

# JEMCOnews

## BLUEPRINT *for savings*

Jackson EMC makes it easy for members to save money when making energy efficient improvements.



**APRIL 2018**

WHAT IS ENERGY STAR®?

GO PAPERLESS AND YOU COULD WIN AN iPad MINI

COMMUNITY IMPACT: ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER



# THANK A LINEMAN

I'll bet that you didn't know that April is lineman appreciation month. Well, it is! And every April at Jackson EMC we set aside time to honor this dedicated group of professionals by giving them our appreciation. We'd love for you to join us.

If you see linemen, please stop and tell them "thank you." Let them know you appreciate their hard work to keep the lights on. You can also give them your support on social media using the hashtag #ThankALineman.

The thing is, many of us may only think about those linemen when there's a storm. Our power is out. We're in the dark. We wonder when our power will be restored. It's at those times that our linemen shine the brightest. When Mother Nature causes damage to power lines, our linemen do what they do best – they go out to restore power.

At Jackson EMC, our linemen are always ready to restore power – night or day, rain or shine. I have the highest respect for the safe and professional work done by our linemen. They are our first responders. They often brave dangerous conditions to safely and quickly restore power to homes, schools, hospitals and businesses. That typically means working close to energized power lines and equipment, climbing 40-foot poles, all while maneuvering around fallen trees or limbs to do it.

While linemen are highly trained and always keep safety first, it's still one of the most dangerous jobs in America. To get the job done safely, our linemen are outfitted with the tools, equipment and protective gear to keep them out of harms way. Linemen also wear fire-resistant clothing and insulated rubber gloves to help keep them protected from high voltage power lines. They do this because, at the end of each day, we want everyone to go home the same way they arrived – safe and sound.

Even when linemen aren't contending with Mother Nature, it's still a tough job. Power outages never seem to happen at a convenient time. And

many times, linemen must step away from their families when there's a power outage – responding on weekends, holidays or late at night. Over the years, I have seen countless examples of linemen working in the worst conditions to ensure their neighbors had power -- even when they were without electricity at their own homes.

It's this type of tireless dedication that makes me so proud of our Jackson EMC linemen. Once again, please join me during linemen appreciation month (or anytime you see a lineman) and tell them "thank you" for a job well done!

**If you have any words of appreciation you want me to share with our linemen, please email me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

Chip Jakins, President/CEO



## TELL US YOUR STORY. #THANKALINEMAN

In April, take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do by sharing your stories with the hashtag, #ThankALineman, on social media. Or write the Jackson EMC office closest to you, and we'll make sure our line workers receive your letter of thanks.

## NEED TO KNOW: MOVE OVER FOR UTILITY WORKERS

**MOTORISTS IN GEORGIA ALREADY KNOW THEY SHOULD MOVE OVER ONE LANE WHEN THEY DRIVE NEAR A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WORKING ON THE SIDE OF A ROADWAY.**

But, did you know that same law applies to utility linemen working near roadways?

Georgia's Move Over Law says motorists travelling in the lane adjacent to the shoulder must move over one lane when emergency and utility vehicles are stopped and working in an official capacity. If motorists can't move over a lane, they should slow down and be prepared to stop.

The law is intended to keep emergency and utility personnel safe.

With peak travel season approaching, motorists are reminded that failure to follow the law could result in a fine up to \$500, according to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

**MOVE OVER  
IT'S THE LAW.**

Georgia law requires all drivers approaching utility lineworkers at an active work site to change lanes or reduce speed.

**FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A \$500 FINE.**

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# WAYS TO SAVE: What is ENERGY STAR®?

**WHEN SHOPPING FOR NEW APPLIANCES, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED AN ENERGY STAR® LABEL ON PRODUCTS. BUT, WHAT DOES THAT LABEL REALLY MEAN?**

## **WHAT IS ENERGY STAR®?**

Most consumers recognize ENERGY STAR's product label which is a government-backed standard for energy efficiency. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ensures that each product that earns the label is independently certified to deliver quality, performance and savings.

## **HOW DOES A PRODUCT EARN AN ENERGY STAR LABEL?**

Products that earn the ENERGY STAR label are more energy efficient than standard products. For example, qualified refrigerators are at least 15 percent more efficient than the minimum federal efficiency standard.

Prior to 2011, ENERGY STAR products were self-certified by its partners, such as retailers and manufacturers. However, the EPA now oversees third-party certification of products, which include testing in an EPA-recognized lab and review by an EPA-recognized certification board. Plus, the EPA takes some products straight from store shelves to test for performance.

## **WHAT PRODUCTS ARE ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED?**

Clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators, freezers and dishwashers are some of the most well-known ENERGY STAR certified products. There are also product categories for heat pumps, TVs and computers. ENERGY STAR recently added new product categories for electric vehicle chargers and smart thermostats.

## **HOW MUCH IN SAVINGS CAN I EXPECT WITH ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS?**

According to ENERGY STAR, a certified full-sized electric dryer will save you \$200 in energy bills over the life of the product. For a household of four, an ENERGY STAR certified water heater could save you approximately \$330 a year on electric bills. Savings by products vary, so check ENERGY STAR's website for details.

## **WHERE DO I GET DETAILS ABOUT PRODUCTS?**

ENERGY STAR's website ([energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)) has overviews, buying guidance and energy efficiency tips for each product category. Before buying, visit ENERGY STAR's website and get familiar with the information about its certified products.

In addition, all major home appliances must display a yellow EnergyGuide label, which tells you how much energy an appliance uses and how its energy usage compares to similar models. Appliances that are also ENERGY STAR qualified are noted on the EnergyGuide label.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ENERGY EFFICIENT PRODUCTS, VISIT [ENERGYSTAR.GOV](http://ENERGYSTAR.GOV).

# BLUEPRINT *for savings*

Your house is a major investment. Jackson EMC makes it easy for members to save money when making energy efficient improvements. All you need is a blueprint to get started. Here's how we can help.



## SECURITY SYSTEM

Protect your home and family's safety with a professional security company. EMC Security offers an affordable, self-install security system. Plans are affordable and start at \$16.95 a month.

 [EMCSECURITY.COM/SELF-INSTALL-SECURITY-SYSTEM](https://emcsecurity.com/self-install-security-system)



## SMART THERMOSTAT

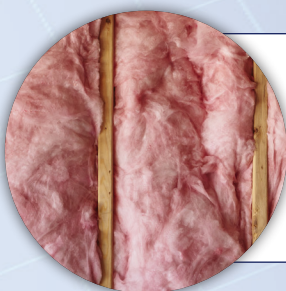
Jackson EMC Marketplace offers instant rebates on the latest smart thermostats, which can help reduce your heating and air conditioning costs.

 [JACKSONEMCMARKETPLACE.COM](https://jacksonemcmarketplace.com)

## HEAT PUMP & WATER HEATER

Replacing your existing heat pump or water heater with more energy efficient electric products can significantly lower your monthly bill. Jackson EMC offers rebates for qualified products. Before you buy, contact us for rebate details.

 [JACKSONEMC.COM/REBATES](https://jacksonemc.com/rebates)



## INSULATION

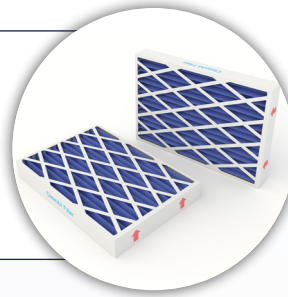
Maintaining your home's thermal envelope, which prevents heat transferring from the interior of your home to the exterior, can result in major savings to your monthly electric bill. TV host and home expert Ty Pennington gives a quick explanation about insulation and how to maintain your home's thermal envelope.

 [JACKSONEMC.COM/TYTALKS](https://jacksonemc.com/tytalks)

## FILTER CHANGES

Clean HVAC systems run more efficiently. Our filter change program reminds you when to change your filters and offers affordable replacement filters.

 [JACKSONEMC.COM/FILTER](https://www.jacksonemc.com/filter)



## SOLAR POWER

Adding a solar power system to your house is a clean and renewable energy source. Jackson EMC can make it more affordable with rebates and special financing.

 [JACKSONEMC.COM/SOLAR-POWER-HOME](https://www.jacksonemc.com/solar-power-home)



## LIGHTING

LED bulbs use less than 75% of the energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, according to energy.gov. Buy LED bulbs at Jackson EMC Marketplace.

 [JACKSONEMCMARKETPLACE.COM](https://www.jacksonemc.com/marketplace)



## LOW-INTEREST LOANS

Purchasing a qualified replacement heat pump, water heater, insulation, and certain ENERGY STAR® rated appliances may be eligible for our low-interest loans.

 [JACKSONEMC.COM/HOMEPLUS](https://www.jacksonemc.com/homeplus)



## GREEN POWER

Participating in Green Power program allows you to reduce your impact on the environment without installing equipment at your home. Participating members purchase 150-kilowatt-hour blocks of green energy for an additional fee of \$4.00 per month.

 [JACKSONEMC.COM/GREEN](https://www.jacksonemc.com/green)





**IN NATURE, THERE ARE COUNTLESS LESSONS FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN.**

But in an age when students are more plugged in to technology than the great outdoors, getting hands-on learning in nature is becoming more challenging.

"We get quite a few students who have never been in nature," said Janice Jones, school program registrar at Elachee Nature Science Center, Gainesville.

Nestled in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve in Hall County, the Elachee Nature Science Center has long been providing a recreational and educational destination for visitors wanting to connect with nature. The 1,440-acre preserve includes 12 miles of hiking trails, gardens, animal exhibits and exhibit halls.

To get students to enjoy and learn from nature, Elachee offers STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programs and field trips, all of which follow Georgia's curriculum.

"A third grade class that's learning about geology in their classroom can come here and continue their lessons," Jones said.

Educators can select from a range of field trips, such as those about astronomy, plants, animals, aquatic studies and habitats. Elachee also has a partnership with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to offer a floating classroom onboard a boat on Lake Lanier. There, students sample plankton, collect lake sediments and more.

"It's hands-on and students are very excited," said Peter Gordon, Elachee's director of education.

For those students who may have little experience in nature, Elachee's staff make students feel comfortable and encourage them to have fun learning, Jones said. Kids are invited to explore the environment and try something new.

Before they arrive, Elachee provides educators with materials to prepare students for their visit, such as special activities and vocabulary words students may discuss while on their trip.



During the 2016-2017 academic year, 23,381 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in Jackson EMC's service area participated in Elachee's school programming. But for some schools, getting the funds for such field trips may be challenging.

To help qualified schools offset a portion of the field trips, the Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded the Elachee Nature Science Center a \$10,500 grant to serve schools in Jackson EMC's service area. Since 2016, Elachee has received \$29,600 in grants from the Jackson EMC Foundation.

According to Jones, the grant allows students to learn in nature at Elachee who may not have otherwise had the opportunity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER, VISIT [ELACHEE.ORG](http://ELACHEE.ORG).

**NEED TO KNOW: CALCULATING YOUR CAPITAL CREDITS**

**ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP IS RECEIVING CAPITAL CREDITS.**

Jackson EMC is a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by our members. Each year, amounts collected above the cost of providing electric service are credited to member-owners' capital accounts based on their patronage (total billing less sales tax).

Your 2017 capital was 8.32 percent of your total patronage. See the worksheet to calculate your capital credit.

This notification is for all rates, except QF, LPS, LGS or MBS (you can find your rate designation printed on your monthly bill). Members with those rates have received a separate notification.

*Work Sheet for Calculation of 2017 Capital Credits*

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**AMOUNT OF BILLS FOR 2017 (EXCLUDING SALES TAX) X ALLOCATION PATRONAGE (8.32%) = YOUR DOLLAR ALLOCATION**

**FOR EXAMPLE**

**IF YOUR 2017 POWER BILLS TOTALED \$500**  
 Amount of Bills for 2017 (excluding sales tax) x Allocation Patronage = Your Dollar Allocation  
**\$500 x 8.32% = \$41.60**

**IF YOUR 2017 POWER BILLS TOTALED \$1,500**  
 Amount of Bills for 2017 (excluding sales tax) x Allocation Patronage = Your Dollar Allocation  
**\$1,500 x 8.32% = \$124.80**

## OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

**\$93,332 IN GRANTS**

during its February meeting, including \$78,600 to organizations and \$14,732 to individuals.

### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$15,000 | Gwinnett Hospital System**, which serves Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties to help purchase the Carestream DRX-Revolution X-Ray machine for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

**\$15,000 | Indigent Patient Fund**, a program of the Medical Center Foundation of the Northeast Georgia Health System, serving Banks, Barrow, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties, to provide transportation for patients who have no access to or cannot afford transportation home from the hospital and for medications prescribed at discharge that patients have no resources to obtain.

**\$15,000 | Supporting Adoption & Foster Families Together (SAFFT)**, a nonprofit organization serving abused and neglected children in Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties through its Family Life

Center in Gainesville, to provide assistance for the Family Restoration Program to help 12-15 families with weekly supervised visitations, case management and parenting sessions and drug screens.

**\$10,000 | Judy House Ministry**, a faith-based transition home for homeless men who have been incarcerated or under community supervision in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties, to provide necessary food, household supplies and rent while they seek jobs and reconnect with their families and the community.

**\$10,000 | Mercy Health Center**, an Athens ministry of professional and lay volunteers that provides primary and specialty medical care, dental and pharmacy services for low income uninsured patients in Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, for its Whole Person Care Unit that helps expand medical care access to its uninsured clients.

**\$10,000 | NOA's Ark (No One Alone)**, a Dahlonega emergency shelter and comprehensive support program for women and children from Gwinnett, Hall and Lumpkin counties, who have survived domestic violence or sexual assault, to help with emergency financial assistance to families leaving the shelter.

**\$3,600 | Economic Justice Coalition**, an organization in Athens that assists the unemployed and underemployed in securing jobs and supplies monthly food deliveries to after-school programs at community centers, for its food distribution program in Clarke County.

### INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$4,867** to replace a heat pump for an individual with a recent brain injury disability.

**\$4,565** to help pay for a home lift chair and for bathroom renovations to accommodate a lift for a senior citizen with a spinal cord injury.

**\$3,500** to assist with medical bills for a senior citizen with Alzheimer's.

**\$1,800** to help purchase dentures for an elderly woman.



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

## MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

### Zucchini Casserole



“I got this recipe from my mother. This was one of my favorites.”

—MARTHA JONES, STATHAM

#### INGREDIENTS:

4 cups thinly sliced zucchini  
1/4 cup chopped onion  
1 can of cream of chicken soup (10.5 oz.)  
1 cup sour cream  
1 package of Stove Top stuffing (variety of your choice)  
1/2 cup butter or margarine

#### DIRECTIONS

Boil zucchini in lightly salted water for 5 minutes or less. Drain water. In a large bowl, mix the chopped onions, cream of chicken soup and sour cream together. Fold in boiled zucchini.

In a separate bowl, combine Stove Top stuffing and melted butter. Stir stuffing until butter is evenly distributed.

In a 9x13 casserole dish, pour enough stuffing on the bottom of the dish to evenly cover. Then, pour the zucchini mixture in the casserole dish. Add the remainder of the Stove Top stuffing on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes.

FEATURED  
RECIPES RECEIVE

**\$200**

PRIZE  
PACKAGE



SEND YOUR BEST COOKIE RECIPES: [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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825 Buford Drive  
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(770) 963-6166

**EMC SECURITY**

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



PERIODICALS  
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[jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com)

# Go Paperless AND YOU COULD WIN AN IPAD MINI

**Paperless billing can save you time and money. By signing up for Jackson EMC's paperless billing, you'll securely receive your monthly bill in your email inbox – instead of your mailbox.**

And if you sign up for paperless billing by June 30, you'll be entered to win one of five iPad Minis.

Paperless billing allows Jackson EMC and its members to save time and postage costs. Join more than 20,000 Jackson EMC members who already participate in paperless billing.



TO SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS  
BILLING, OR FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT  
[JACKSONEMC.COM/PAPERLESS](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/PAPERLESS).

