

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

Don't be Fooled by
**COMMON ENERGY
MYTHS**

JULY 2022 | IN THIS ISSUE

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MCKINNEY TO SUCCEED RETIRING JACKSON EMC BOARD MEMBER CARPENTER



COMFORT FOOD OF UTILITIES

Did you know this month marks National Ice Cream Day? Or, what about National Mac and Cheese Day? There's also National Cheesecake Day, French Fry Day, and Fried Chicken Day – all in July. So it probably makes sense that National Junk Food Day also is observed this month.

What do all these unofficial “national” days have in common? They were created to celebrate what we in the South refer to as “comfort foods.” And in my case, it has worked because I’ve become way too comfortable with all those foods!

At Jackson EMC, regardless of whether there’s a dedicated day on the calendar, we want our members to feel extra comfortable too – like you’re having a bowl of ice cream in your favorite spot on the couch. So, in that vein, here are three great reasons why your co-op is the “comfort food” of utilities:

1. You’re our purpose – it’s comforting to know that our co-op exists because of you. We’re owned and governed by the members we serve. Our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Simply put, we exist to serve you. That’s why we were formed in 1938 -- to bring power to our community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community, just as you do. We’re invested and work to help it thrive.

2. We have a positive impact on the communities by helping comfort those in need. Our mission goes beyond electricity. Another major part of who we are is our service to our community and looking after the greater good. With your generosity through

programs like Operation Round Up, the Jackson EMC Foundation is able to award grants to the most vulnerable members of our community by providing funding for community-based programs like food banks, community health clinics, educational initiatives, emergency shelters, and more.

3. When the weather gets uncomfortable, we’re there to help. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball. Our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, but you can take comfort in knowing we’re here and ready to respond. Your support as we work through storms is comforting too and it means so much to our linemen and employees.

Thanks for all you do to help us be the best, most comforting co-op we can be. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to see it grow and prosper.

**Have a story about how we serve members?
Tell me at chip@jacksonemc.com.**



Chip Jakins
President/CEO

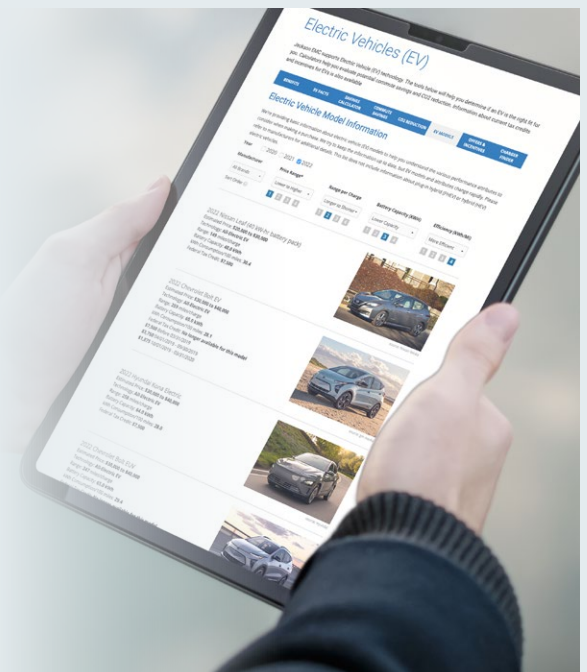
An Easy Way to Compare Electric Vehicles

From SUVs to pickup trucks, there are more options for electric vehicles (EVs) than before. Interested in EVs? Our online tool makes it easy to compare the latest EV models.

Available at jacksonemc.com/ev, the model comparison tool allows you to sort EV options by manufacturer, year, price, range per charge, battery capacity, and efficiency.

“When members are considering buying an EV, using this free tool helps members compare models according to their preferences,” said Christy Queen, Jackson EMC’s director of residential marketing. “For some members, price is important while others want a greater driving range each time they charge their EV. This is a great way for members to understand their options.”

Along with the EV comparison tool, the website also provides a map showing EV charging stations, a savings calculator, information about potential tax credits, and facts about EVs. Jackson EMC also offers members a \$250 rebate for a Level 2 EV charger.



 FOR DETAILS, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/EV.

Rooftop Solar: Get the Facts Without the Fiction

Interested in a rooftop solar system for your home? There are important factors to consider to ensure your investment is all sun and no shade.

Unfortunately, electric utilities – including Jackson EMC – have received a significant increase in reports of consumers being misinformed by solar installers. If you're interested in rooftop solar, be sure to get quotes from several reputable solar installers. It's also a significant financial investment, so choosing the system that's designed for your house is important.

Be wary of these statements if you're considering rooftop solar:

“Rooftop solar will eliminate your electric bill.”

In most cases, that's simply not true. Unless you have a rooftop solar and battery storage system large enough to meet all your electricity needs 24/7, you'll need a reliable electric source from your local electric utility. While the amount of electricity you purchase from Jackson EMC may decrease, the cooperative will still provide you with electricity at night and on cloudy days – when there may not be enough sunlight to power your solar system.

“Your electric rate is projected to increase substantially in the coming years.”

Some solar installers substantially overstate increases in electric rates. In reality, the cost of electricity has been relatively stable. Based on data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, retail electricity prices averaged an increase of only 1.16% per year from 2011 to 2020.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/RENEWABLES](https://www.jacksonemc.com/renewables) OR BY CALLING 1-800-462-3691 TO SPEAK TO A REPRESENTATIVE.



“You have 24-48 hours to sign a contract or the deal is no longer valid.”

Rooftop solar is a significant financial investment. Be sure to consider your options wisely, including how a solar system can meet your needs, goals and financial objectives. Be cautious of contractors who may pressure you to sign a contract in a limited timeframe.

“You'll make money selling power back to your electricity utility.”

This is unlikely. Some solar installers use inaccurate rates to project how you will be credited for any excess energy your rooftop solar system generates and sends back to the electric grid. Be sure to contact Jackson EMC and speak with a representative about how this works for members and confirm if the rate matches the solar installer's estimate.

“Your electric utility doesn't need to be involved.”

It's important you contact Jackson EMC before installing rooftop solar. As your trusted energy advisor, we can help guide you on smarter energy investments, including evaluating if rooftop solar fits your electricity needs. It's also important to complete Jackson EMC's interconnection agreement to ensure your solar system meets requirements for safety and reliability.

Don't be Fooled by

COMMON ENERGY MYTHS

At Jackson EMC, we want our members to use energy wisely. That's why we're debunking five common energy-efficiency myths – and telling you what it really takes to save energy.



#1 MYTH

“ To cool down my house faster in the summer, I set the thermostat temperature much lower. ”

FACT Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting doesn't affect how quickly you feel cooler in the summer. It's the same for warming your home in the winter. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter for the most energy savings. Using a smart thermostat helps conserve energy by customizing heating and cooling based on your patterns and preferences. Members can save on smart thermostats with an instant rebate from Jackson EMC Marketplace.



Shop for discounted thermostats at jacksonemcmarketplace.com.

#2 MYTH

“ When I turn off electronics – like my TV, game console or computer – they stop using power from the outlet. ”

FACT Even when turned off, most electronics continue to use energy while plugged into an outlet. We call that “vampire energy.” This wasted energy could add an extra 10% to your home's energy use. The solution? Unplug your electronics when you're not using them or use a power strip that you can switch on and off.

#3 MYTH

“ It's not worth the time or money to seal small air leaks around my windows or doors. ”

FACT Sealing those small air leaks around doors and windows is generally an easy DIY project. This can help you save up to 10% on your annual energy bills, according to ENERGY STAR®. It also makes your home feel more comfortable when the temperature outside changes.



For energy-saving DIY projects, visit jacksonemc.com/DIY.

#4 MYTH

“ Hand washing my dishes will save money by using less water and energy. ”

FACT With the right dishwasher, you could be saving water, energy and your time. A new, ENERGY STAR®-certified dishwasher uses less than a quarter of the energy compared to washing the same load of dishes by hand. Newer dishwashers have features that better regulate water temperatures and help save more than 8,000 gallons of water a year. Using a new, ENERGY STAR®-certified dishwasher – instead of washing dishes by hand – can save you about \$130 a year on your energy bill, according to ENERGY STAR®.

#5 MYTH

“ Closing air vents in unused rooms in my house will save energy. ”

FACT Proper airflow is important for cooling and heating your home. It may seem like heating and cooling less space – by closing vents – would save energy. However, closing air vents actually increases the air pressure in your HVAC, which could make it work harder and use more energy.



For more energy-saving tips, visit jacksonemc.com/waystosave.

OPERATION ROUND UP® YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total of

\$144,928 in grants

to organizations during its May meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$20,000 | **Jackson County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.**, for electrical, drywall, plumbing, and a HVAC system for its 19th home.

\$20,000 | **SISU of Georgia, Inc.**, a Gainesville nonprofit organization providing educational, therapeutic, nursing and family support services to children with disabilities in Banks, Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties, to support the Early Intervention Program that provides children with special needs with classroom instruction, individualized therapy and nursing services.

\$19,828 | **Boy Scouts of America – NEGA Council**, serving all Jackson EMC counties, to provide uniforms, handbooks and camp fees to help underprivileged youth participate in scouting.

\$16,500 | **Madison County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.**, for plumbing, insulation, HVAC, electrical, and driveway for its 10th home.

\$15,000 | **Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta**, to provide the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, a program that encourages 15 developmental outcomes that help girls discover their strengths, connect with others in healthy relationships and become more resourceful problem solvers, for 200 Gwinnett County girls from low-income households.

\$15,000 | **Spectrum Autism Support Group**, a parent-run nonprofit group in Suwanee that provides families in Gwinnett and Hall counties with support, education and resources for the entire spectrum of autism disorders, to help disadvantaged autistic individuals ages 4 to 22 attend the organization's weeklong summer camp program, with daily activities that teach social skills lessons.

\$10,000 | **Camp Amplify**, Winder, to provide 15 children ages 8 to 12 from underserved communities with a weeklong camping experience to develop character, leadership and teambuilding skills through a high adventure, overnight camp.

\$10,000 | **Camp Kudzu**, a year-round camping program for children and teens with diabetes, to help children from the 10 counties served by Jackson EMC attend a one-week overnight summer camp.

\$10,000 | **Wheels of Hope**, Athens, for its transportation services program that provides rides for disabled and elderly residents in Barrow, Clarke, Hall, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties.

\$8,600 | **Connections for Special Parents (CSP) of Northeast Georgia**, for its Summer Connections Program, which provides a camping experience for teens and young adults with social, emotional, or developmental disabilities in Banks, Franklin and Madison counties.

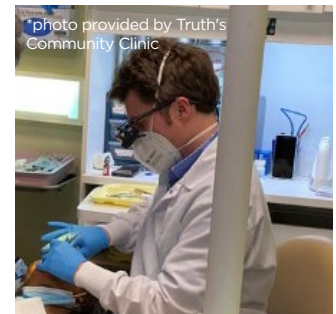


FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](https://jacksonemc.com/foundation).

COMMUNITY IMPACT TRUTH'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

Truth's Community Clinic, formerly known as Hebron Community Health Center, is a nonprofit, part-time clinic serving uninsured Gwinnett County residents with medical and dental care. The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded the organization a \$15,000 grant to help fund its Next Step Project, which provides patients with important health referrals, screenings and pharmaceutical needs.

The Next Step Project provides the opportunity for uninsured adults to receive health screenings they might not receive otherwise. This allows patients to determine if they have a serious medical condition, such as a patient who recently had early stages of cancer detected from a screening. Thanks to this program, he was able to receive treatment sooner.



Scarlett Rigsby, executive director at Truth's Community Clinic, said the services provided by the nonprofit go beyond physical health services.

“While we are sure to treat their physical needs, we do recognize that it's really an effort to treat the patients' minds, bodies, spirits and overall wellbeing.”

Many of the volunteers assist with non-health services at the clinic, such as helping the children of patients by combining medical services with attention to other support. Truth's Community Clinic builds rapport with patients through a more personal approach. “We have had volunteers take patients to their appointments. We know their children and talk and pray with them,” Rigsby said. “It's a really beautiful thing.”

“Life doesn't have a monetary value, but this grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation allows us to deepen relationships and potentially save lives,” said Rigsby.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TRUTH'S COMMUNITY CLINIC, VISIT [TRUTHSCLINIC.ORG](https://truthsclinic.org).

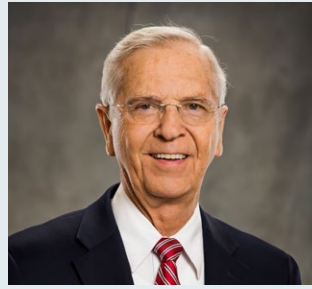
McKinney to Succeed Retiring Jackson EMC Board Member Carpenter

Bill Carpenter is retiring from the Jackson EMC Board of Directors after 60 years of service. He is succeeded by Sarah McKinney, who is well known in Jackson County for her community service, and business leadership.

A longtime board member of Jackson EMC, Carpenter served as a director for 52 years. In addition to his service on the board, he was also a former employee having spent eight years in the roles of editor of *JEMCO News* and Manager of Member Services. He also briefly held the position of Acting General Manager before being called to serve as a full-time pastor of a rapidly growing church in Northeast Georgia.

“Bill’s love of people and his connections throughout Jackson County and across our service area made him a tremendous asset to the cooperative. The 60 years Bill spent serving our cooperative were years of great growth and success. His dedication to our members is a hallmark of his personal character and his service to our cooperative,” said Jackson EMC Board Chairman Otis Jones. Jackson EMC had fewer than 26,000 meters when Carpenter was named to the board in 1970. Jackson EMC’s membership has grown nearly 10 times that size in his time on the board. Today, the cooperative serves more than 248,000 meters on 14,726 miles of wire.

Incoming board member Sarah McKinney is the President of the Athens Area Community Foundation, a position she’s held since 2017. Prior to this, she served the region for many years in her roles as the Director of Development for the Georgia 4-H Foundation at the University of Georgia and the Athens Community Council on Aging. She holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Georgia.



Bill Carpenter

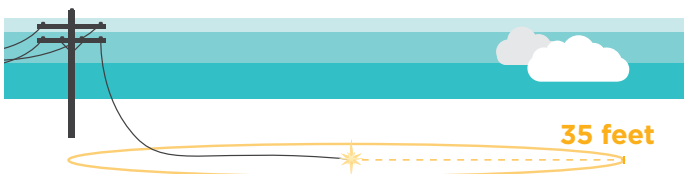


Sarah McKinney

“Sarah has all the attributes that will make her a very effective Jackson EMC board member. She is well connected to our members in Jackson County and is highly qualified with her experience as a leader in our community. She’s passionate about our mission to exceed members’ expectations with reliable, courteous and personalized service and I am confident she is an excellent choice for our cooperative,” said Jones.

McKinney is the immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Athens, a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2019, and served on the partnership committee for the Empower College and Career Center. She is active in the Jackson-Empower FFA Alumni Association where both of her children have shown sheep and competed in livestock, poultry, and speaking events. She and her husband, John, live in the southern area of Jackson County and are active volunteers in the Jackson County school system where their daughter, Anna, attends school, plays softball and is active in FFA. Their son, Nathan, served as the 2021-2022 state FFA President and attends Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

STAY BACK. STAY SAFE.

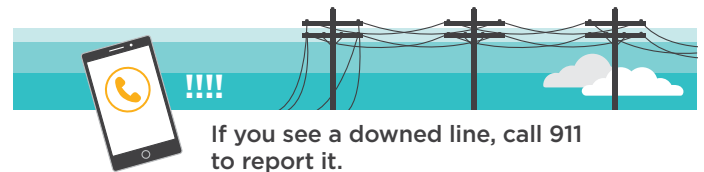


Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that’s touching the line.

If you see a downed power line, always assume it’s energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



If you see a downed line, call 911 to report it.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is de-energized or if you’re using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Blueberry Cheesecake Bars



INGREDIENTS:

- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about two sleeves of graham crackers)
- 2 8 Oz. packages cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 Tsp. vanilla
- 1 jar blueberry jam or preserves
- 2 cups fresh blueberries

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven 350 degrees. Melt butter and mix with graham cracker crumbs. In a (spray-coated) 13 x 9 baking pan, press the mixture evenly to form a crust into the bottom of the pan. In a bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth, add sugar, eggs and vanilla and beat until blended well. Set aside. Stir the jar of jam (or preserves) in the jar until spreadable. Spread the jam evenly over the graham cracker crust. Sprinkle the fresh blueberries on top of the jam then pour the cream cheese mixture as the top layer. Bake 40 minutes or until slightly puffed. Cool completely. Refrigerate to firm up. Cut into squares. Refrigerate leftovers.

“ We lived in front of a blueberry field when our kids were smaller and we made this recipe every summer when the blueberries ripened.

It is so easy and so yummy! ”

- LINDA LOWERY, COMMERCE

**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.**