

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

**GOING
GREEN**

MAY 2021 | IN THIS ISSUE

BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS FUND INNOVATIVE CLASS PROJECTS

JACKSON EMC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

ENJOY COMFORT AND SAVINGS WITH A RIGHT CHOICE™ HOME

GREEN POWER EMC SOLAR
FACILITY IN HAZELHURST, GA



FUTURE READY FOR EVs

During a recent road trip, I noticed far more electric vehicles sharing the road than I have in the past. The demand for EVs is quickly growing in the U.S., and more members are becoming curious about EVs.

Recently, automakers have taken leaps forward to develop and produce electric vehicles that are more appealing. This year, we may begin to see electric pickup trucks on the highways. You may have already noticed more EV charging stations at local retail stores and businesses. There's no question that EVs will change our automotive landscape - it's just a matter of when.

When it comes to recent development for EVs, buyers have more options, like a fully electric vehicle or a hybrid that uses both electricity and gasoline. EV buyers

can also select if they want to upgrade a charger at their home. EVs have an exciting future. Our current reality, however, is many people are hesitant to buy an EV. They are concerned about a limited drive range on an electric charge or lack of charging stations in areas. Exciting recent developments in EV battery storage technology and deploying more charging stations may help ease some of those concerns. Manufacturers are also offering EV models that fit all budgets and lifestyles.

We understand that making the switch to an electric vehicle depends on a number of factors for your household. As your electric cooperative, we're excited to serve you in new ways, starting with education about EVs. Our tools can help you navigate the basics of owning an EV so you can make an informed decision. Regardless of when it's time to consider an EV for your household, we're ready to be your trusted energy expert.

At Jackson EMC, we're focusing on bringing our members more resources for electric vehicles. We're excited to support EV adoption through our EV rate and a rebate to members who purchase a qualified EV charger. In addition, our website provides valuable and practical information about EVs, if that's an option you're considering. There's even a tool that allows you to compare EVs by model.

Curious about EVs? I encourage you to learn more by visiting our website.

Have a story to share about making the switch to an EV? Share it with me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

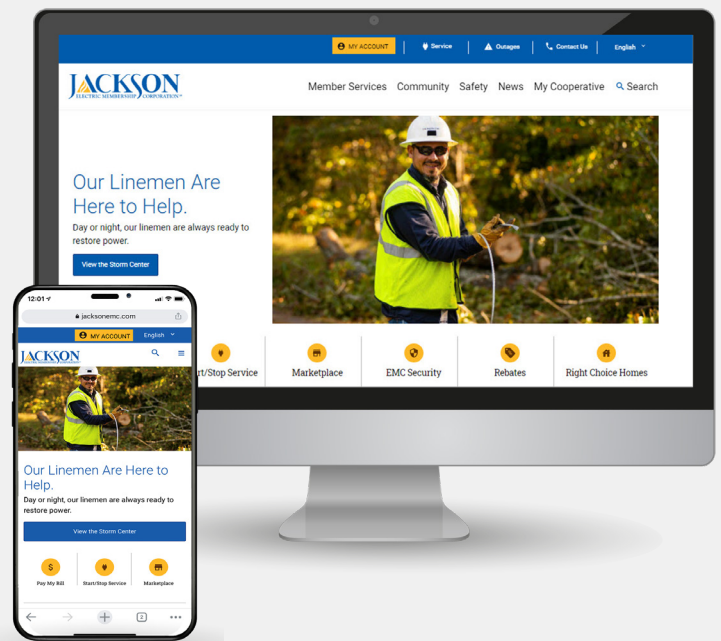
Chip Jakins, President/CEO

Jackson EMC Relaunches Website with New Design, Features

Jackson EMC has relaunched its website — jacksonemc.com — to better serve members with a mobile-friendly design and navigation.

Members can use the revamped website to pay their bill, learn how to save energy and apply for rebates, view and report outages, and access information about the cooperative's services.

"We redesigned our website in response to members telling us they wanted better access to our site on their phones and tablets," said Kerri Testament, manager of member communication. "The revamped website was designed to make it easier to find information across the cooperative on a mobile device. We've also added some new features, like a translation tool, to make the content more accessible for members."





BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS

Fund Innovative Projects for Students

Sometimes, an innovative or creative idea for a classroom project just needs a little support. That's why Jackson EMC is proud to support educators with creative ideas to bring learning to life – whether in a classroom or online.

Jackson EMC's Bright Ideas grant program provides middle school educators with up to \$2,000 to support classroom projects that would otherwise not be funded. Since 2015, Jackson EMC has awarded \$343,494 in Bright Ideas grants to middle school teachers with creative ideas for classroom projects.

This academic year, 47 teachers in 25 middle schools were awarded Jackson EMC Bright Ideas grants totaling \$64,000. Winning entries represented instruction in history, language arts, math, science, social studies, information technology and more. Regardless of whether students met online or in-person, the projects were designed to be engaging.

Bright Ideas grant applications for the 2021-2022 school year will be accepted beginning in August.

 VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS](https://www.jacksonemc.com/brightideas) FOR DETAILS.



3-D Physics Car Derby

Caralena Luthi, \$1,532, West Jackson Middle School, Jackson County

Eighth-grade physical science students participated in a 3-D Physics Car Derby after designing their own 3-D printed cars. Students built their cars at school or at home by using their understanding of kinetic and potential energy, and the races were streamed online for students learning digitally. The project helped students learn problem-solving skills and enabled them to explore engineering as a career choice.

Driving By With Auto AI

Jason Hurd, \$2,000, Twin Rivers Middle School, Gwinnett County

Computer Science teacher Jason Hurd taught students about artificial intelligence and computer programming through the use of an artificially intelligent mini self-driving car purchased with a Bright Ideas grant. Students learned about the global impact of AI. They also explored career pathways in AI and computer science by working collaboratively to program the car to navigate a custom-built obstacle course.



Making Virtual Learning Hands-On

Tamra Morris, \$1,265, Westside Middle School, Barrow County

Tamra Morris purchased digital microscopes with her Bright Ideas grant to bridge the gap between classroom and digital learning. The digital microscopes, which students were able to check out for remote learning, facilitated lab work in biology, oceanography, genetics, ecology and botany. "These microscopes enable students to see the differences between animal and plant cells, algae and protozoa and unicellular fungi and multicellular fungi," Morris said. She hopes her students will be lifelong science learners as a result.



Going Green

Clean, safe energy is important to Jackson EMC. We support renewal energy technologies through providing green energy services.

These services include Sun Power for Homes, green energy purchases through Green Power EMC and resources for electric vehicles (EVs).

Whether you're interested in learning about renewable energy - or if you have plans to purchase solar panels or an EV - Jackson EMC is a valuable resource as your trusted energy expert.



To learn more about renewable energy resources, visit jacksonemc.com/greenservices.



Sun Power for Homes

Jackson EMC can help you decide if solar energy is a good fit for your home - and we can make it more affordable for you.

Solar powered photovoltaic (PV) systems provide clean and safe renewable energy while conserving natural resources and reducing the environmental impact of energy production. If you're considering a solar-powered system for your home, contact us. You may be eligible for a Jackson EMC rebate of up to \$4,500.

Our energy experts can provide a solar site survey and help you determine if solar is right for you.

Check with a Jackson EMC residential energy advisor for program requirements. Call 1-800-462-3691 or visit jacksonemc.com/solar-power-home to learn more.



Green Power EMC

For 20 years, Green Power EMC has helped electric cooperatives, like Jackson EMC, provide renewable energy to members.

Through Green Power EMC, we use renewable energy from landfills that generate methane gas, a biomass facility that uses waste wood, and solar energy sites, including a solar facility in Barrow County.

In March, Jackson EMC became one of 32 electric cooperatives in Georgia to share in power production from a new 200-megawatt solar portfolio that includes three large facilities in south Georgia. Collectively, these sites will provide enough renewable energy to serve more than 35,000 EMC households.

Through these and other collaborations, Jackson EMC provides you the opportunity to help the environment by purchasing this renewable energy.

Your cost is an additional \$4.50 a month when you opt for 150 kilowatt-hours of green energy per month through the Green Power program. This covers about a tenth of the average monthly household use. Jackson EMC members can sign up to participate in the Green Power program at jacksonemc.com/green.

Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles (EVs) have come a long way in recent years. Today's EVs may be a right fit for you. EVs:

- ✓ Cost less to operate than gas- or diesel-powered vehicles.
- ✓ Are environmentally-friendly with no tailpipe emissions.
- ✓ Can be charged at home with a standard 120V outlet or a level 2 (240V) charger.
- ✓ Run on electric motors that offer quiet, smooth operations and low maintenance.
- ✓ Have longer driving ranges and shorter recharge times than previous technology.

On a full charge, today's EVs can travel 80-360 miles. Fully recharging an EV battery can take as little as 4 hours, but up to 24 hours, depending on the type of charger and battery capacity.

Jackson EMC offers a \$250 rebate when you purchase a level 2 (240V) EV charger. Purchase one online through the Jackson EMC Marketplace for an instant rebate, or send required documentation to Jackson EMC after purchasing one elsewhere. For details, visit jacksonemc.com/EV.

Jackson EMC also offers a special electric vehicle rate to EV drivers who avoid using electric power during peak periods. Tax credits may also be available for purchasing an EV and charging equipment.



⚠ Beware of Solar Scams ⚠

Interest in solar panels is growing. Jackson EMC members have been asking more about solar rebates and whether installing solar panels is the right decision for their home.

It's important to ensure you get correct information about solar for your home. We've received reports that some sales representatives for solar installation companies may be sharing information that isn't correct or fair to consumers. Jackson EMC doesn't send employees or contractors on our behalf to sell solar panels or related products and services.

If you're considering installing solar panels, please call Jackson EMC to learn more about the process and our rebates. Call Jackson EMC at 1-800-462-3691. Representatives are available Monday-Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OPERATION ROUND UP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$99,705 in grants

including \$94,705 to organizations and \$5,000 to an individual, during its March meeting

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Gwinnett County Public Library, to purchase its Kitchen a' la Cart, an interactive, mobile culinary cart outfitted with supplies and video equipment to stream programming that teaches nutrition, math, science, languages and history for individuals of all ages in Gwinnett County.

\$15,000 | L.A.M.P. Ministries, Inc., in Gainesville, for its Community Youth and Children's program, which combines group and individual counseling, community activities and mentoring to provide high-risk youth in Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties with a positive alternative to gangs, drugs and other delinquent behaviors.

\$15,000 | YMCA of Athens, Inc., to help enable children in Barrow, Clarke, Jackson,

Madison and Oglethorpe counties to participate in its nine-week Summer Day Camp project, which offers supervised sports and other activities, as well as teaches math, reading and values.

\$12,700 | Mercy Health Center, Inc., in Athens, which provides healthcare to low-income and uninsured patients in Barrow, Clarke, Madison and Jackson counties, for a COVID-19 test reader and 500 test kits for flu, strep and COVID-19.

\$ 12,500 | Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), to provide anatomy equipment and supplies for its science and math summer academy for rising 10th and 11th grade students in Gwinnett County Public Schools.

\$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 housing assistance.

\$8,500 | Books for Keeps, Inc., an Athens nonprofit offering the Stop Summer Slide program that improves Clarke County children's reading achievement, to provide

books for summer reading to children at Whitehead Road Elementary School.

\$5,000 | Tiny Stitches, in Suwanee, to provide materials and supplies for its network of volunteers to handcraft a 28- to 32-piece layette of clothing and blankets to keep an infant warm and dry for the first three months of life, donated to mothers in Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties who have little or nothing for their newborns.

\$1,005 | Royston Housing Authority, for its Being Me and Drug Free Program targeting youth aged 11-18, to provide supplies for its summer program that includes a raised bed garden and farm-to-table cooking projects.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENT:

\$5,000 | provide a HVAC unit, for a disabled citizen.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING LATEST GRANT AWARDS AND HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](https://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation).

COMMUNITY IMPACT: MENDING THE GAP

In operation since 2011, Mending the Gap, in Lawrenceville, works to keep Gwinnett County's low-income senior citizens healthy and independent. One way it does that is by delivering groceries and personal care items through its Save Our Seniors (SOS) program.

"We receive daily requests from seniors seeking assistance," said Mending the Gap's Executive Director Fay Josephs, noting that since April 2020, the number served by the organization increased by 30% due to the pandemic. The nonprofit now serves about 400 seniors by delivering bags filled with canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, personal care items and cleaning supplies.

In 2020, Mending the Gap delivered 7,800 bags with more than 61,000 pounds of fresh produce. With the increase in demand, it was delivering SOS bags every other week, along with freshly-prepared meals to assist seniors as they sheltered in place, according to Josephs.

A recent \$15,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation will allow

Mending the Gap to purchase items for more bags, plus an additional freezer, refrigerator and shelving for food storage to accommodate the increase in distribution.

Mending the Gap recently moved to 585 Old Norcross Road, Suite A, in Lawrenceville, and started offering "pickup days" for seniors to get items as needed between deliveries.

With "no contact" deliveries put in place during the pandemic, Mending the Gap works to stay connected with seniors through a pen-pal program and weekly phone calls. "We're committed to do all we can to help keep our seniors healthy and connected," Josephs said.

For more information visit [mending-the-gap.org](https://www.mending-the-gap.org).



"The Jackson EMC Foundation grant will help us continue to present aging to our community as a thing of pride, not a time of despair and neglect."

— Fay Josephs, Executive Director of Mending the Gap

Pecan Pound Cake



INGREDIENTS:
4 sticks butter
3 cups sugar
10 eggs
4 cups plain flour, sifted
1 cup pecans, chopped
1/2 tsp. vanilla flavoring
1/2 tsp. lemon flavoring
Pinch of salt

DIRECTIONS:
Cream butter and sugar in a bowl. Add eggs one at a time.

Take part of the sifted flour and cover pecans with it to keep pecans from sinking to the bottom of the pan; do this by putting pecans and about 1/2 cup of flour in small bowl and stirring until pecans are covered.

Add flour, pecans, flavorings and salt to butter/sugar/egg mixture; mix. Grease pan, and pour batter in pan. Bake at 325 degrees for about 1 hour or until done.

“ During a business trip to Savannah, a coworker gave me a pecan pound cake and then mailed me the recipe. I make this recipe at Christmas. This year will be the 50th year. ”

— JAMES DUSENBERRY, JEFFERSON



SEND US YOUR BEST RECIPES: RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO:
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549
FIND MORE RECIPES AT WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES.



TV HOST AND
HOME EXPERT
TY PENNINGTON

Enjoy Comfort and Savings WITH A RIGHT CHOICE™ HOME

There's a lot to consider when buying a new home. The neighborhood, style of house and quality of construction are a few. Comfort and energy efficiency are just as important, and Jackson EMC's Right Choice™ homes program can help with that.

New homes built to Right Choice standards come with a one-year comfort warranty and three-year energy use warranty. They earn Jackson EMC's lowest residential energy rate, which saves homeowners approximately 5% on annual energy costs. Energy savings components built into each Right Choice home also help save energy for the life of the home.

Heating and cooling account for a home's largest energy expense, and Right Choice homes help you lower that expense by 20-30% compared to standard homes.

The Right Choice program is exclusive to Jackson EMC, and each Right Choice home is:

- Constructed by industry-leading builders,
- Designed by engineers who calculate properly sized heating and cooling equipment in order to achieve maximum efficiency, and
- Tested for home performance to ensure energy efficient construction.

Ask your Jackson EMC representative for details, including warranty terms and conditions. To learn why a Right Choice home is right for you, visit jacksonemc.com/rightchoice.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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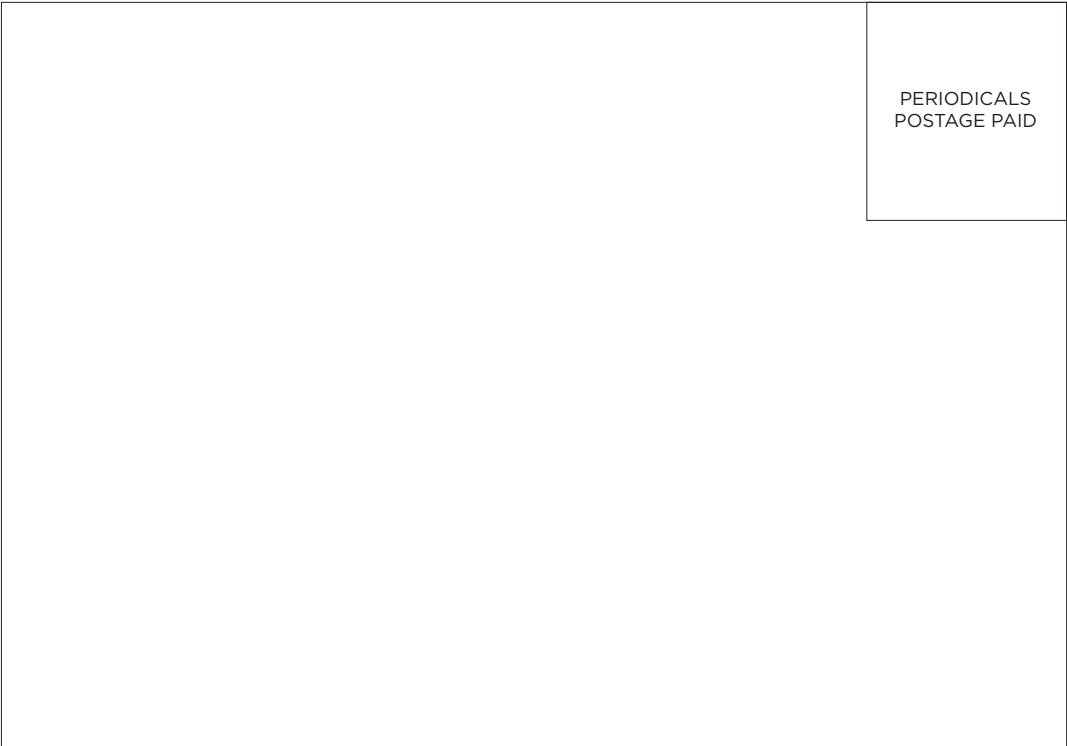
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EMC SECURITY

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PERIODICALS
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Jackson EMC

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Summer RATES

(May-September)

Residential Service (A-20)

First 650 kWh:
8.81¢ per kWh

Next 350 kWh:
11.06¢ per kWh

Over 1000 kWh:
11.66¢ per kWh

Service Charge:
\$23 per month

WAYS TO SAVE: SUMMER RATES IN EFFECT

As temperatures rise in the summer, homes use more energy to cool and maintain comfort. Fortunately, Jackson EMC members pay less for their energy use in the summer than two-thirds of the state.

That's because Jackson EMC's summer residential rates are lower than many other electric providers in the state, according to the Georgia Public Service Commission's residential rate survey.



By reducing your energy use, you can lower your monthly electric bill even more this summer. Jackson EMC helps by providing tips on ways to conserve energy at

jacksonemc.com/waystosave.