

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



A WHOLE NEW LIGHT

YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING LED BULBS

FEBRUARY 2019 | IN THIS ISSUE

WHAT'S ON A POWER POLE?

5 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE SECURE

USING A SMART THERMOSTAT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY



SEEING THE CHOICES

Shopping choices these days can be overwhelming! Even with the simple things, like toothpaste, it can be a real struggle to pick out which flavor and what features I want – cinnamon or peppermint, to whiten or not to whiten? And heaven forbid I have to figure out which cereal I want on the cereal aisle – every shape and size of flake, nugget, twig, and berry is offered.

I remember my days in high school when I was a stock clerk at the local grocery store. Back then, it wasn't unusual for shoppers to ask me to help them find some item in the store. On many of those seek-and-find missions I discovered all sorts of new and different products. Who knew there were so many varieties of products and brands? I often wondered who came up with all that stuff and how people choose what to buy.

Fast forward to now and I think there are even more choices. Take, for example, the products

that affect our energy use – like lightbulbs. We certainly have plenty of choices when it comes to buying lightbulbs nowadays. You start by selecting the right bulb for the right fixture. For example, the type of lightbulb you put in an indoor lamp isn't the same size or shape bulb you'd put in an outdoor security light. Then, once you know what type of bulb to buy, you decide how bright you want it to be and even the color of the light. In fact, if you're really tech savvy, you can buy Wi-Fi connected bulbs that allow you to control both the color and brightness with an app on your phone.

If you're like me, you may remember the simpler days of buying lightbulbs based on their wattage – which is a measurement of energy being used by the bulb. Now, with newer LED lightbulbs, you're much more likely to pick a bulb based on lumens – which measures brightness. If you're not familiar with the difference, this issue of *JEMCO News* has some informative tips on how to choose the

right bulb for the job. In this day and age of so many choices, we hope this information is helpful to you.

At Jackson EMC, we give our members the information they need to make great choices about energy efficiency. Whether it's picking the right lightbulb or understanding how a smart thermostat can lower your home's energy use, we want to help you save energy and money. Just like my days at the grocery store, all of us at Jackson EMC are here to guide you to selecting products and services that are right for you. Check out our helpful energy saving tips at jacksonemc.com/waystosave to help you pick the energy efficient options that are best for you and your family.

Have a question for me? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

**Chip Jakins,
President/CEO**

WAYS TO SAVE: USING A SMART THERMOSTAT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

DID YOU KNOW?

Heating and cooling accounts for about 48 percent of the energy used in a typical home, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

That's why being smart when it comes to heating and cooling your home can save you energy and money. A smart thermostat is one way to take your energy savings to the next level.

Want to learn how smart thermostats work? TV host and home expert Ty Pennington explains in one of his Ty Talks videos, called "Smart Thermostats," how smart thermostats help improve your home's energy efficiency.



VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/TYTALKS TO VIEW THE VIDEO AND OTHER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IDEAS.

5 ways TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE SECURE

When it comes to protecting your family and home, it can be easy to overlook a few preventive steps. Properly securing your home is one way to prevent burglars from making your home a target. Keep these steps in mind to protect your home.



CLOSE THE CURTAINS

Most burglars peer through windows to look for things to steal and to detect if someone's home. Always keep curtains closed when you're not home and use caution leaving them open when you're inside.



INSTALL A SECURITY CAMERA AT THE FRONT DOOR

Many burglars break into residences through the front door. When faced with a security camera at the front door, burglars are likely to think twice. Choose a security camera that can be monitored with a mobile app.



KEEP DOORS LOCKED

Even if your neighborhood is considered safe, leaving your door unlocked puts your home and family in jeopardy. Burglars will often check if your home's doors are unlocked. Keep your doors locked at all times, even when you're inside.



INSTALL A HOME SECURITY SYSTEM

Homes without a security system are more attractive to burglars. A home security system can help reduce the risk of a break-in. EMC Security can help you choose the best security system for your needs and budget.



LIGHT UP THE EXTERIOR

Burglars don't want to be seen. By illuminating your yard and entryways, burglars are less likely to target your home. Based on your needs, you can install outdoor lighting that's motion-activated or turned on at specific times, like dusk.



FOR HOME SECURITY SYSTEMS, VIDEO CAMERAS, AND SMART-HOME OPTIONS, CONTACT EMC SECURITY AT 770-963-0305 OR VISIT EMCSECURITY.COM.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Chicken Spaghetti Casserole



“ This is a delicious alternative to the usual spaghetti dish. I serve it often for my family, guests and potlucks. No matter how much I prepare, there's not a single bite left. ”
— JEAN MCCORLEW, GAINESVILLE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 boneless chicken breast, baked and cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 10.5 oz. can cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 2/3 cup of milk
- 3 Roma tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1 tbsp. onion powder
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 cups shredded cheese, divided (recommend: combination of Italian blend and mozzarella)
- 1 16 oz. bag Italian vermicelli, broken in 2-inch pieces

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a pan, sauté bell pepper and onion with vegetable oil until soft. Combine chicken, bell pepper, onion, milk and tomatoes to pan. Add garlic powder and onion powder. Mix.

Prepare vermicelli as directed and drain. Add to mixture. Spread half of the mixture in a large casserole dish and sprinkle with 1 cup of cheese. Spread the other half of the mixture on top of the cheese and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake covered for 20 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10 minutes until cheese is melted and top is lightly browned.

FEATURED
RECIPES WIN A
**\$200 PRIZE
PACKAGE**

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.



A WHOLE NEW LIGHT

YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING LED BULBS

Traditional incandescent lightbulbs are making way for more energy efficient options, like light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. LEDs use only 20-25 percent of the energy of traditional incandescent bulbs and last 15 to 25 times longer, according to Energy.gov.

With the newer technology in lighting comes a new way of thinking about buying lightbulbs. But, purchasing an energy efficient lightbulb doesn't have to be difficult.

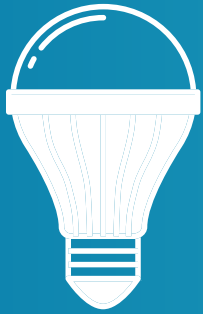


FIND ENERGY STAR[®]-RATED LED BULBS AT [JACKSONEMCMARKETPLACE.COM](https://www.jacksonemc.com)

FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING THE LED BULB THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

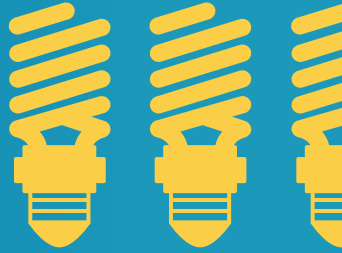
BULB LIFE & COST

1 LED



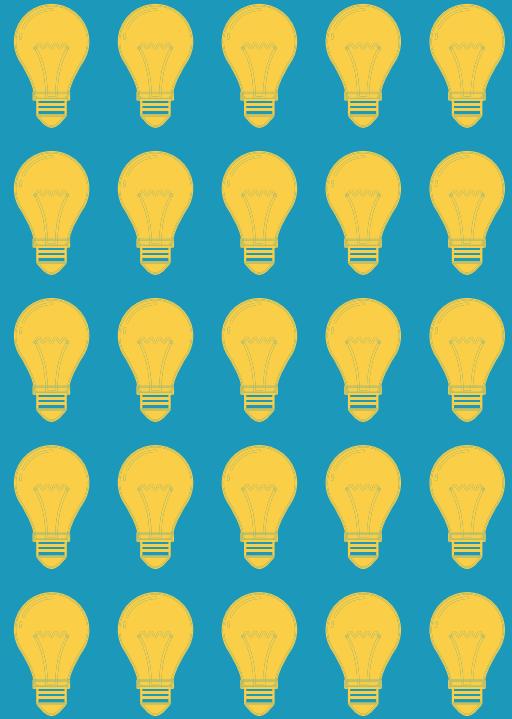
=

2.5 CFLs



OR

25 INCANDESCENT BULBS



While the initial price to buy an energy efficient lightbulb is typically higher than traditional incandescent bulbs, newer bulbs cost less to operate - which saves you money over the life of the bulb. Many of the newer bulbs last significantly longer than traditional bulbs, so you don't need to replace them as often.

Based on 60W traditional incandescent bulb with energy efficient bulbs that provide similar light levels. Based on information on Energy.gov.

BULB BRIGHTNESS

Bulb brightness for incandescent bulbs is measured in watts - which is a measure of energy used, not brightness. But for LED bulbs, look at the lumens - which measures the brightness of the bulbs.

More lumens means it's a brighter light; fewer lumens means it's dimmer.

Lumens is the amount of light emitted from a bulb. So, when buying new bulbs, think lumens - not watts.

TO HELP YOU BUY THE BRIGHTNESS YOU NEED, FOLLOW THESE RULES OF THUMB:

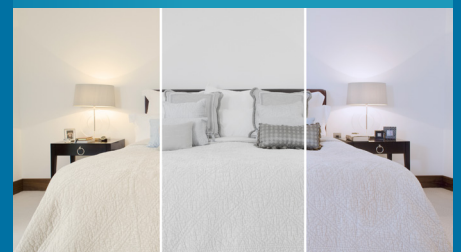


WATTS INCANDESCENT BULB ENERGY USED	LUMENS NEW BULB BRIGHTNESS
40W	450 lumens
60W	800 lumens
75W	1100 lumens
100W	1600 lumens
150W	2600 lumens

BULB COLOR

Energy efficient lighting comes in a range of colors. The light appearance is shown on the Kelvin (K) scale - which is a measurement of temperature.

Lower K means the light will have a more yellow/orange hue. A warm white - about 2,700 K - is roughly the standard color of an incandescent lightbulb. A cooler white light - around 7,000 K - will look more like natural daylight.



WARM WHITE
About 2,700 K

COOLER WHITE
7,000 K

ANNUAL ENERGY COST

\$4.80

60W Traditional Incandescent

\$1.20

15W CFL

\$1.00

12W LED

As life gets busy, earning a high school diploma for those who didn't graduate as a younger student can be challenging. There's work, family and a greater demand for time management.

But, without a high school diploma or GED, an employee in Georgia typically earns \$19,172 a year, according to the U.S. Census. Career advancement opportunities are also less likely when someone doesn't complete their high school education.

"If you don't have a high school education you will always have barriers, it becomes an everyday challenge," said Casey Wallace, training manager for the Gwinnett County Public Library, which has 15 library branches in Gwinnett County.

With a commitment to supporting education and community needs, the Gwinnett County Public Library offers its Career Online High School – an accredited online program that allows adult students to earn their high school diploma and prepares them for specific career fields. The library recently received a \$20,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation to provide financial assistance for the Career Online High School.

Before a prospective student is accepted in the free online program, they complete a screening and interview process. Once in the program, they have access to academic coaches to monitor their progress during their self-paced coursework. The library also loans

laptops and equipment to access the internet for students, if needed.

"These are people who really want to make a change in their lives," Wallace said.

Most students complete the online program in about 12 months, but it also depends on how many credits students had from a previous high school, Wallace said. Oftentimes, students are working or raising children, so the Career Online High School allows them to open a laptop any time and begin studying or completing coursework. The library also offers tutoring for students in the program.

For those who have completed the online program, having a high school diploma has allowed them to accelerate their careers. Before starting the program, one graduate was unable to get a promotion due to not having her high school diploma. With the program she was not only able to graduate, but received a promotion upon graduation, Wallace said.

"Their success is our success," Wallace added.

To honor their success, the Gwinnett County Public Library holds a graduation ceremony for students who complete the program. It's an opportunity for the students' families to see them in caps and gowns, and to celebrate



The Gwinnett County Public Library's Career Online High School celebrates graduates of the program with a ceremony. Recent graduates include (L-R): London Grey, Brianna Jackson, Assia Oquadid and Pema Tsering.

their academic accomplishments, Wallace said. For the graduates, it's a second chance to finish high school.

"We're so very grateful to the members of Jackson EMC for donating to this program," said Shelly Schwerzler, development manager, Gwinnett County Public Library. "This program relies on charitable contributions like this one to continue."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL, VISIT CAREERONLINEHS.GALE.COM/GCPL.

OPERATION ROUND UP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$127,000 IN GRANTS

during its December meeting, including \$123,500 to organizations and \$3,500 to individuals.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$20,000 | Gwinnett County Public Library, a 15-branch library system serving more than 961,000 residents, to provide financial assistance for the Career Online High School, the only program in Gwinnett County that provides an accredited online high school diploma program for adults.

\$20,000 | Jackson County Habitat for Humanity, to purchase materials for its 17th house, including electrical, drywall and plumbing.

\$15,000 | Boys and Girls Club of Winder-Barrow, for the Goals for Graduation program that combats academic underachievement in middle and high school-aged members to set and work toward goals for school attendance, homework completion and positive study habits.

\$15,000 | Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, serving girls in Banks, Barrow, Clarke,

Franklin, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, to help fund the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which teaches girls how to understand themselves and their values, use that knowledge to explore the world, care about and team with others, and take increasing responsibility for designing and implementing activities to make the world a better place.

\$10,000 | Adventure Bags, to an Auburn-based nonprofit that creates comfort bags and distributes them to displaced children through local DFCS offices, domestic violence shelters, fire departments, group homes and children's shelters in Jackson EMC's service area to provide comfort and security in a crisis.

\$10,000 | Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission, in Buford, a grassroots 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 used to house the mission's inventory.

\$10,000 | Hudgens Center for the Arts and Learning to help fund the smART Program for under-served Gwinnett County high school students, to provide a creative venue for talented and motivated students with economic or language challenges to be trained in drawing, painting, mixed media, ceramic and other forms of sculpture.

\$7,500 | Community Helping Place, a Dahlonega nonprofit that addresses hunger in the Lumpkin County community, to purchase food for its food pantry.

\$7,500 | The Cancer Foundation, in Athens, for its Financial Assistance Program, which provides emergency financial assistance for transportation costs to eligible cancer patients in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties.

\$6,000 | Jackson County 4-H Robotics, to purchase parts, materials, power tools and technology to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition for high school students, building science, engineering and technology skills, inspiring innovation and promoting well-rounded life skills.

\$2,500 | Spirit of Joy Food Pantry, in Flowery Branch, which distributes food to those in need in Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties, to purchase food.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$3,500 to provide assistance with roof repairs for a senior citizen.

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

WHAT'S ON A POWER POLE?

Have you wondered about the equipment on a power pole? Electric providers follow national standards for the equipment on poles and how they're placed. Based on their location and the type of electric service they're providing, the equipment on poles can vary.

Still, as this illustration shows, there's some basic equipment found on electric power distribution poles.

A CROSSARM

holds power lines, allowing required clearances between lines.

INSULATORS

(made of porcelain or a composite) prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

PRIMARY WIRES

run on top. Each usually carries 14,400 volts of electricity from a substation.

SURGE ARRESTORS

protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

TRANSFORMERS

convert higher voltage electricity from primary wires to lower voltage for use by consumers.

THE NEUTRAL WIRE

acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

POLE GROUND WIRE

running the length of the pole — connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

A SECONDARY SERVICE DROP

carries 120/240-volts of electricity to the end user. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer, and one bare neutral wire connected to the ground wire on the pole.

A POWER POLE TAG

shows which electric provider has power lines on the pole. Jackson EMC's tag is shaped as a triangle.

TELEPHONE & CABLE TV

lines are typically the lowest wires.

GUY WIRES

help stabilize poles. They also are connected to the pole ground wire.

40-FOOT POLES

are sunk six feet into the ground.

180,000

THE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF POWER POLES IN JACKSON EMC'S SERVICE AREA.

JACKSON EMC OFFICES
1000 Dawsonville Highway
Gainesville, GA
(770) 536-2415

85 Spratlin Mill Road
Hull, GA
(706) 548-5362

850 Commerce Road
Jefferson, GA
(706) 367-5281

825 Buford Dr
Lawrenceville, GA
(770) 963-6166

EMC SECURITY
55 Satellite Blvd., NW
Suwanee, GA
(770) 963-0305 or
(706) 543-4009

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Share Your Recipes WITH FELLOW MEMBERS

Did you know the recipe featured in each issue of *JEMCO News* was submitted by a Jackson EMC member? That's right. For years, we've heard how much you like the recipes in *JEMCO News* - and you can be part of this tradition, too.

You can submit your favorite recipes to share with members in *JEMCO News*. Each month, we take recipes submitted by members and try them ourselves. A winner is selected and given a prize package with kitchen goodies and gadgets.

This year, the prize package includes a popular pressure cooker, hand-held blender and other kitchen items from Jackson EMC.

Jackson EMC has a long history of sharing cooking ideas. When we began serving electricity in 1938, members didn't know how to prepare food with electricity. So, employees of the cooperative taught members how to use this resource in their kitchens. That tradition continues today with members sharing their favorite recipes with fellow members. We also keep archives recipes online at news.jacksonemc.com.



**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 TESTEMENT AT RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM**