

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



**AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY:**  
*How Electricity  
Travels to your Home*

## **MARCH 2023 | IN THIS ISSUE**

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RECEIVE YOUR BILL FASTER & REDUCE PAPER CLUTTER WITH PAPERLESS BILLING

WIRING CONTEST GIVES STUDENTS REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

GET YEAR-ROUND SAVINGS WHEN YOU SHIFT YOUR ENERGY USE



# PLANNING AHEAD

I look forward to seeing the trees and flowers spring back this time of year. Even with Georgia's wild weather patterns, we know that warmer days are ahead. And here at Jackson EMC, it's also the time of year that we look forward and plan for the growth that will impact your cooperative.

Ultimately, we're here to supply you with reliable electricity – and that's what we do every day. To keep the lights on, we balance our energy resources and plan for the future. Jackson EMC members are powered by a mix of energy resources, including natural gas, solar, nuclear and hydroelectricity. This variety gives us the flexibility we need to adapt to change.

We're ready to respond when there are extreme temperature changes. Within the past year, we've experienced two record-setting peaks for energy use – both occurring on extreme weather days. The first took place in June when we experienced very high temperatures and humidity. The second occurred in late

December, right around Christmas Eve, when deeply cold temperatures and frigid winds drove temperatures down into the single digits.

We do our best to prepare our system for those kinds of events and I'm proud of our engineering and operations team, which designs, operates and maintains our system. We recently reviewed our reliability statistics, which showed that our system performed at a 99.99% reliability rating. That's about as close to 100% as you can get! And that doesn't happen by accident. It takes hard work, dedication, planning, good stewardship, and commitment throughout the year to build and maintain an electric system that performs at that level.

If there was an electric co-op equivalent of an Academy Award, our engineering and operations team deserves one. For a job well done, I want to thank all the great folks in that area. It starts with the leaders in engineering and operations:

Joe Dorough, Tommy Parker, Jonathan Weaver and Lori McCutcheon. They lead an outstanding group of incredible people who work tirelessly to produce industry-leading, reliable electricity for our members. Everyone does a great job keeping the lights on for our members and I want to thank every member of that team: Our linemen, foremen, superintendents, technical services, engineers, staking technicians, mappers, system control operators, right of way crews, field service representatives, clerks, and administrative and support staff. Way to go team and keep up the great work!

**Have a story to share on how your family prepares for severe weather? Email me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

**Chip Jakins, President/CEO**

## Receive Your Bill Faster & Reduce Paper Clutter with Paperless Billing

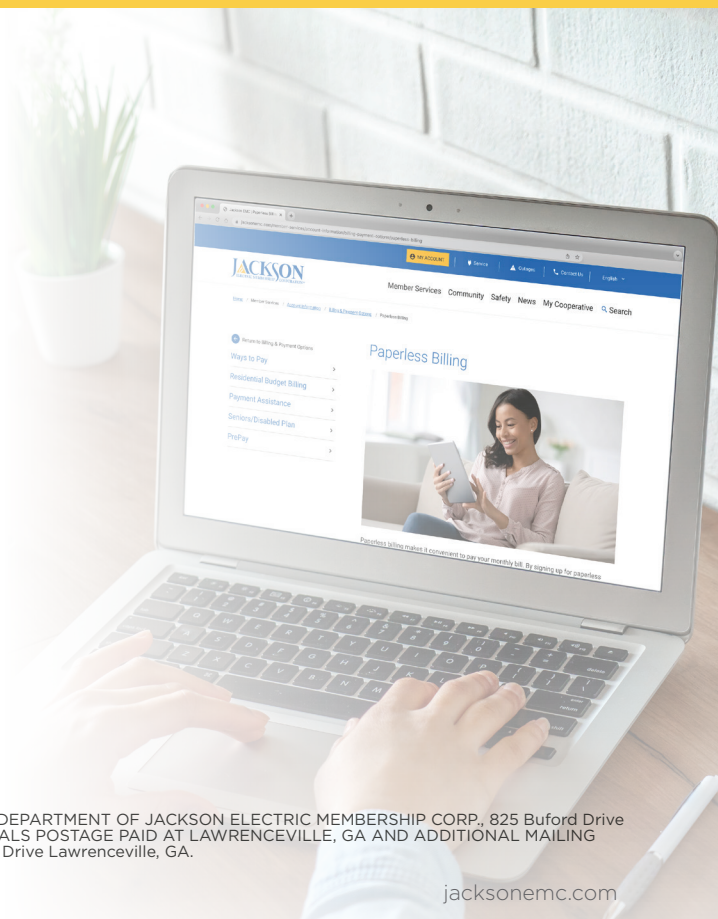
**When you enroll in Jackson EMC's paperless billing program, you can say "goodbye" to paper clutter.**

You'll be able to access your bill any time, any place, even if you're out of town. With paperless billing, you'll be notified electronically as soon as your bill is ready to view. You don't need to wait on a paper bill statement to be delivered to your mailbox.

To enroll in paperless billing, log in to the MyJacksonEMC mobile app or visit MyJacksonEMC.com. On the app, select "Settings" then "Paperless Bill Settings" to sign up for paperless billing. On the website, select "My Profile" then "Update My Printed Bill Settings" and choose your paperless billing preference.



LEARN MORE AT [JACKSONEMC.COM/PAPERLESS](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/PAPERLESS)  
OR CALL **JACKSON EMC AT 1-800-462-3691** FOR ASSISTANCE.



# Empowering Others

Members may be more familiar with seeing men working on our lines as the face of Jackson EMC, but there are many influential women who hold impactful roles at the cooperative.

We asked some of the women at Jackson EMC serving our community about who inspires them and what they bring to the power industry.



**Hannah Ellis**  
Customer Service Representative, Gainesville

**Q:** Tell us about a woman who has inspired you.

**A:** "My first inspiration came from my mother and my grandmother. They created a foundation of values and demonstrated the importance of sacrifices, perseverance, hard work, determination, compassion, and endless love. As a result of their inspiration and support, I became the first in our family to obtain a college degree, and have been able to reach countless other goals. Throughout my career, I've been fortunate to work with many remarkable women who have inspired and encouraged me."

**Karen James**  
Customer Service Representative, Neese

**Q:** What's the most important message you want young women to understand?

**A:** "Tell yourself you can do it. You will be so satisfied by doing all you can for yourself and the community around you."



**Beauty Baldwin**  
Jackson EMC Foundation, Board Member

**Q:** What's the most important message you want young women to understand?

**A:** "My motto is God put us on the earth to serve others and that's what I try to do every day."

**Jean Mullis**  
District Manager, Neese

**Q:** What's the most important message you want young women to understand?

**A:** "I have observed women at electric cooperatives recognize that while they generally are in the minority, they have not let that prevent them from being impactful in the roles they serve in. Part of that impact is paving the road for other women in the co-op to be hired and promoted by mentoring and setting a great example for others to follow."



**Joana Castaneda**  
District Administrative Assistant, Jefferson

**Q:** Where do you see opportunities for women to have STEM-based careers at Jackson EMC?

**A:** "Jackson EMC has many different opportunities where women can grow their careers for example as an engineer, technical services professional and many other different opportunities."





## ***AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY:***

# ***How Electricity Travels to your Home***

When you flip a switch, the electricity traveling to your lights has already made an incredible journey through a network of equipment and lines to get to your home or business. Jackson EMC has more than 14,800 miles of energized lines that bring power to you — our members. Follow along the journey of how electricity gets to you.

## **Generation**

The process begins when electricity is produced at a generation facility, or power plant. Power can be generated from a variety of sources including coal, natural gas and nuclear, or renewable sources like hydro, wind and solar energy. Electricity can't be efficiently stored, so it must be generated, transmitted, and distributed to homes and businesses the moment it's needed.

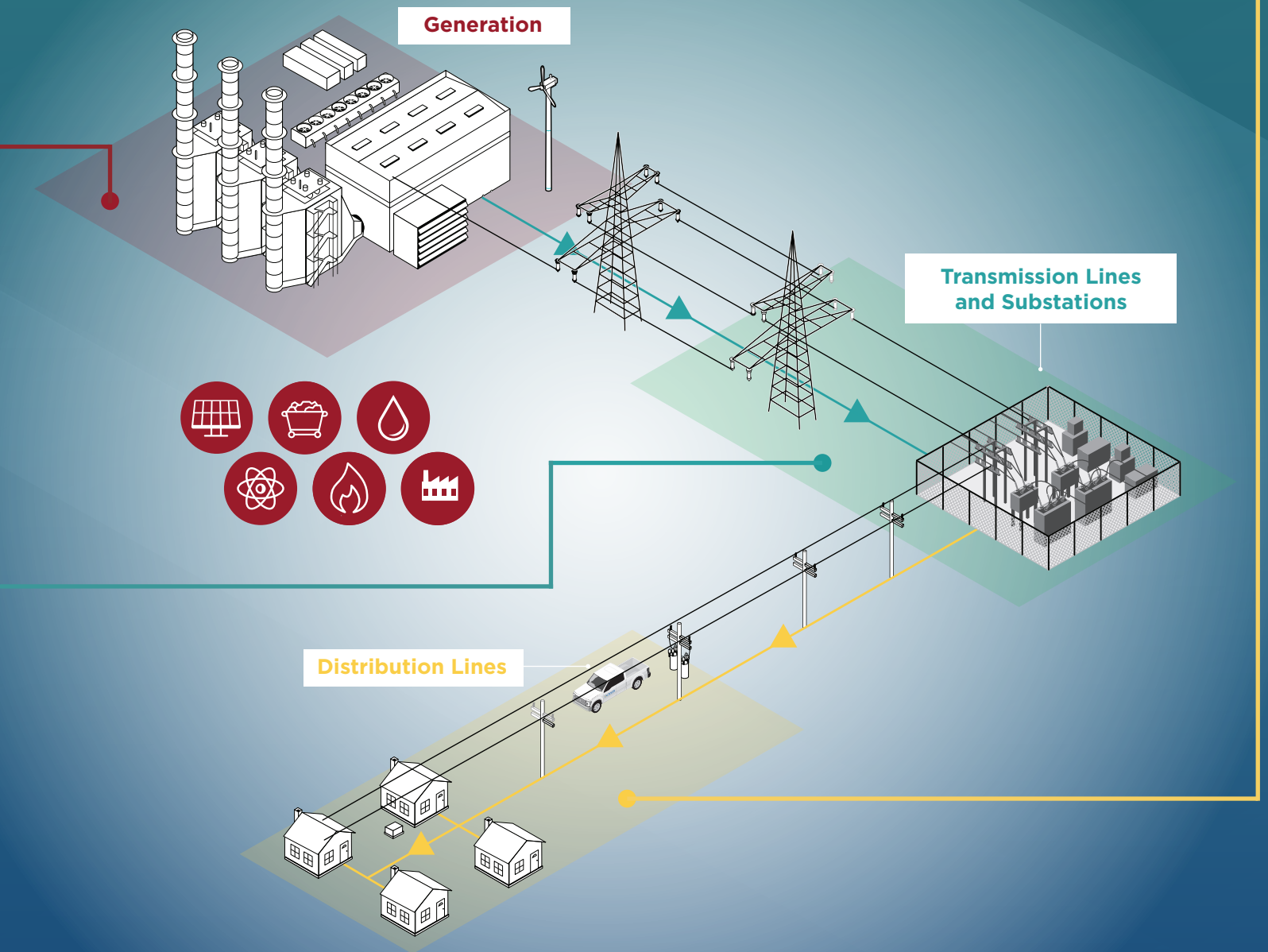
## **Transmission Lines and Substations**

After the electricity is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission power lines. Tall metal transmission towers keep the power lines that carry electricity far off the ground, and “electricity barriers” called insulators (made of glass or porcelain) keep the electric current from leaving the power lines and entering the metal towers. Transmission lines use voltages as high as 500,000 volts to allow the electricity to travel long distances, often hundreds of miles, to transmission and distribution substations.

Distribution substations reduce voltage through large transformers to a voltage that is manageable for distribution power lines, typically 12,000 to 15,000 volts. Each of Jackson EMC's 81 substations may serve hundreds or thousands of members.

# Distribution

Once the voltage is lowered, electricity travels along distribution power lines. You can often see distribution power lines while traveling along roadways, often accompanied by transformers mounted on a pole. Distribution lines may also be buried in neighborhoods and use underground service transformers inside green metal boxes. Transformers lower the voltage to 120 or 240 volts so it can be used easily by consumers. Electricity travels from a nearby transformer via service lines to a meter at your home or business. Once in your home, the electricity is distributed through your house's electrical system, allowing you to turn on the power when you need it.



# Community Impact Lydia's Place

For many young people who age out of foster care, stability and independence can be hard to come by. Lydia's Place, a nonprofit organization based in Watkinsville, gives hope and security to young adults aged 17-24 who have experienced homelessness or foster care.

"Statistically, many [young adults that have aged out of foster care or have experienced homelessness] will end up will end up incarcerated, homeless or as young unprepared parents," said Kelly Brannen, executive director of Lydia's Place. "A small bit of help could change the trajectory of someone's life."

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation, 20-25 young adults in Barrow and Clarke counties in need will have access to safe and stable housing, mentorship and independent living skills training. "We are very excited for the impact this will make," Brannen said. "We are so grateful for partners like you!"

Lydia's Place currently has eight apartments and provides 15 students at a time with safe and stable housing with plans to triple capacity in the next two years through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Other programs for these young adults include access to a boutique with clothes and home goods where students and young people in foster care can shop free of charge, counseling services, dental care, tutors for school and the opportunity for driving lessons.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LYDIA'S PLACE, VISIT [LYDIAS-PLACE.COM](http://LYDIAS-PLACE.COM).

## Time-of-Use Rate: Get Year-Round Savings When You Shift Energy Use

**Looking for ways to save on your energy bill?** You can save money throughout the year just by changing when you do your laundry, cool your home or wash your dishes during the summer. Jackson EMC's Time-of-Use rate is an option for members who can use less energy during peak demand times in the summer.

With the Time-of-Use rate, your rate is lower on weekends, nights and mornings from June 1 to September 15. During

peak hours (3 to 8 p.m. on weekdays) when electricity is most expensive, your rate is higher for using electricity. In the fall, winter and spring, you'll pay a low, flat residential rate - regardless of when or how much electricity you use.

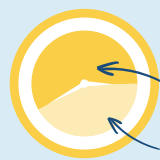
To reduce peak energy demand and save money, Jackson EMC created its Time-of-Use rate program to encourage electricity use during off-peak hours - when energy is less expensive to provide.

Using less on-peak power means lower costs for the co-op, and ultimately, lower rates for members.

Time-of-Use is an option for members who can significantly shift when they use electricity during the summer, especially using their air conditioner, washer and dryer and dishwasher. Sign up for the Time-of-Use rate by May 1 by calling 1-800-462-3691 or visiting your local Jackson EMC office.



**REGULAR RESIDENTIAL RATE**  
(Year-Round)  
8.06¢-11.66¢



**TIME-OF-USE RATE**  
(June 1-Sept. 15)  
7.35¢ (8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.)  
34.35¢ (3-8 p.m. weekdays)



**TIME-OF-USE RATE**  
(Sept. 16-May 31)  
7.35¢ (all hours)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/TIME-OF-USE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/TIME-OF-USE).



# Wired for Success

## Contest Gives Students Real-World Experiences

Participating in a wiring competition teaches students focus, discipline and perseverance - whether they're preparing for a career as an electrician or another industry.

High school students in Jackson EMC's service area participate in the Region 2 EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event. The hands-on competition includes a timed wiring exercise that test students' knowledge of the National Electric Code, a speech describing the steps to complete an electric wiring task and an exam.

"Jackson EMC has sponsored a wiring contest to encourage students to learn about electricity and wirings since 1967," said Karen Ewing, Jackson EMC's community relations representative. "Students learn about the safe and efficient use of electricity, while getting connected with the cooperative, which could be a part of their future career paths."

Banks County High School senior Matthew Anderson won the regional competition in February and Jefferson High School junior Abigail Foreman placed second overall in the event. Both students advanced to the state competition, where Anderson placed first in the state.

"FFA, and specifically the wiring contest, has helped open doors for me and encouraged me into STEM-based careers," said Anderson, who plans to attend Emmanuel College after graduation.

"I first learned wiring from my grandfather, who was an electrician," said Foreman, who plans to attend medical school and specialize in pathology and forensics.

Students often use the Wiring Contest as a springboard into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. Tan Tonge, a graduate of Jefferson High School, won the regional competition in 2017 and advanced to the state competition, where he placed third. He's now an emerging technologies engineer for Oglethorpe Power, a power supply cooperative serving 38 electric membership cooperatives in Georgia, including Jackson EMC.

Any active FFA member enrolled in a high school agriculture education class is eligible to participate in the wiring contest. The top two individuals in each region's wiring contest go to the state competition.



FFA Region 2 Wiring Contest Winner Matthew Anderson (right), Banks County High School, is shown with his FFA advisor Christopher Crump (left).



Abigail Foreman, Jefferson High School, placed second overall.

YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID

## MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

### Enchiladas



“ My Aunt Mabel was an amazing cook and was always trying something new. This was her favorite recipe on Friday nights for football games. ”

— ADRIANE LOGSDON, WINDER

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 large onion
- 1 15 oz. can of chili with beans
- 2 10 oz. cans of enchilada sauce (mild, medium or hot)
- 12 large flour tortillas
- 1 lb. shredded sharp cheddar cheese

#### DIRECTIONS:

Chop onion and fry with meat. After the meat is cooked, add the can of chili. Spread some enchilada sauce on the bottom of a 13x9 baking dish. Put 1/4 to 1/3 cup of meat mixture with a little cheese in each tortilla and roll up. Place in baking dish. Cover with enchilada sauce and sprinkle cheese on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.



**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  
[JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES).