

JEMCOnews

12 *Cool Ways* TO LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILL



AUGUST 2018 | IN THIS ISSUE

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AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY

If you're like me, knowing you're saving a few bucks just feels good. Take, for example, that feeling you get when the item you were planning to buy at the store is now on sale. It feels like a little bonus, doesn't it?

Or, instead of hiring someone to do handywork in your house, you do it yourself. I may not be the handiest person, but when I tackle a home repair project myself, I know I've saved some money – even after five trips to The Home Depot – which feels rewarding.

I think that desire to stretch a dollar comes from the common sense values my parents instilled in me: Don't spend more than you earn; save for the future; and, give to others. That simple and timeless advice holds true both at home and at the cooperative. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we take pride not only in providing you with safe and reliable electricity, but also affordable electricity. Our bottom line is about serving our members, and that includes helping you keep more of your money.

How do we do that? When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely and reliably, we give it back to our members (like you!) in the form of margin refunds. Jackson EMC members have received a total of \$124.5 million in margin refunds since the cooperative was founded.

Besides regularly returning money to our members, which is unique to cooperatives, we're also focused on providing lower electric rates. If you're not aware, the Georgia Public Service Commission publishes biannual surveys ranking the state's electric service providers by rate. According to the survey, our summer 2017 residential rates for an average member consuming 1,500 kWh per month were on average 8.6 percent lower than all electric providers in Georgia. That's real savings!

Behind the scenes, keeping electric rates low for you means working smarter to forecast our future supply needs. We study previous power demand and look at anticipated demands to ensure reliable electricity for you while keeping costs affordable. Through strategic planning and partnerships, we have more opportunities today to provide a greater mix of energy sources to our members while keeping costs affordable.

Speaking of keeping things affordable, this issue of *JEMCO News* features several ideas on steps you can take to save money. Since our cooperative was founded, we've always had a heart for helping our members find ways to lower their monthly bill. Dating back to its early days, *JEMCO News* has featured ideas on how members can lower their electric bill. We also have experts throughout Jackson EMC who are committed to guiding members on ways they can save money, such as taking advantage of our rebates. Call us at 1-800-462-3691, and we'd be happy to look at your account and talk about some ideas on how you can save money.

We're here to serve you, our members, not only with safe and reliable electricity, but with electricity that's affordable.

Have questions on how we keep electricity affordable? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

NEED TO KNOW: ANNUAL MEETING PERFORMERS ANNOUNCED

Karen Peck and New River, a five-time Grammy Award-nominated Southern Gospel group, will perform at Jackson EMC's Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 27, at the headquarters in Jefferson.

Registration for the meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. that day.

A resident of Dahlonega, Karen Peck formerly performed in the successful group, The Nelons. In 1991, Karen and her husband, Rickey Gooch, along with her sister, Susan, organized New River. Today, the group includes Karen, Susan Peck Jackson, Grant Gibson, Matthew Gooch and Kari Gooch.

Karen Peck and New River has won six Gospel Music Association Dove Awards. The group has 18 number one hits on the gospel music charts, including "Pray Now," "Calling," and "I Am Blessed."

The group has performed at The Grand Ole Opry, the Gaither Homecoming concerts, Opryland theme park, Dollywood and more. Karen has been featured in two movies, "Joyful Noise" with Dolly Parton and Queen Latifa, and the Christian film, "Redeemed."



KAREN PECK AND NEW RIVER

washer water: HOT or NOT?

My mother would not have dreamed of washing dirty laundry in cold water. How could anything worn in a day come clean without agitating in hot water? It was simply unimaginable. Fast forward. That's not the case with today's machinery and cleaning products. Not only does washing in cold water get your clothes clean; it saves energy and money on your power bill, too.

With advances in washing machines and laundry detergents, washing in hot water no longer has to be the norm. Cold water works just fine, according to Consumer Reports. The evolution of washing machines from center agitator-models to front- and top-loading models has brought multiple changes. Newer models use less water, but they get clothes

cleaner. And the water they use doesn't have to be hot to kill germs, like when Mama used to wash; tougher detergents are crafted to do that. To meet Department of Energy standards, washer and dryer manufacturers have lowered temperatures necessary for washing. And that's great news because, according to ENERGY STAR®, heating the water used to wash clothes accounts for almost 90% of the energy needed to run the washer. The less hot water used, the less energy used — and more money saved. So how, if the water's cool, do clothes get clean?

Manufacturers of laundry detergent had to catch up with the advances made by washing machine manufacturers. Procter & Gamble explains that traditional detergent enzymes could be "sluggish" in cold water, so they created a new mix that delivers clean loads of laundry in cold water. Consumer Reports vouches for the newer detergents, saying they have become "much better at putting enzymes to work in removing dirt and stains at lower water temperatures." In fact, some of the newer detergents are less effective at higher temps, according to Consumer Reports.

The good news for homeowners is that laundry washed in cold water shrinks the power bill — but not the clothes. Washing often in hot water causes clothes to shrink, fade and wrinkle. Washing in cold water is the gentler choice and can extend the life of your garments. Typically, washing in hot water is necessary only when clothes are seriously dirty, like when cleaning dirty cloth diapers or work clothes bearing dirt or grease. The toughest stains may require a special detergent, but for the most part, cold water is fine. Just be sure to use the correct amount and type of detergent and use your washing machine according to the manufacturer's directions. Despite the past decade's tremendous advances in cold water washing, about 60 percent of Americans continue to wash their clothes in warm water, according to Smithsonian magazine.

Make this the year you switch from hot to cold water washing. It's not your Mama's washer, or detergent, anymore.



Jackie Kennedy has worked with Georgia's electric cooperatives for 23 years, producing newsletters, press releases and articles about the industry and energy-related matters. She is the author of *People, Power, Progress: The Story of Jackson EMC*, published in 2013. Her blog for Jackson EMC grapples with a variety of energy efficiency topics.

READ MORE OF HER BLOGS AT
[NEWS.JACKSONEMC.COM/PERSPECTIVES](https://news.jacksonemc.com/perspectives)

12 Cool Ways to Lower Your Energy Bill

1

Set your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter. Cooling and heating is typically the single largest expense in a home, so being smart about how you use your heat pump can make a significant difference in your bill.



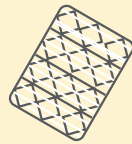
2

Use a programmable thermostat, which can save as much as 10% a year in energy costs.



3

Check air filters each month and replace them if they are dirty. Clean filters can save 5-15% on your electric bill.



4

Check for water leaks around your house. A leaking faucet isn't just wasting water, it's also wasting electricity for your water heater to warm the water.



5

Set your water heater thermostat to 120-130 degrees. As a safety precaution, shut off the electricity to your water heater before adjusting the temperature.



6

Add weather stripping to areas where air leaks occur in your home.



EVERYONE LIKES TO SAVE MONEY - AND YOUR ELECTRIC BILL IS NO EXCEPTION. By making small adjustments to how you use energy in your home, you can begin to see lower electric bills. Follow these money-saving tips to reduce your energy use, and in turn, your monthly bill.



Keep the oven door closed while cooking. Each time you open the oven door while cooking, the oven temperature drops by as much as 25 degrees, which means the oven works harder to get the temperature back to the proper cooking temperature. Instead, check on food through the oven window.

7



Unplug devices not used frequently. When devices are plugged in, but not being used, the phantom power can account for up to 10% of electronics total energy use in your home.

8



Switch to LED light bulbs instead of using incandescent bulbs. LED bulbs use 25% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 25 times longer.

9



Use a slow cooker or toaster oven more often, instead of the oven. Using these smaller appliances to cook food can mean energy savings.

10



Carefully pull your refrigerator out one inch, if it's currently pressed against a wall. Your refrigerator's condenser works harder when it's pressed against a wall and can't circulate air.

11



Run full loads in your washer, dryer and dishwasher to maximize its efficiency.

12



FOR MORE TIPS ON LOWERING YOUR ENERGY BILL, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE,
FIND ENERGY-SAVING PRODUCTS AT JACKSONEMCMARKETPLACE.COM.

DIY: AN EASY OPTION FOR A HOME SECURITY SYSTEM



Go to any home improvement store and it's easy to find plenty of inspiration for do-it-yourself projects. But, did you know a home security system could be your next DIY project?

DIY home security systems are among the most affordable security systems on the market – and popular among today's consumers. Many homeowners are choosing to protect their home and family with a DIY self-install security system for several reasons.

Among the most popular reasons for selecting EMC Security are affordability, convenience

and ease of installation. EMC Security's Connect+ DIY Home Security offers fast and easy installation, a sleek design that can be customized for your home, and an advanced mobile app with automated controls.

In addition to saving you money, this system can be set up in minutes and comes with what EMC Security is most famous for: 24/7 professional monitoring from \$16.95 a month, no contract options, award-winning local customer service and technical support.

WITH TWO SYSTEMS TO CHOOSE FROM, THE CONNECT+ SYSTEM FROM EMC SECURITY IS AN EASY AND AFFORDABLE OPTION TO HELP SECURE YOUR HOME.



CONNECT+ TOUCHPAD SYSTEM will secure three entrances, your main living space and includes an intuitive touchscreen keypad with wall or table mounting.



THE CONNECT+ FUNDAMENTALS SYSTEM is designed for smaller homes, townhouses and apartments, and will protect two entrances, your main living space and comes with a portable keypad.

TO ORDER A DIY SECURITY SYSTEM, CALL EMC SECURITY AT 770-963-0305 OR PURCHASE ONLINE AT EMCSECURITY.COM. USE COUPON CODE "20" TO RECIEVE 20% OFF YOUR ORDER AT CHECKOUT.

OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$81,000 IN GRANTS

during its June meeting, including \$76,000 to organizations and \$5,000 to an individual.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | **Hall County Habitat for Humanity**, to purchase building materials, including cabinet installation, drywall, electrical supplies, flooring, grading and paint, for a new home for a family of seven in Gainesville.

\$15,000 | **Rainbow Village**, a Duluth long-term, transformational housing program that provides fully-furnished apartments and comprehensive support for homeless families with children in all the counties served by Jackson EMC, to provide childcare tuition assistance at its Early Childhood Development Center for residents and program graduates.

\$15,000 | **StepByStep Recovery**, a Lawrenceville community-based grassroots

addiction recovery organization that provides a safe and structured environment for men and women in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties as they complete a 12-step program for drug and alcohol addiction, to assist with rent for the men's and women's units.

\$10,000 | **Potter's House**, an Atlanta Mission facility, to help feed, house, counsel and provide educational programs such as adult literacy to men from Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Madison counties, who are recovering from substance abuse through the Transformational Recovery Services Program at its 570-acre working farm in Jefferson.

\$7,500 | **Athens Inclusive Recreation & Sports (AIRS)**, a nonprofit organization promoting a greater wellness and quality of life by providing specific, adapted sports activities that accommodate people with disabilities, to help provide beep baseball and wheelchair basketball to participants from Banks, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties.

\$7,500 | **Lekotek of Georgia**, a charitable organization that provides accessible play,

adaptive technology and toys, information and resources to children with disabilities from Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin and Madison counties, to provide services through its Gwinnett satellite office.

\$6,000 | **Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta**, to offer Gwinnett County girls from low-income households The Girl Scout Leadership Experience, a program which impacts 15 developmental outcomes that help girls discover their own strengths, connect with others in healthy relationships and become more resourceful problem solvers.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$5,000 | to provide assistance with purchasing a wheelchair accessible van for a family with a son disabled by Tay-Sachs disease.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION.

COMMUNITY IMPACT: *Wishes 4 Me Organization*



As a single mom of two children suffering with a devastating form of muscular dystrophy, Lynn Robinette had a tough question on her mind: "If something happened to me, what would happen to my kids?"

Robinette soon discovered that while there are a number of resources available to care for children with disabilities, when those children become adults, the options are limited. For Robinette, it wasn't just about managing her children's medical symptoms, but also ensuring they lived a happy life.

After doing extensive research, she started Wishes 4 Me — a nonprofit organization that assists adults who are disabled to live an active and involved lifestyle.

The signature program of Wishes 4 Me is a housing community where adults with disabilities are supervised in daily individualized events, employment opportunities and inclusion in the community. The organization has six houses on a neighborhood street in Lawrenceville with 24 residents in its "village" community.

"We're trying to give these individuals as much as possible with their very low incomes," Robinette said. "Most of the residents have incomes of less than \$800 a month."

Besides providing housing, Wishes 4 Me also connects residents with medical caregivers and arranges regular outings, such as visits to stores, churches and other social interactions. Within its village of dedicated homes, Wishes 4 Me residents also cook together, play games, work in gardens and host social events.

"We have a lot of developmentally disabled individuals, along with those with brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and strokes," Robinette said.

For one resident named Chris, a brain injury in adulthood left him unable to speak and with memory loss. Chris had been living in a

nursing home until his family learned about Wishes 4 Me. After living in one of the Wishes 4 Me homes for a few months, Chris began talking, socializing and enjoying attending baseball games and karaoke events. Sadly, Chris recently passed away, but his transformation was inspiring, Robinette said.

The homes for Wishes 4 Me are unique in Georgia because they help residents live more independent lives, she said. Residents must engage in activities that may include a job, shopping outings and church activities.

The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to Wishes 4 Me to fund a septic tank replacement at one of its homes. The organization previously received a \$15,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation to enclose a carport and replace a driveway. Thanks to the latest grant, Wishes 4 Me can move forward with expanding the house that will allow six additional residents to move to the community, Robinette said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT WISHES4ME.ORG.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Summertime Pasta



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 16 oz. box rotini pasta
- 1 16 oz. bottle creamy ranch dressing
- 1 10 oz. box frozen green peas
- 1 cup shredded lettuce (optional)
- 1 cup imitation crab meat

DIRECTIONS:

Cook pasta and peas, according to directions on the box. Drain pasta and set aside. In a large bowl, add imitation crab meat, peas and ranch dressing. Mix together. Add pasta and stir. Add shredded lettuce and toss lightly.

“The blend of these combined ingredients makes a delicious and easy recipe to use for church socials, birthday parties, baby showers and holidays. It serves as a side dish that goes well with absolutely anything.”
— TAMMY STRINGER, GAINESVILLE



SEND 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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FOODIES: ENJOY THE BEST OF GWINNETT



Make it a date night—or a night with friends—and enjoy tasting food from some of the best local restaurants at this year's Good Taste Gwinnett, powered by Jackson EMC.

This cooking showcase on October 18 allows guests to sample small plates of food from local restaurants while chefs whip up their signature dishes on the cooking demo stage.

Attendees can also shop local vendors and register to win one of more than 75 prizes, including several trip giveaways. All attendees receive a goody bag with items from restaurants, vendors and sponsors.

General admission tickets (\$15) include three tasting tickets, while VIP tickets (\$55) include six tasting tickets, front section seating at the cooking stage, VIP lounge access and a special VIP bag. Additional tasting tickets can be purchased at the event for \$1 (One ticket = one tasting.).

Jackson EMC Members can save \$5 off general admission and VIP tickets.

* Price is good online in advance or purchased onsite on the day of the event. VIP tickets are available while supplies last. Good Taste Gwinnett is presented by The Gwinnett Daily Post and powered by Jackson EMC.

**JACKSON EMC MEMBERS
SAVE \$5**

Thursday, October 18

Infinite Energy Center (Hall B/C)
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth
5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

GENERAL ADMISSION PRICE: \$15,
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS PAY \$10*.

VIP TICKET PRICE: \$55,
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS PAY \$50*.

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
GOODTASTEGWINNETT.COM/JACKSONEMC.

**FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS,
VISIT GOODTASTEGWINNETT.COM/JACKSONEMC**