therapy room and tele-psychiatry client service hours.

**\$10,000 | Nothing But the Truth**, a Dacula faith-based organization dedicated to meeting needs in the community, to purchase food for the Weekend Food Bag Program that provides food for the weekend to Gwinnett County public school children who have been identified by counselors as food insecure.

**\$5,000 | Helping Mamas**, a Snellville nonprofit that provides essential baby items

to Gwinnett County women and children in need, to help purchase breast pumps, pack and plays, and car seats not available through public assistance programs.

**\$5,000 | Jewish Family & Career Services**, a nonsectarian agency providing human services programs to a diverse population of low to moderate income, underserved and in need individuals in Gwinnett County, for basic dental services provided through its Ben Massell Dental Clinic.

**\$4,000 | Lumpkin County Family Connection**, to purchase food and the delivery fee for its Backpack Buddy program, which provides a supply of 10 pounds of food for seven meals and four snacks each week to children identified by Family Advocacy as food insecure.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND  
TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT  
[JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION)

## MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

### Savory Slow Cooker Roast



#### INGREDIENTS:

1 (3 1/2 to 4 pound) boneless chuck roast  
1/2 cup soy sauce  
1 beef bouillon cube  
3-4 peppercorns  
1 bay leaf  
1 tsp. dried rosemary  
1 tsp. thyme  
1 tsp. garlic powder

#### DIRECTIONS

Place roast in a 5 quart slow cooker. Combine soy sauce and remaining ingredients. Pour over roast and add water until the roast is almost covered in the slow cooker (about 4 cups). Cook, covered, on low for 7 hours or until roast is very tender.

You can serve this as a roast or shred it and use the juice to make 12 French dip sandwiches.

“ This is an easy, tasty recipe for roast beef.  
Just load the ingredients in to a slow cooker,  
plug it in and return to a wonderful entrée! ”

- CINDY BURCH, FLOWERY BRANCH

FEATURED  
RECIPES RECEIVE  
**\$200**  
PRIZE  
PACKAGE



SEND YOUR BEST COMFORT FOOD RECIPE: [RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM](mailto:RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM) OR MAIL TO:  
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549

**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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## JACKSON EMC RETURNS \$9 Million in Margin Refunds

Most Jackson EMC members will receive a check in the mail this month. Approximately 211,000 members and former members will receive their share of a total \$9 million in margin refunds in December.

**“As owners of a not-for-profit cooperative, you’re entitled to a portion of the funds left over each year after all of the cooperative’s expenses are paid, which we call margin refunds,”** said Board Chairman Chuck Steele. **“Your board is proud to be able to return it to you.”**

Margins are refunded for a combination of years so that both longtime and newer members, as well as former members, benefit from belonging to an electric cooperative. This year, margin refunds will go to those who received electric service from Jackson EMC in 1990 and/or 2016. The sum of each member’s refund check is calculated according to the amount each member paid for electric service during those years.

After this December’s refund, Jackson EMC will have refunded \$124.5 million in margin refunds to our member owners since our cooperative was founded in 1938.

*Jackson EMC refunds margins, surplus above operating expenses, to its members each year. By 1963, the co-op had returned more than \$1 million to members and had the highest margin refund record of any electric cooperative in the state. This record of returning margins to members ranks among the highest of the 840 electric cooperatives in the nation.*

