

JEMICO news



Bright Ideas Grants
INSPIRE
Classroom Creativity

MAY 2025 | IN THIS ISSUE

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WHAT MAKES A COOPERATIVE DIFFERENT?

Not long ago, someone asked me, “What makes Jackson EMC different from other power companies?” It’s a great question — and it goes to the heart of who we are.

We’re a cooperative, which means everything we do starts with serving our members. That guiding difference has shaped Jackson EMC since its beginning in 1938 and it’s what continues to set us apart today.

When you receive electric service from Jackson EMC, you’re not just a customer — you’re a member. That might sound like a small word change, but being a member means having a voice — and a stake. Every decision we make is centered around how we can bring the most value to you and your family.

One of the biggest ways we do that is by keeping your costs low. We work hard to provide reliable electricity at some of the most affordable rates in Georgia. According to the latest data, Jackson EMC members save an average of \$25 per month compared to the state average for electric utilities. That adds up to meaningful savings throughout the year, especially during high-use seasons, like summer.

We know that every dollar counts for your family. Keeping electric rates affordable helps ease your budget and brings peace of mind. Since we’re a cooperative, when our costs go down, your benefits go up.

As a cooperative, we operate as a not-for-profit entity. Each year, when our revenues exceed expenses, those funds are returned to you through margin refunds. Over time, we’ve returned more than \$220 million to our members.

What also sets us apart is how we serve. We take pride in offering you super-personalized service that makes a difference. When you call us, you’re speaking with someone who lives right here in our community — someone who cares and is ready to help. Whether it’s answering questions about your bill, helping you find ways to save energy or replacing a security light in your backyard, our employees are committed to treating you like family.

When the unexpected happens — like a storm or outage — our crews are ready. Because they’re local, they can respond quickly and work safely to restore your power. That kind of care and responsiveness isn’t just part of our job — it’s who we are.

We’re also proud of the impact we make beyond the power lines. Through Bright Ideas grants, we help bring innovative learning to middle school classrooms. Through Operation Round Up®, your spare change supports local charities doing incredible work — from feeding families to helping those in need.

At Jackson EMC, we don’t just deliver electricity. We build relationships, invest in innovation and support the communities we serve — because that’s what a cooperative does. The power belongs to you. And we’re proud to serve you with the care, speed and support you deserve. We’re proud to be your cooperative. And we’re honored to serve you.

Have a story to share about how the cooperative made a difference for your home or community? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com.



CHIP JAKINS
President & CEO

Jackson EMC: Top Value, Trusted Service

We’re proud to rank #5 for the lowest rates among Georgia cooperatives and in the top 15% for affordability among all electric providers in the state.

At Jackson EMC, we’re committed to giving you more than just power — we deliver reliable electricity at some of the most affordable rates in Georgia.

Recent data shows that Jackson EMC members save an average of \$25 per month compared to the state average for electric utilities.*

What does that mean for you? Great value, year-round. With Jackson EMC, you get:

- **Reliable power backed by local crews and proven infrastructure**
- **Efficient operations that help keep rates low**
- **Innovative programs that help you manage and reduce energy use**
- **Member-focused service from people who live and work in your community**

And even during high-demand months, like summer, our rates stay competitive — helping you stay comfortable without overspending.

Summer RATES IN EFFECT⁺

(May-September)

First 650 kWh:
8.81 cents per kWh

Next 350 kWh:
11.06 cents per kWh

Over 1,000 kWh:
11.66 cents per kWh

⁺The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment, service charge and applicable taxes are also part of your total electric bill.

^{*}Georgia Public Service Commission’s Residential Rate Survey for Summer 2024 in the category for household electric consumption at 1,500 kWh per month.

Be in The Know

4 Tools to Power Your Peace of Mind

As a Jackson EMC member, you have access to several tools and resources designed to make managing your energy use easier and more efficient. Whether you're trying to lower your electric bill, tackle a home project, or prepare for the seasons ahead, these services can help you take control of your home's energy use — and your budget.

Here are just a few resources every Jackson EMC member should know about:

MyJacksonEMC Mobile App and Website:

MyJacksonEMC makes it easier to pay your bill, report and view outages, monitor your energy use and manage your account, whether using your smartphone or a desktop computer.

 Visit [MyJacksonEMC.com](https://www.jacksonemc.com), or download the free app in the App Store or Google Play.

Home Energy Monitor: This no-cost interactive program on Jackson EMC's website breaks down how your home is using energy and what you can do to save energy. By providing your account information and completing your energy use profile, you'll get a personalized report analyzing your bill, an energy forecast of your anticipated energy use and tips to save energy. "The Home Energy Monitor really helps members better understand their energy habits guides them on how they can save energy," said Christy Queen, Jackson EMC's director of residential marketing.

 Visit [jacksonemc.com/monitor](https://www.jacksonemc.com/monitor).

Outage Map: Need to report a power outage? Simply pull up the outage map from our website or within the MyJacksonEMC mobile app or website. You'll find information about where outages are reported and how you can report an outage.

 Visit [outage.jacksonemc.com](https://www.outage.jacksonemc.com).

Contractor Network: If you're making energy-efficient upgrades or performing seasonal maintenance, our Contractor Network makes it easier to find a reliable local contractor for your HVAC and installation needs.

 Visit [jacksonemc.com/contractors](https://www.jacksonemc.com/contractors).





Bright Ideas Grants

INSPIRE

Classroom Creativity

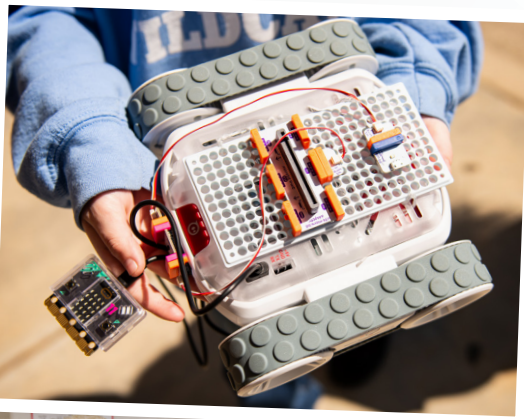
Great ideas can light up a classroom — and Jackson EMC is proud to help make that happen.

This school year, Jackson EMC awarded \$71,956 in Bright Ideas grants to 55 teachers at 29 middle schools, fueling hands-on learning experiences that ignite curiosity and creativity. Since 2015, Jackson EMC has invested more than \$620,000 in supporting innovative classroom projects that wouldn't be funded otherwise.

At Jackson EMC, we're committed to powering potential in our communities. These grants help local educators bring learning to life — whether it's a new science experiment or a creative project.



LEARN MORE AT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS](https://www.jacksonemc.com/brightideas) OR
SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THE FULL LIST OF GRANT WINNERS.



PAULA TRUEB **\$1,796**



HAYMON-MORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Barrow County

Computer science teacher Paula Trueb used her Bright Ideas grant to purchase programmable robots that students coded for specific activities. Her grant allowed students to use real-world data to program robots for hands-on engineering challenges and problem solving. "As they worked through the activities, I loved the insightful discussions of a how a modification [to the coding] might enhance a solution and the different ways the robot could be used," Trueb said.



DANA HARRELL

\$1,917

SWEETWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Gwinnett County

Dana Harrell used her Bright Ideas grant funds to purchase Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, foldable pianos and a game-friendly app to teach her piano students how to stay on beat with a song. “Kids love technology and the VR headsets are so fun . . . [because] they place colored notes on their keyboard and the app tracks their success with performing songs,” Harrell said. “The folding pianos are also amazing because they give students a chance to play on a full-size keyboard and to perform outside of the classroom without pushing a big acoustic piano.” Harrell has received several Bright Ideas grants for music education at different schools. “The things we have been able to do with the support of Jackson EMC and the Bright Ideas grant program over the years are some of the best memories my students have made,” she said.



LISA JONES

\$740

C.W. DAVIS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Hall County

When a small area near a forest was recently cleared by her school, Lisa Jones saw it as an opportunity to go deeper with her science students in their soil and erosion units. Using her Bright Ideas grant funds, Jones purchased equipment to measure soil samples. Students measured soil health in the undisturbed forested area and the cleared site by measuring pH, moisture, soil texture and permeability. They analyzed their results and developed soil erosion plans. “Students absolutely loved this project,” Jones said. “They enjoyed researching and experimenting to explore the world around them. They were very excited! They loved taking the concepts they learned inside the classroom and applying them to their own environment.”



On the cover, Dana Harrell
and her students at
Sweetwater Middle School.

\$101,633 IN GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$101,633 in grants to organizations during a recent meeting.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$10,000 to Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Too, Inc., which serves individuals with injuries, illnesses or physical disabilities by providing mobility and daily living aids for its home medical equipment program for residents in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties.

\$10,000 to Hi-Hope Service Center, Inc., Lawrenceville, which serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for its nursing support program for Gwinnett County residents.

\$10,000 to The Next Stop Foundation, Inc., Flowery Branch, which serves adults with special needs for its services for residents in Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties.

\$9,840 to Annandale at Suwanee, which supports adults with developmental disabilities and brain injuries for its independent living program for Gwinnett County residents.

\$9,300 to Creative Enterprises, Inc., Lawrenceville, which serves individuals with disabilities and other employment barriers for its day program for residents in Barrow and Gwinnett counties.

\$8,790 to SISU of Georgia, Inc., Gainesville, which serves children through innovative educational, therapeutic, nursing and family support services for its Therasuit program for residents in Banks, Hall, Jackson and Madison counties.

\$8,500 to Angel House of Georgia, Inc., Gainesville, which serves women recovering from addiction for entry to its program for residents in Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties.

\$8,303 to Love. Craft Athens, which serves adults with developmental disabilities for its music therapy program for residents in Clarke, Jackson and Madison counties.

\$7,500 to Athens Area Diaper Bank, Inc., which provides diapers to low-income families for residents in Clarke County residents.

\$7,000 to Hope for the Journey of North Metro, Inc., Lawrenceville, which serves individuals diagnosed with cancer and their caregivers for its Hope for the Journey Program for residents in Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties.

\$7,500 to Mercy Health Center, Inc., Athens, which provides healthcare services for underserved residents in Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties to cover lab fees.

\$2,500 to Wheelchairs 4 Kids, which serves children with physical disabilities for its medical equipment program for Gwinnett County residents.

\$2,400 to Northeast Georgia Speech Center, Inc., Gainesville, which provides therapeutic activities for children with communication impairments for therapy sessions for residents in Hall County.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY IMPACT: PARTNERSHIP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (PADV)



While working at a YWCA in 1975, Susan May noticed a critical need: a lack of support for women seeking refuge from domestic violence. Determined to help, she laid the foundation for what would become Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV).

Today, as PADV celebrates its 50th year of operation, it stands as Georgia's largest and longest-standing nonprofit dedicated to ending domestic violence. The organization operates two emergency shelters in Fulton and Gwinnett counties, along with supportive housing programs, legal advocacy and outreach initiatives. PADV also leads prevention efforts through school education programs, law enforcement partnerships and counseling services designed to break the cycle of violence.

A recent \$10,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation supported PADV's emergency shelter program, providing essential client assistance, and helping survivors and their children find safety and stability as they rebuild their lives.

“The grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation allows us to meet survivors where they are, addressing the barriers that stand between them and a fresh start,” said Navvab McDaniels, grants facilitator. “Whether it’s helping with household expenses, car repairs, or education costs, these funds provide life-changing support.”



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PARTNERSHIP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, VISIT PADV.ORG.



No Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Cookies



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ¾ cups white sugar
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup margarine
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 3 cups quick-cooking oats
- ½ cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

Line a baking sheet with wax paper. Bring sugar, milk, margarine and cocoa powder to a boil in a large saucepan for 1 1/2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in oats, peanut butter and vanilla extract until dough is evenly mixed.

Drop tablespoonfuls of mixture in a prepared baking dish and let rest until cooled and set (about 50 minutes).

"My two boys love peanut butter and oatmeal, so when I found this recipe I knew it would be a hit. And, it has a lot of nutrition in it. It has become a family favorite and my sons, now 52 and 47, still request it."

-BARBARA THOMAS, Hull

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



THE SOLAR SCOOP: What You Need to Know Before You Install

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR



As solar grows in popularity, some companies make promises that sound amazing — and often aren't true. Keep these red flags in mind when speaking with any solar installer:

- **"No electric bill" or "free solar panels":** These claims are misleading. Homes using solar power still rely on supplemental electricity from the grid — especially at night or on cloudy days — so completely eliminating a bill is unlikely.
- **High-pressure sales tactics:** Never feel rushed into signing a contract. Take your time to read the details, confirm licensing and check for reviews or complaints with the Better Business Bureau.
- **Unclear maintenance plans:** Be cautious if the company doesn't explain who maintains your system or what happens if it breaks. Keeping your system working efficiently over time is key to making your investment worthwhile.

Powering your home with solar energy is a big decision — but you don't have to figure it out alone. As a member-owner of Jackson EMC, you have access to local energy experts who are here to help you make smart, confident choices.

Whether you're just getting started or seriously considering installation, we're here with super-personalized care — from your first question to final connection.

HOW JACKSON EMC SUPPORTS YOU



Before making any decisions, talk to us. We're your local, trusted partner — and we want solar to work for you.

- **Free solar assessment tool:** Try our rooftop solar tool at jacksonemc.com/renewables to get personalized insights based on your location — like estimated solar output, payback timelines and what you could still expect on your electric bill.
- **Real conversations with real people:** Our team knows what works — and what doesn't — for solar in our region. Call us at 1-800-462-3691, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and let's talk through your goals.
- **Safe and seamless grid connection:** Before you install, we'll help with an interconnection agreement to make sure your system works safely with our grid — and that you understand any applicable rates or fees.



LEARN MORE AT
JACKSONEMC.COM/RENEWABLES
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET STARTED.



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YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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Grow Summer Savings: A Home Energy Guide

Just like your summer garden, your home needs a little care and attention to thrive in the heat. Georgia summers can drive up energy use, but with a few smart habits, you can help your home stay cool and keep your energy bills from growing out of control.

Use Ceiling Fans Wisely

Ceiling fans use significantly less energy than air conditioning and can help you feel cooler. Just remember: Fans cool people, not rooms. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room to avoid wasting energy.

Set Your Thermostat to 78 Degrees

Let your thermostat grow a little patience. Setting it to 78 degrees helps you stay comfortable without driving up your bill. For every degree below 78, your cooling costs can grow by about 5 percent.

Change Your Air Filter

Think of your air filter like the roots of your HVAC system. A clogged filter can slow things down and increase energy use. A clean filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by up to 15 percent. Check monthly and replace as needed for strong, steady savings.

Schedule an HVAC Tune-Up

Like pruning your plants, tuning up your HVAC keeps everything running efficiently. A seasonal check-up ensures your unit is clean and ready to handle the summer heat – so it doesn't wilt under pressure.

Find a qualified contractor for your HVAC maintenance with our Contractor Network at jacksonemc.com/contractor.

Want to grow even more savings?

FOR MORE TIPS ON KEEPING ENERGY USE IN CHECK THIS SUMMER, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE OR SCAN THE QR CODE:

