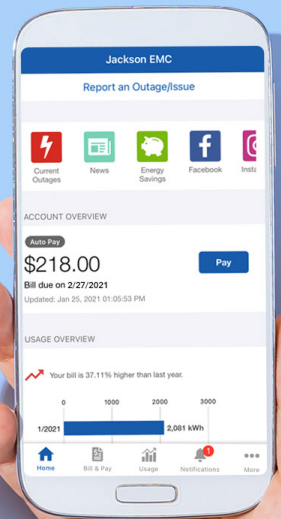


JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ENERGY COSTS

FEBRUARY 2021 | IN THIS ISSUE

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THE POWER TO LEARN MORE

More than 80 years ago, a group of local business and community leaders shared a common vision and belief in a better life for those in their rural community.

Through the power of electricity, they saw opportunities for families and businesses to thrive. When Jackson EMC was founded in 1938, many people didn't know how to use electricity. It was new technology. So, in the early years of this cooperative, employees helped educate members about how to use electricity.

Nowadays, we're all familiar with electricity. It powers most of our daily activities - from watching TV to joining an online meeting. A simple flip of an electric switch can bring light to a room. Electric-powered appliances can quickly cook a meal or keep food cold to enjoy later. At Jackson EMC, we're proud to serve you by providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your homes and businesses.

In recent years, more members have become interested to learn if they're using electricity efficiently. Thanks to newer technology - like smart thermostats - it's now easier to get that information. Our members also told us they wanted to know more about their energy use from their cooperative. So, two years ago, we launched the MyJacksonEMC website and mobile app to help you view your energy use, report an outage, pay your bill and submit requests for other services. The energy use tool in MyJacksonEMC is a handy resource for checking your energy consumption - even by the hour, day or month. If you're curious about how much electricity you're using, check out the energy use tool in MyJacksonEMC.

And, if you want to learn ways to save energy, check out our website. We've got tips and ideas on steps you can take to save energy. The latest addition to our website includes tools for the growing number of members interested in buying an electric vehicle. EVs have an exciting

future. The new tools on our website allow members to get the latest information about EV models, chargers and benefits.

Just as our cooperative helped members learn about electricity years ago, we're helping members learn more about energy efficiency today. To do that, we want to be your trusted energy advisor. We offer our expertise and resources to members who want to learn more about their energy use and how they can develop energy efficient habits.

Have a story to share on how you learned more about your energy use? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

Take Steps to Prepare for Severe Winter Weather

When temperatures drop, winter storms that bring snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, which can cause outages. During a power outage, Jackson EMC works to resolve power as quickly as conditions and safety procedures allow. Consider these tips to prepare for winter storms:



Prepare at least a three-day supply of food

in your household that doesn't require cooking. Canned goods, cereal, crackers and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person per day should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.



Ensure you have enough medication,

including prescription medication, for at least three days or more. If your medication requires refrigeration or you have medical equipment that requires electricity, create a backup plan in the event of an extended power outage.



Pack an emergency supply kit in your vehicle

that includes a cell phone charger, first-aid kit, jumper cables, flares, water, snacks, flashlight, blanket, shovel, gloves, boots, warm clothing and ice scraper. In extreme winter conditions, avoid driving on roads unless it's necessary.



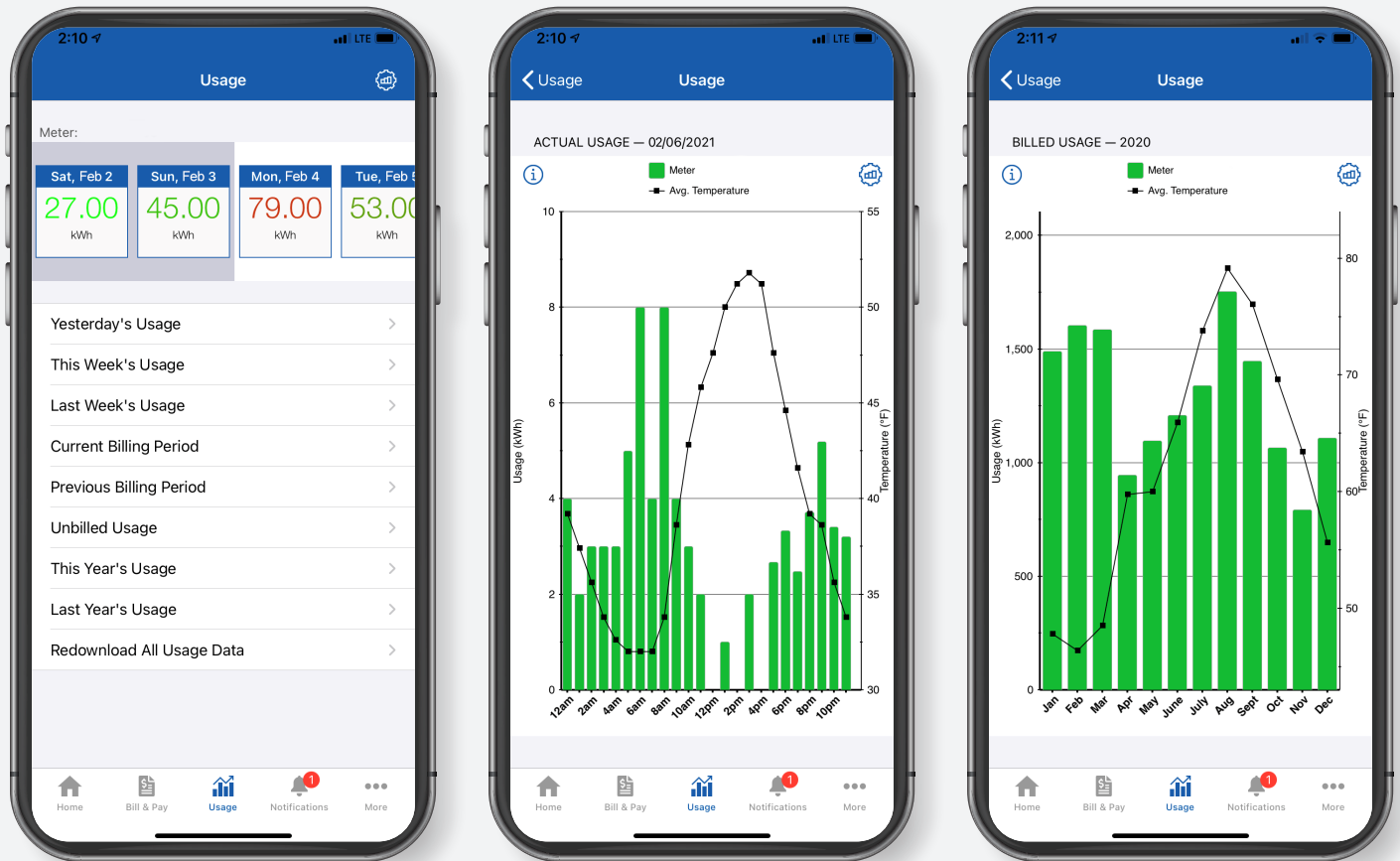
Prepare your vehicle for cold temperatures

by having a mechanic check its antifreeze levels, battery, brakes, exhaust system, filters, lights, oil, windshield wipers and tires.

In the event of a power outage, you can view or report outages by visiting outage.jacksonemc.com, calling 1-800-245-4044 or by using the MyJacksonEMC website or mobile app.

MASTER YOUR ENERGY USE KNOWLEDGE *with MyJacksonEMC*

One of the most valuable tools you can use to master your energy use knowledge is at your fingertips. With the MyJacksonEMC website and mobile app, you can view your energy use to help you better understand and improve your energy use habits. The tools in MyJacksonEMC allow you to compare your energy use in relation to daily weather temperatures. Typically, you'll use more energy to heat or cool your home when weather temperatures are extremely low or high.



MyJacksonEMC allows you to view your energy use by the hour, day, month or specific date range.

**To get started, download the MyJacksonEMC mobile app on the App Store
or Google Play, or visit MyJacksonEMC.com.**



VISIT [MYJACKSONEMC.COM/INSTRUCTIONS/ENERGYUSE](https://www.myjacksonemc.com/instructions/energyuse) FOR DETAILS.



TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ENERGY COSTS

With a new year, you may be looking closer at your energy costs. You can take steps to help control your energy use, and in turn, lower your monthly bill. Jackson EMC offers several tools to help you master your monthly bill.

VIEW YOUR ENERGY USE

Use the tools on the MyJacksonEMC website and mobile app to view your energy use, which can help you identify how you can improve your energy use habits.



View at MyJacksonEMC.com, or in the MyJacksonEMC mobile app

APPLY FOR A REBATE

Making an energy efficient home improvement? Rebates for electric water heaters, heat pumps (starting at 15 S.E.E.R.) and home energy evaluations are available to Jackson EMC members. Be sure to contact us before making a purchase.



Learn more at jacksonemc.com/rebates

GET A PERSONALIZED ENERGY USE REPORT

Use our interactive home energy monitor to get a personalized report about your energy use at home and what you can do to save on your monthly bill.



Get started at jacksonemc.com/monitor

WATCH DIY ENERGY EFFICIENCY VIDEOS

Learn from TV host and home expert Ty Pennington as he talks about saving energy with water heaters, smart thermostats, lighting, insulation and more.



Watch at jacksonemc.com/tytalks

COMPLETE OUR DIY HOME CHECKUP CHECKLIST

Use our checklist to help examine your home's energy efficiency. The checklist helps to identify areas you may want to consider improving to lower your energy use.



Download at jacksonemc.com/kit



WEATHER

Mother Nature can be a tough opponent. Severe weather—like thunderstorms and tropical storms—can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines, resulting in a power outage. Winter storms that cause ice or snow to accumulate on power lines can also result in an interruption of service.

LIGHTNING

Poles, wires, transformers and other electrical equipment are easy targets for lightning strikes, causing severe damage and power outages. Lightning may also strike trees, causing limbs or large trees to fall onto power lines.

ANIMALS

Animals, especially squirrels, can cause power to fail when they come in contact with specific parts of our electrical system. When a critter contacts this equipment, it creates an abnormal current that can disrupt the flow of power to your home or business. We use guards and barriers to protect sensitive power equipment, however, some critters still find a way to cause damage.

EQUIPMENT FAILURE

We proactively service and update our equipment to ensure it's in working order, but sometimes equipment failures occur across our distribution system. Jackson EMC has more than 14,000 miles of energized power lines in 10 counties. We also maintain 81 substations. When an outage occurs, crews are dispatched to repair or replace affected equipment as quickly as conditions and safety procedures allow.

TREES

Trees falling on power lines or tree limbs coming in contact with power lines are a cause of power outages or brief disruptions that cause power to flicker. Jackson EMC works throughout the year to clear trees and vegetation to reduce these types of outages.

What Causes Power Outages?

Jackson EMC provides reliable, uninterrupted electrical power to our members. But sometimes, storms, vehicle accidents – and even squirrels – can cause a power outage.

Jackson EMC monitors our distribution system 24/7 for potential disruptions. When needed, these crews work to restore outages as quickly as conditions and safety procedures allow. State-of-the-art technology also enables us to spot outages remotely and dispatch crews if needed. When outages occur, they're more likely to be the result of one of these common causes.

To view or report an outage, contact Jackson EMC by visiting outage.jacksonemc.com, calling 1-800-245-4044 or by using the MyJacksonEMC

VEHICLES

Unfortunately, power outages can occur when vehicles crash into a utility pole. A broken or damaged pole can cause power lines to fall or damage other electrical equipment. On average, it takes crews four hours to replace a broken pole.

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$92,808 in grants

during its December meeting, including \$85,908 to organizations and \$6,900 to individuals.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | American Red Cross, to provide disaster relief, including food, shelter, personal needs items and clothing, to families in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties who have lost their home due to a fire.

\$15,000 | Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier, Inc., in Hall County for its Success Academy program to provide tutoring and educational enrichment activities for youth to achieve success in math and reading.

\$15,000 | Madison County Senior Center, to provide assistance to purchase a vehicle for its Meals on Wheels program, which delivers hot, nutritious, mid-day

meals five days per week to home-bound or disabled senior citizens.

\$10,000 | Angel House of Georgia, Inc., a Gainesville recovery residence for women with alcohol and/or drug addiction, to enable indigent women with no financial resources or support in the counties served by Jackson EMC to participate in the program by covering entrance fees and one month of living expenses, offering these women a second chance at life so they can become productive members of society.

\$10,000 | Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission, Inc., in Buford, a ministry that collects and distributes clothes, food and furniture to needy families in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties, to help with rent on the building housing the mission's inventory.

\$10,000 | Our Neighbor, Inc., a Gainesville nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting young adults with special challenges to reach their maximum level of independence, to assist with its independent living program for residents with disabilities.

\$5,908 | Athens-Clarke County High School Completion Initiative, Inc., whose mission is to reduce high school dropout and increase the readiness of at-risk, low-income youth for post-secondary pursuits, for its Education Matters Radio-Athens program, which trains young people in the field of mass media and audio production to create radio programming.

\$5,000 | Adults Protecting Children, Inc., to provide workbooks and resource materials for the Stewards of Children program, which offers child sexual abuse prevention training in Banks, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall and Lumpkin counties.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$5,000 to replace a HVAC unit for a senior citizen.

\$1,900 to provide assistance replacing a heating system for a senior citizen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING LATEST GRANT AWARDS AND HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION.

Community Impact: MADISON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

Delivering hot meals five days a week to homebound or disabled senior citizens can put a lot of miles on vehicles. And with more people needing its services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Madison County Senior Center needed some help.

Thanks to a grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation, the senior center's Meals on Wheels program will soon have an additional vehicle to use to deliver meals to seniors. The Foundation recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Madison County Senior Center to help buy a vehicle for its Meals on Wheels program. The Madison County Board of Commissioners and the Senior Center Advisory Council are also contributing to the new vehicle.

"It's an important program and resource for the county," said Kelsey Tyner, director of the Madison County Senior Center. "We need reliable transportation."

During the week, drivers for the senior center take freshly prepared meals to participating seniors across Madison County. For many participants, the lunchtime deliveries may be their only social interaction that day, Tyner said.

"We're not only bringing them a nutritious meal, but we're also checking on them to ensure they're OK," she added.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, requests for hot meals have increased, Tyner said. The Madison County Senior Center is now serving 93 clients – compared to 58 clients before the pandemic started. And with more clients, has come more mileage. The Danielsville-based Meals on Wheels program now travels an estimated 3,000 miles a month to deliver meals to clients.

With a new vehicle, the program will continue to make a difference for senior citizens in need of a friendly visit and hot meal, especially as many clients to continue to social distance, Tyner added.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MADISON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER, VISIT FACEBOOK.COM/MADISONCOUNTYSENIORS.



Things to consider when buying a home security system

Considering your options for home security? When it comes to protecting your home, EMC Security offers some questions to ask as you evaluate your options.

- 1 Is the System Professionally Monitored?**
With round-the-clock monitoring, if there's an emergency, the alarm will send an alert to EMC Security so both you and emergency responders can be immediately notified.
- 2 What Hazards Does the System Monitor?**
Besides a home intrusion or emergency, home security systems can be equipped with technology to monitor for hazards like fires, carbon monoxide and water leaks.
- 3 What Happens if the System Malfunctions?**
If your security system isn't working properly, a repair may be needed. With EMC Security, technicians can be dispatched to troubleshoot your system, and in some cases, issues may be fixed remotely.
- 4 Does it Include Smart Home Devices?**
Smart home technology can include a wide range of devices – from smart locks and thermostats to video doorbells and cameras. When evaluating options for a home security system, consider an EMC Security system that allows you to use an app to control your smart home technology and home security system.





HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT HOME SECURITY? CONTACT EMC SECURITY AT 770-963-0305 OR VISIT EMCSECURITY.COM.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Vanilla Wafer Cake



- INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 box (11 oz.) vanilla wafers, crushed
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 2 sticks butter, softened
 - 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 - 1 cup milk
 - 6 eggs

DIRECTIONS:
Cream sugar and butter together. Add eggs one at a time. Beat mixture after each egg. Add crushed vanilla wafers, milk and vanilla extract. Mix well. Spray pan. Pour into Bundt pan or two loaf pans. Bake at 300 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.

“ I got this recipe from an aunt many years ago. It's so good with a cup of coffee. ”

— KATHY EGAN, HULL



**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.**

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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Share Your Favorite Recipes with *JEMCO News*

Did you know the recipes featured in *JEMCO News* are submitted by Jackson EMC members? For decades, we've been sharing members' favorite recipes in *JEMCO News*. You can be a part of this tradition by submitting your favorite recipes.

We take recipes submitted by members and try them ourselves. The selected monthly winner receives a chef-worthy prize package.

This year, selected winners will receive a prize package that includes a pressure cooker/air fryer combo and other kitchen goodies from Jackson EMC.

Send us your recipes, with your name, address and daytime phone number to: Cooperative Cooking, Jackson EMC, P.O. Box 38, Jefferson, GA 30549, or send an email to *JEMCO News* editor Kerri Testament at recipes@jacksonemc.com.

